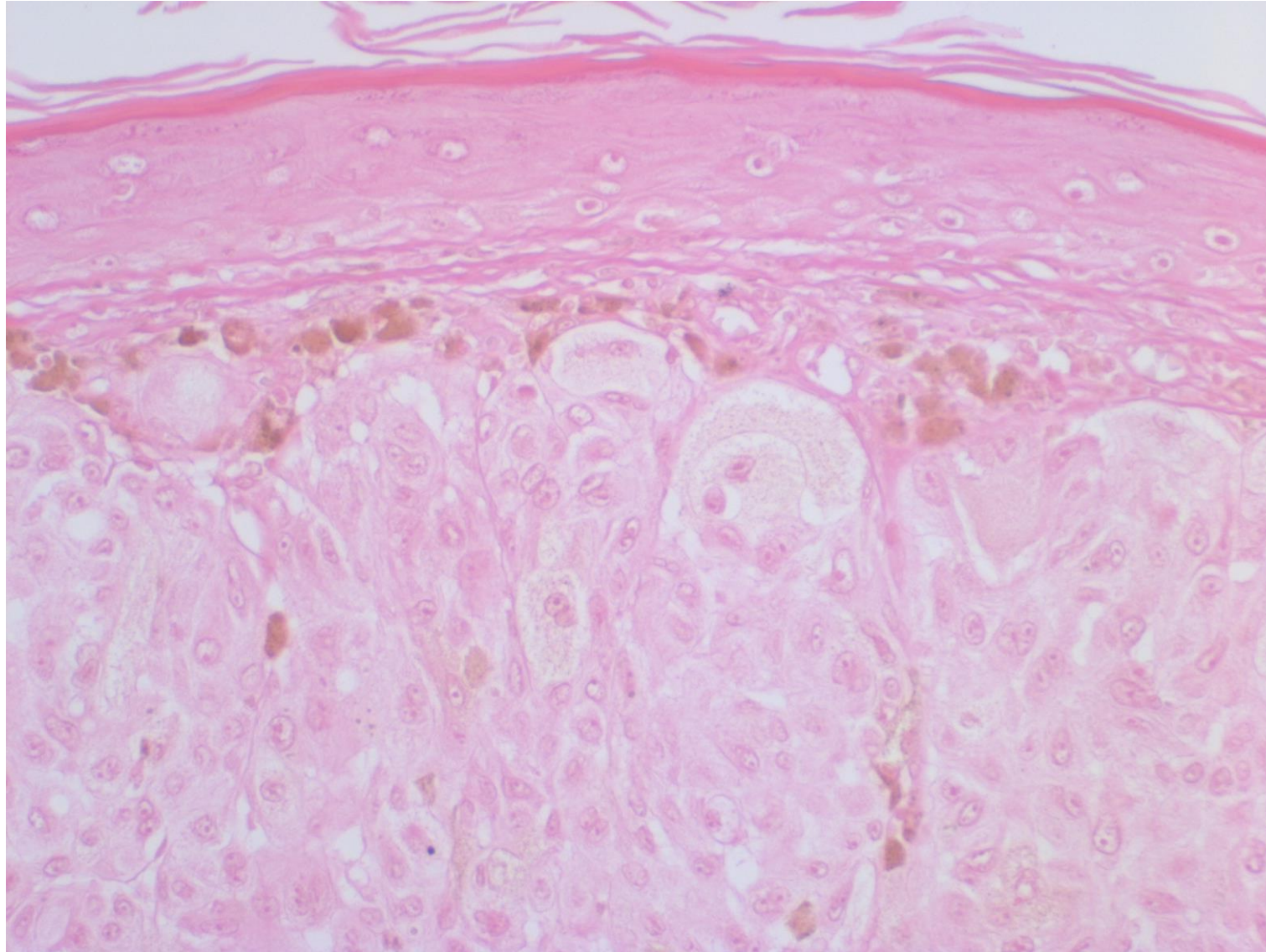


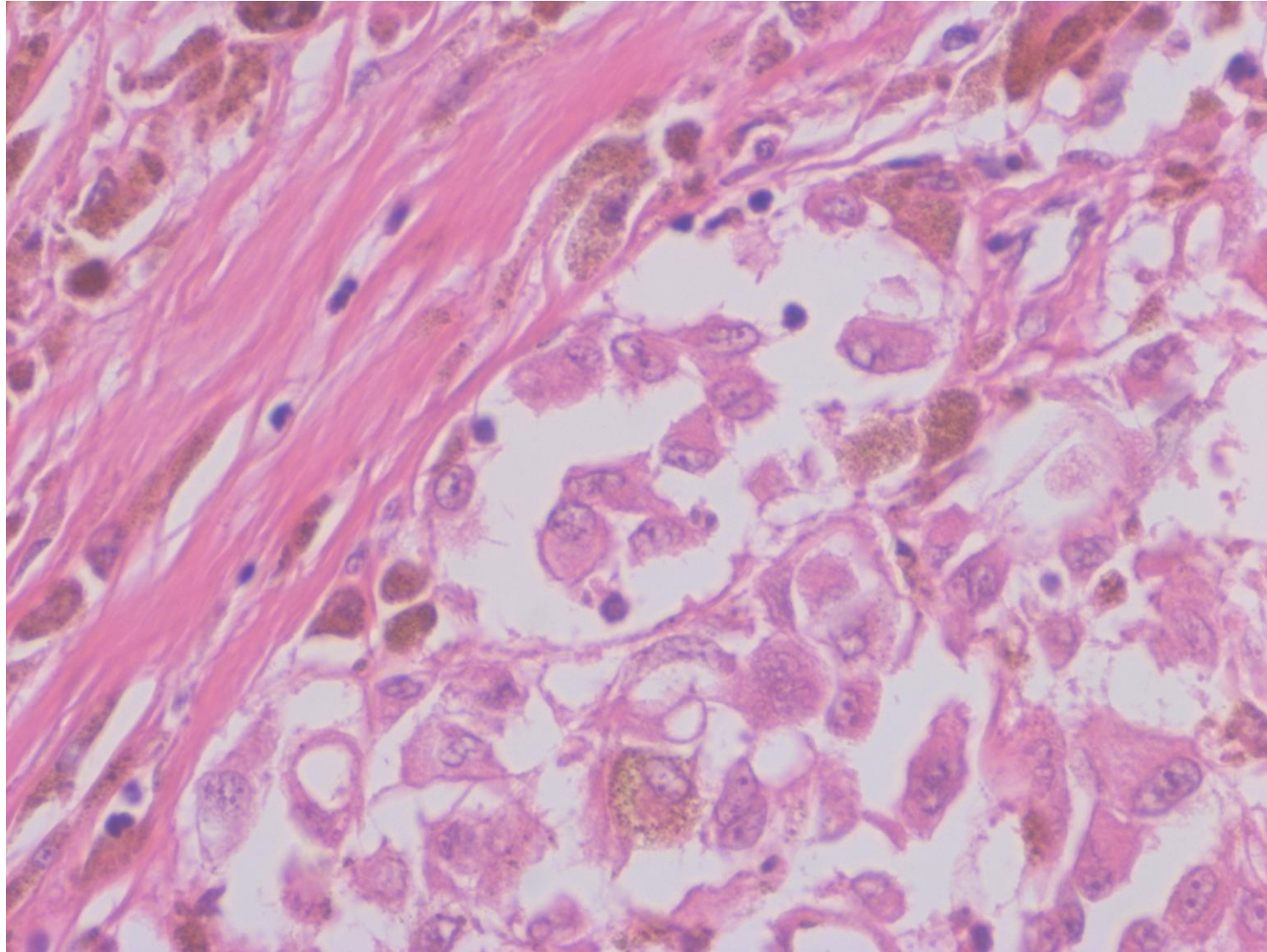
# Balloon cell melanoma

Balloon cell melanoma is a rare variant of malignant melanoma characterized by large, foamy melanocytes lacking pigmentation. Clinically, raised and ulcerated lesions larger than 1 cm are dominant. The most common location is the lower extremities. Microscopically, large, vacuolated cells with foamy cytoplasm and conspicuous nucleoli are common. The melanoma markers such as S-100 protein, HMB45 and melan A are expressed. Balloon cell melanoma may represent an advanced phase in the progression of malignant melanoma. The surgical specimen of balloon cell melanoma seen in the shoulder of a 58 y-o male patient is presented.

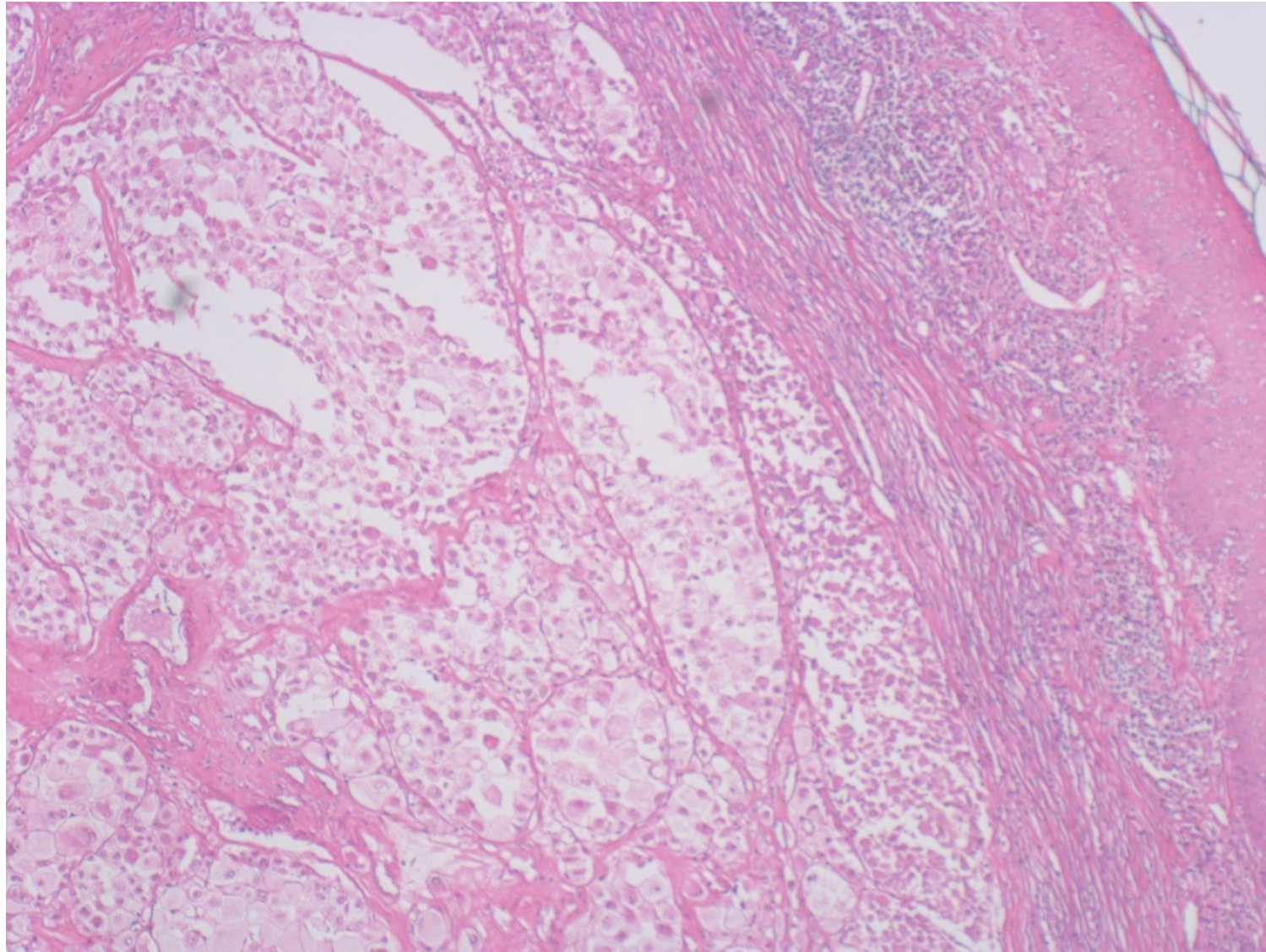
Ref.: Wei G, et al. Balloon cell melanoma: a systematic review. *Int J Dermatol* 2022; 61(3): 266-277. doi: 10.1111/ijd.15448



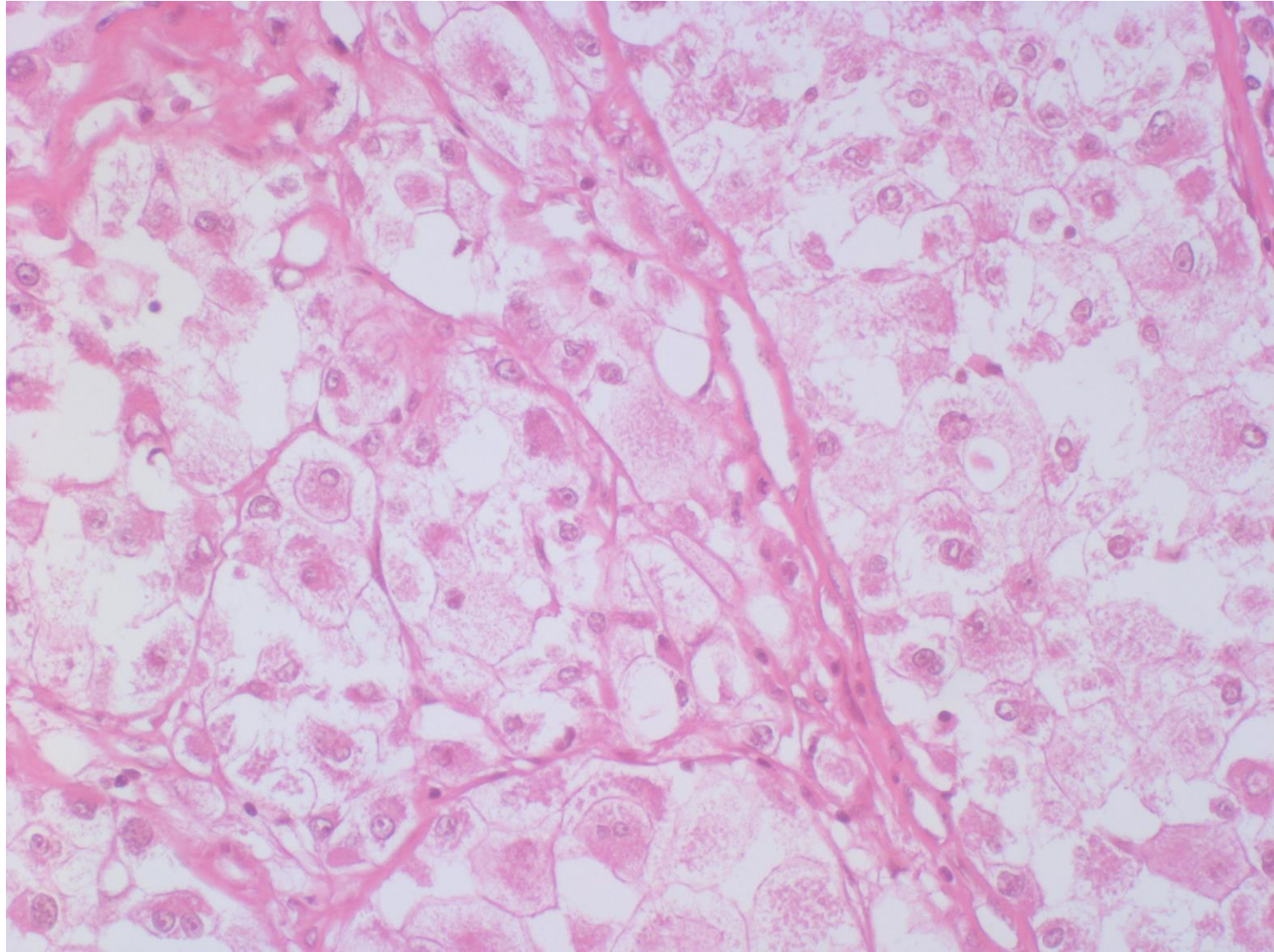
Balloon cell melanoma occurring in the shoulder skin of a 58 y-o male patient. The large and clear cells are seen just adjacent to the basal layer of the epidermis. The non-ballooned melanoma cells in the basal layer possess melanin pigment (H&E-1).



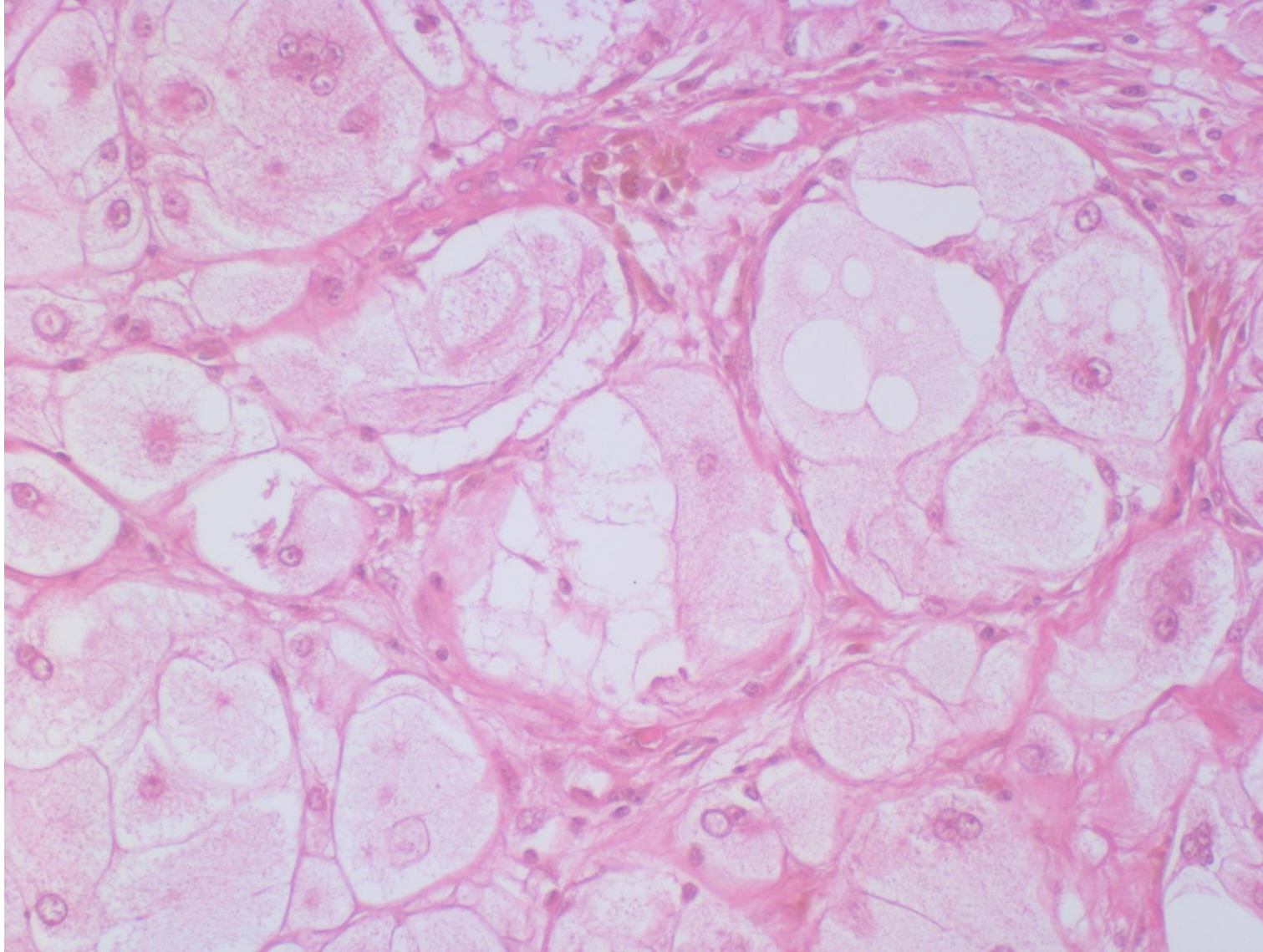
Balloon cell melanoma occurring in the shoulder skin of a 58 y-o male patient. The non-ballooned melanoma cells grow in the basal layer, and focally possess melanin pigment (H&E-2).



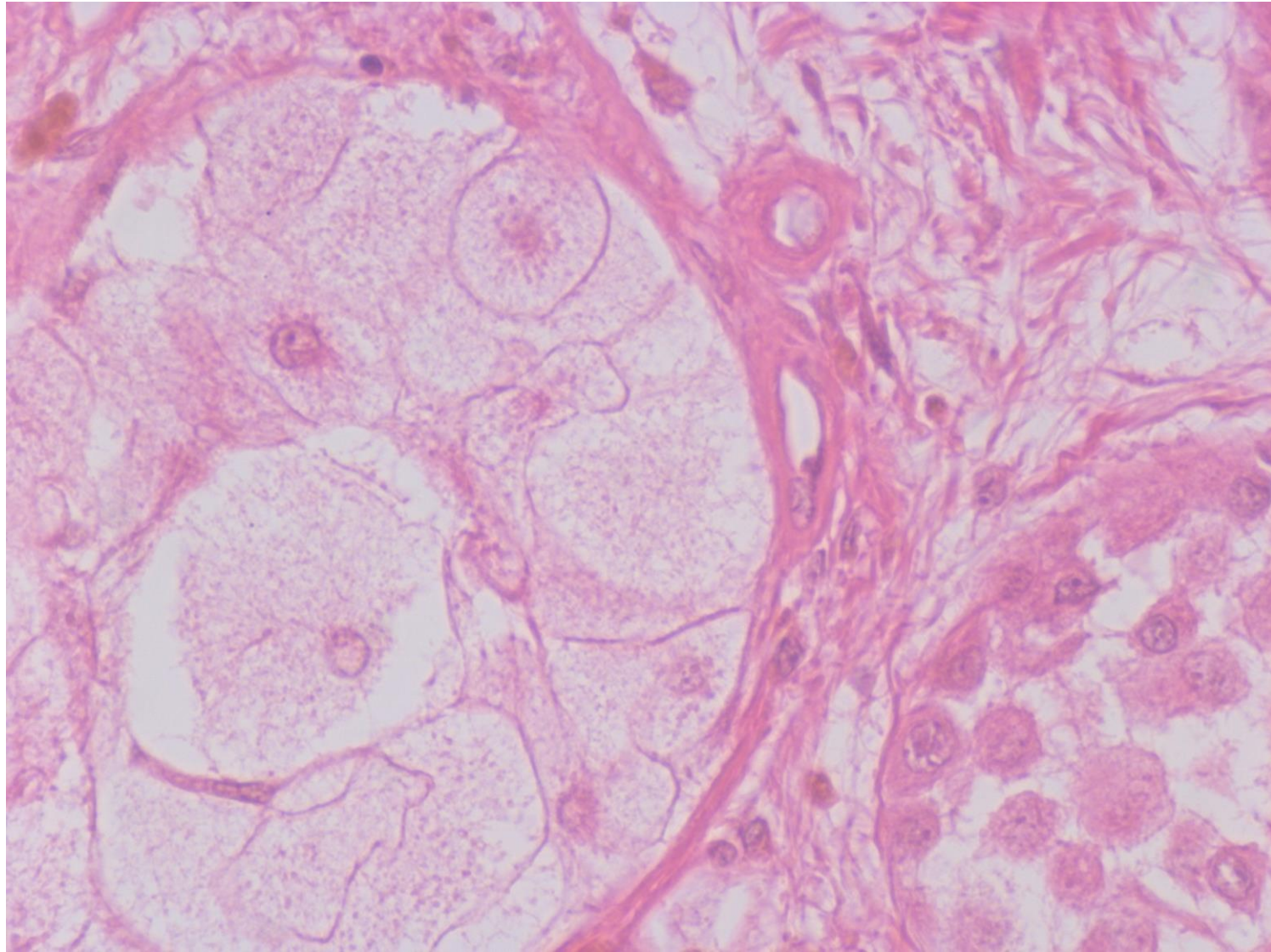
Balloon cell melanoma occurring in the shoulder skin of a 58 y-o male patient. The large and clear cells forming tumor nests occupy the dermis (H&E-3).



Balloon cell melanoma occurring in the shoulder skin of a 58 y-o male patient. The large and clear cells forming tumor nests occupy the dermis (H&E-4).



Balloon cell melanoma occurring in the shoulder skin of a 58 y-o male patient. The large and clear cells forming tumor nests occupy the dermis (H&E-5).



Balloon cell melanoma occurring in the shoulder skin of a 58 y-o male patient. The large and clear cells forming tumor nests occupy the dermis (H&E-6).