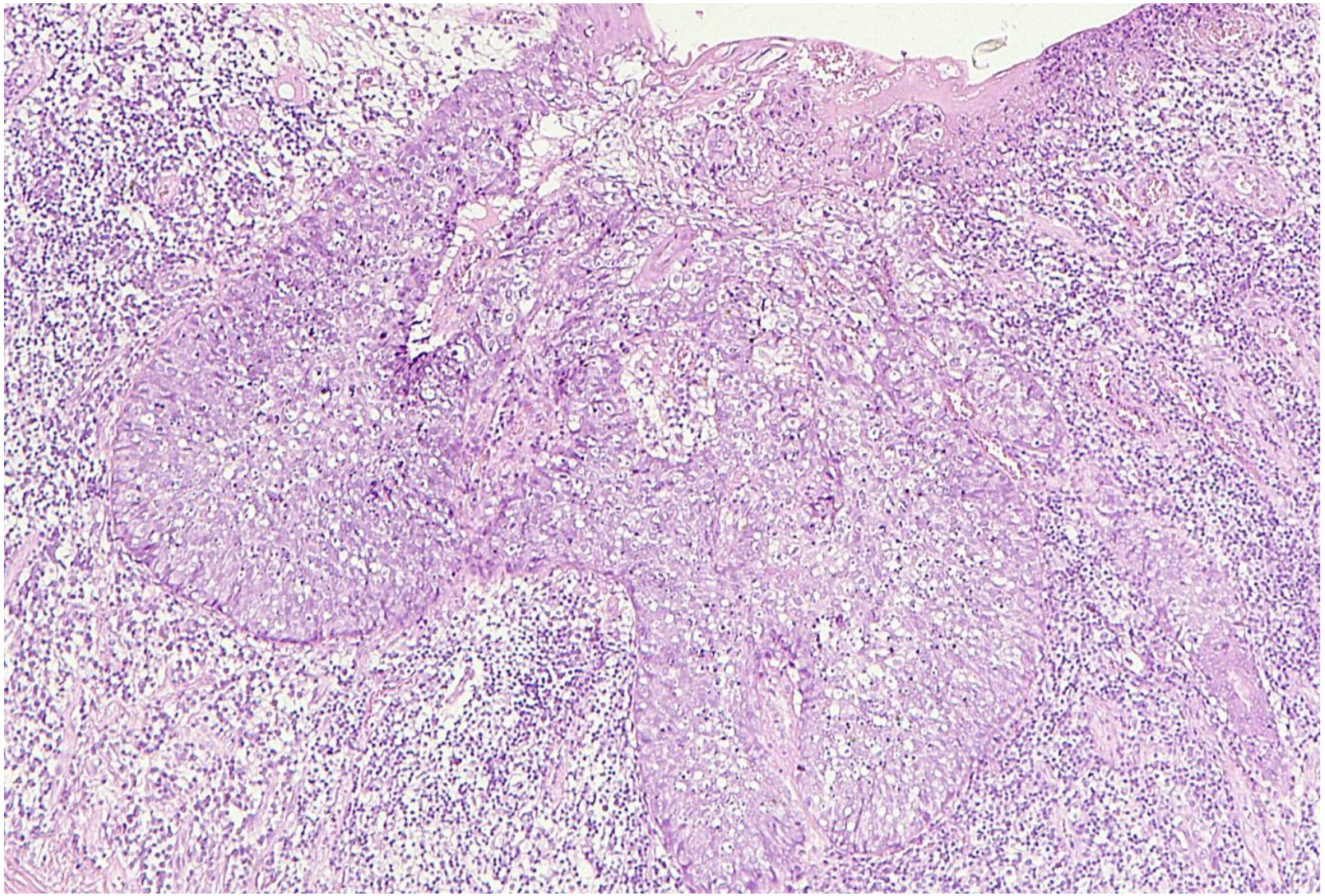
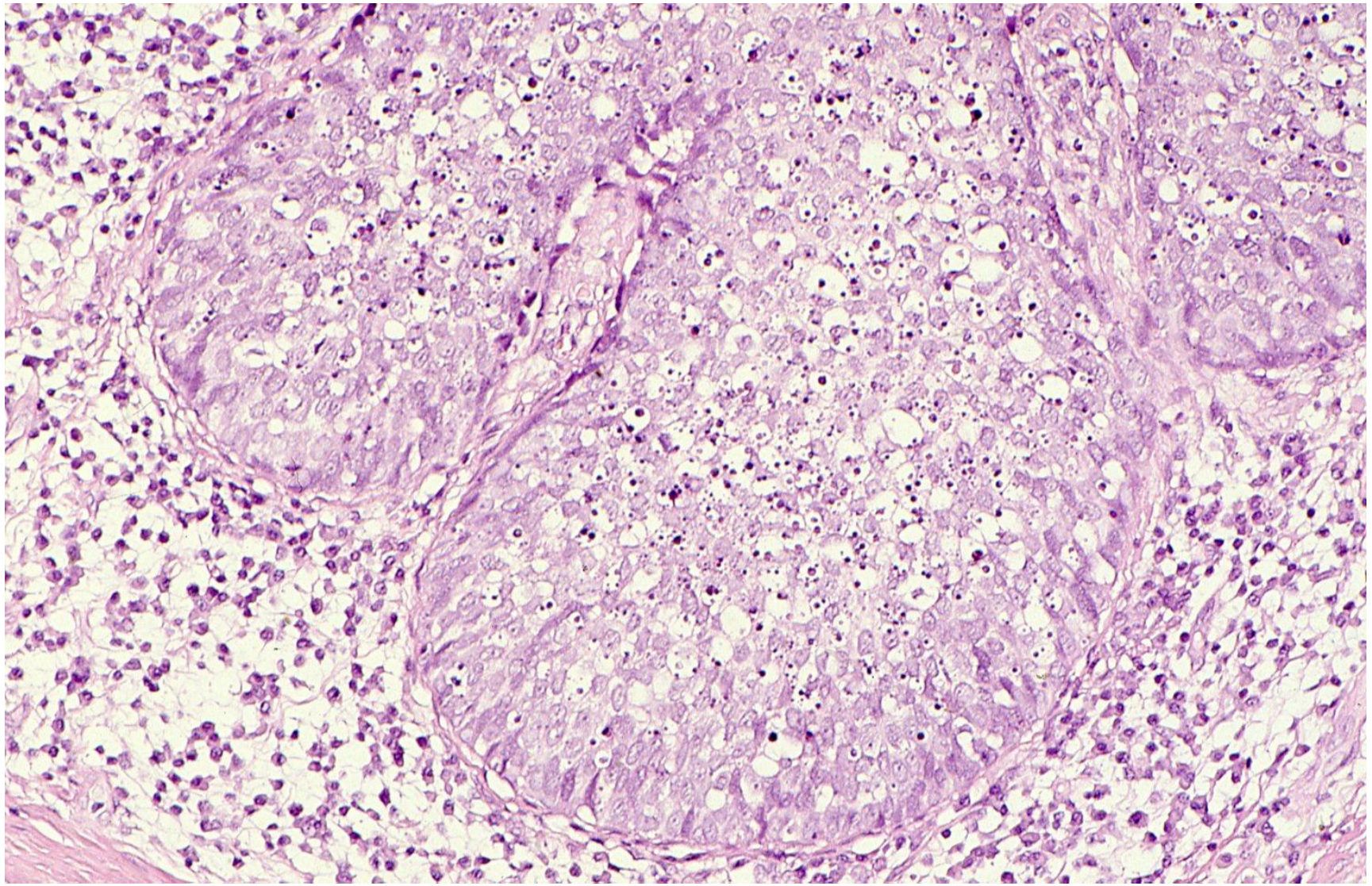
Bowen’s disease with extensive apoptosis

Spontaneous regression may be seen in malignant skin tumors. Bowen's disease infrequently shows spontaneous complete regression. Prominent infiltration of T cells is found in the upper dermis. Strong expression of Fas (APO-1/CD95) antigen, an apoptosis-related tumor necrosis factor receptor family protein, can be proven. Spontaneous complete regression should be related to Fas-mediated apoptosis. Here presented is a case of Bowen’s disease microscopically associated with extensive apoptosis in tumor cells and dense dermal infiltration of lymphocytes.

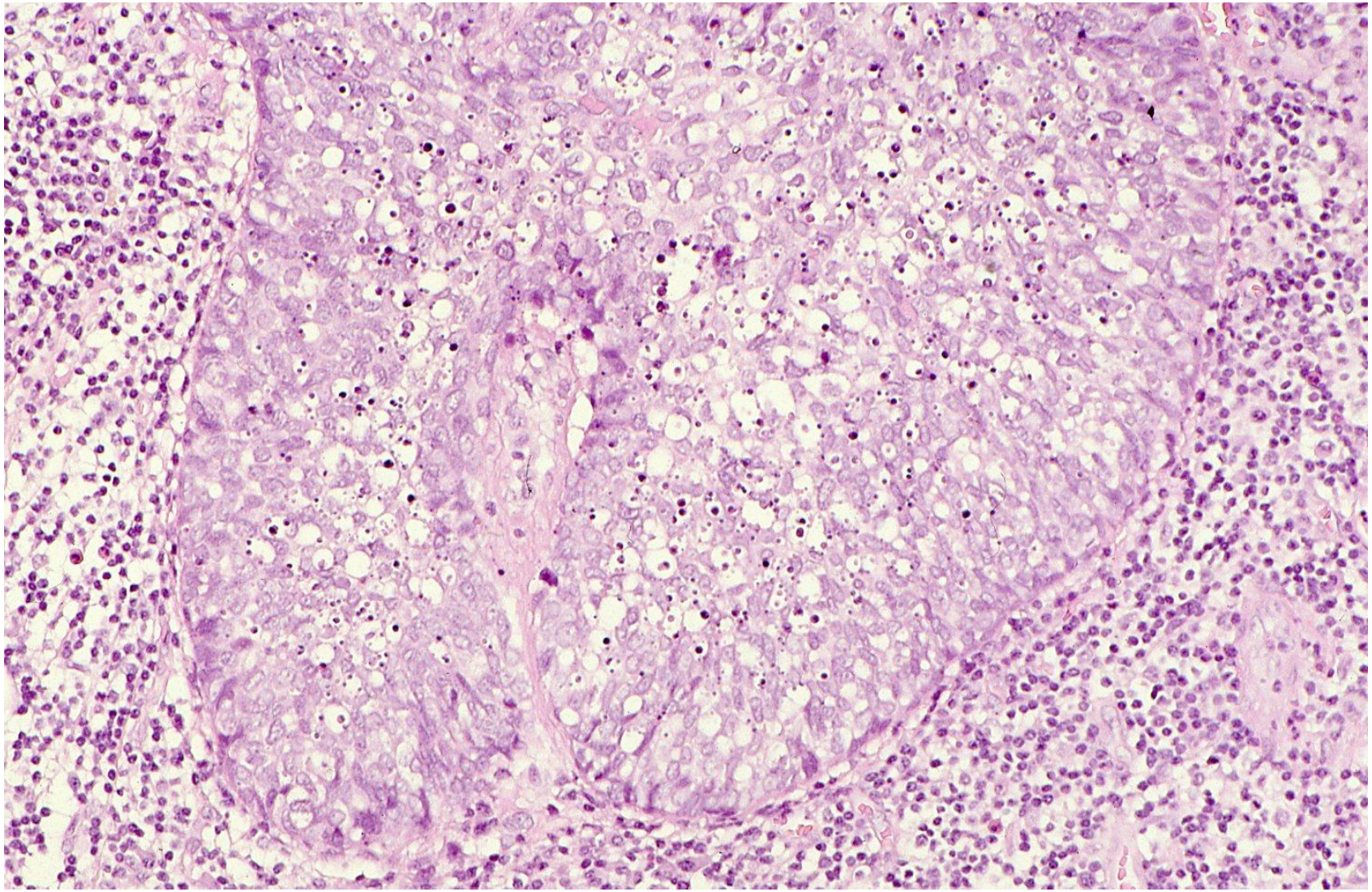
Ref.: Chisiki M, et al. Bowen's disease showing spontaneous complete regression associated with apoptosis. Br J Dermatol 140(5): 939–944. doi: 10.1046/j.1365-2133.1999.02831.x



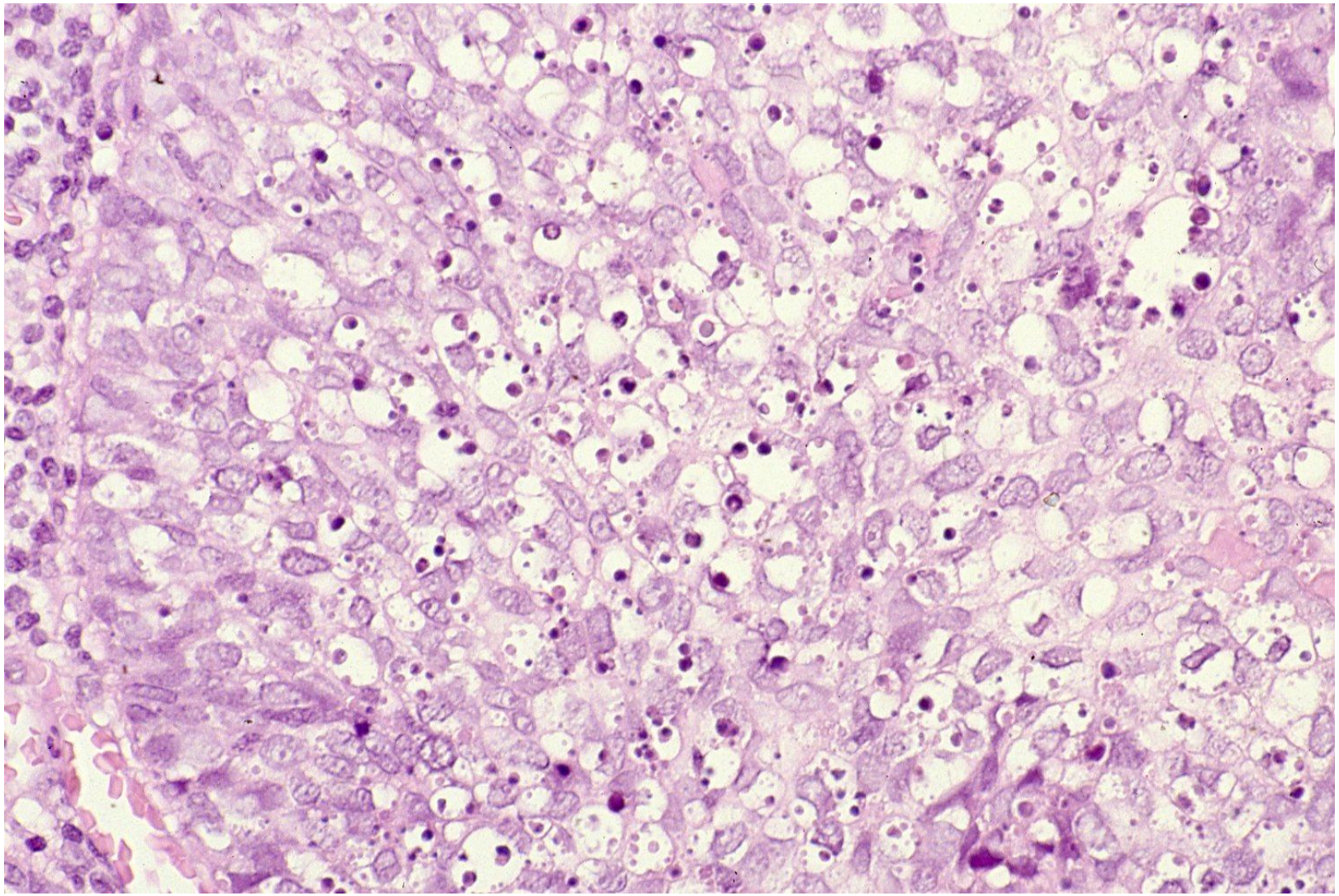
Bowen’s disease with extensive apoptosis seen on the scalp of a 73 y-o female patient. The thickened epidermis shows the growth of atypical keratinocytes of parabasal type and dense infiltration of lymphocytes in the dermis (H&E-1).



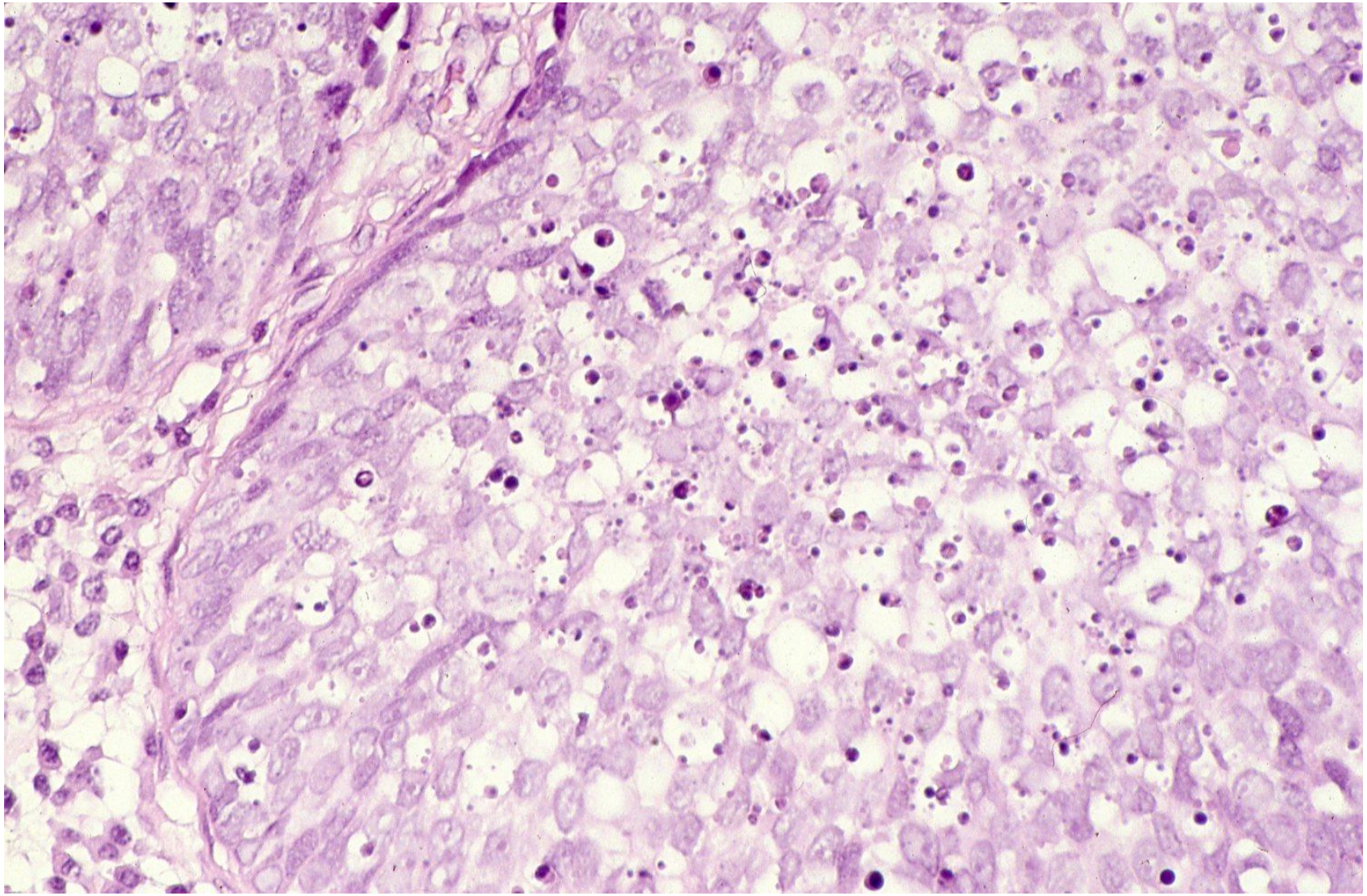
Bowen’s disease with extensive apoptosis seen on the scalp of a 73 y-o female patient. The thickened epidermis shows the growth of atypical parabasal-type keratinocytes with extensive apoptosis and dense infiltration of lymphocytes in the dermis (H&E-2).



Bowen’s disease with extensive apoptosis seen on the scalp of a 73 y-o female patient. The thickened epidermis shows the growth of atypical parabasal-type keratinocytes with extensive apoptosis and dense infiltration of lymphocytes in the dermis (H&E-3).



Bowen’s disease with extensive apoptosis seen on the scalp of a 73 y-o female patient. The thickened epidermis shows the growth of atypical parabasal-type keratinocytes with extensive apoptosis (H&E-4).



Bowen’s disease with extensive apoptosis seen on the scalp of a 73 y-o female patient. The thickened epidermis shows the growth of atypical parabasal-type keratinocytes with extensive apoptosis (H&E-5).