

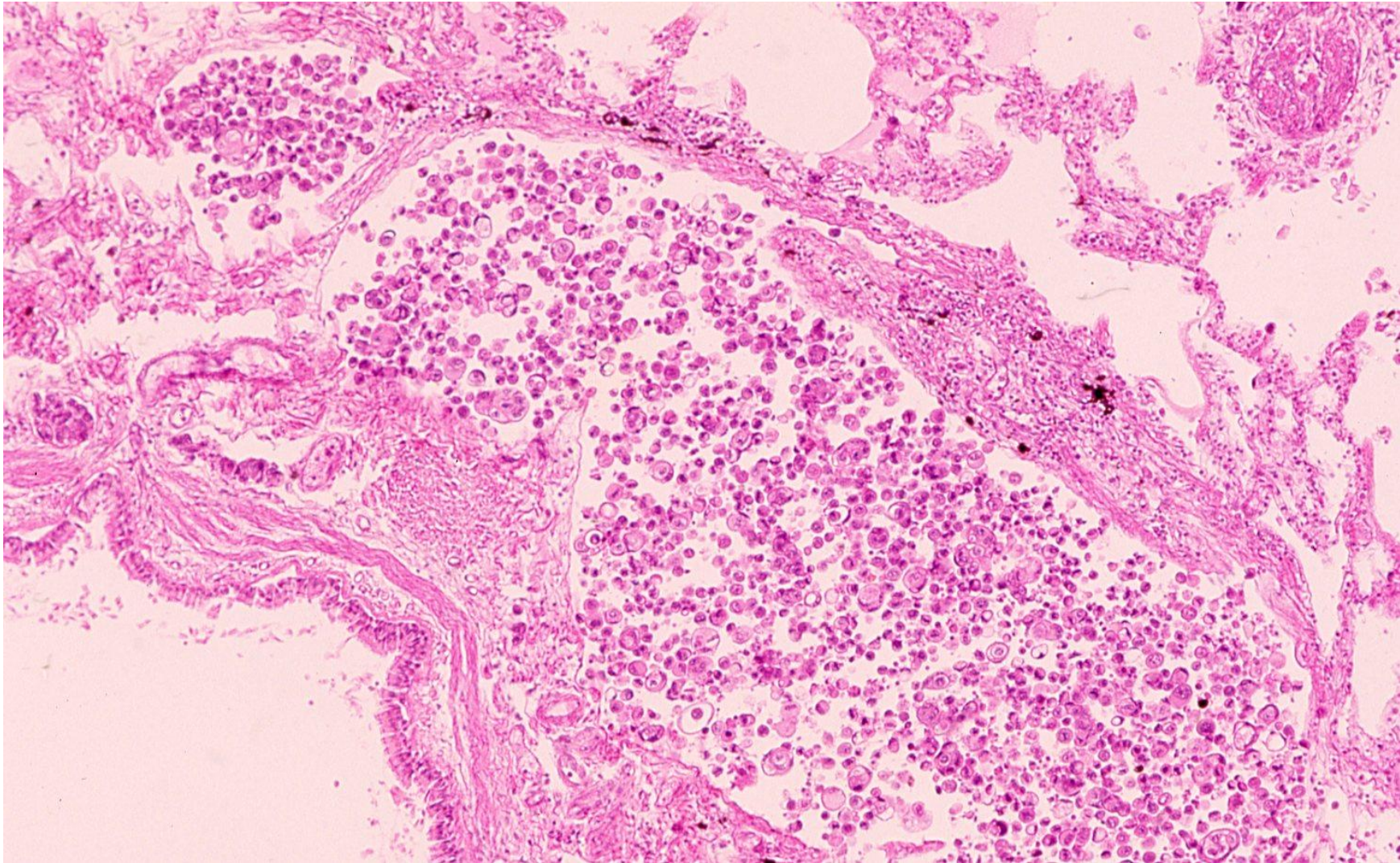
Lymphangitic carcinomatosis

Lymphangitic carcinomatosis represents metastatic infiltration in lymphatic vessels secondary to the spread of malignancy. Pulmonary lymphangitic carcinomatosis denotes an end-stage malignancy with a poor prognosis. It is mostly caused by adenocarcinomas of the stomach, colon, lung, breast, prostate, pancreas, uterine cervix, thyroid or larynx. Pulmonary lymphatics in the peribroncho-vascular, centrilobular, interlobular & subpleural locations are diffusely involved. A theory on the mechanism of lymphangitic carcinomatosis says that initial hematogenous spread of tumor cells causes obliterative endarteritis and subsequently penetrate the vascular endothelium to reach the perivascular lymphatics. Hilar lymph nodal involvement is closely associated with widespread retrograde permeation of the cancer cells. Grossly, the lungs reveal white streaks representing distended and obstructed lymphatic vessels on the pleural or the cut surfaces. The streaks are seen from the lung hilus toward the periphery.

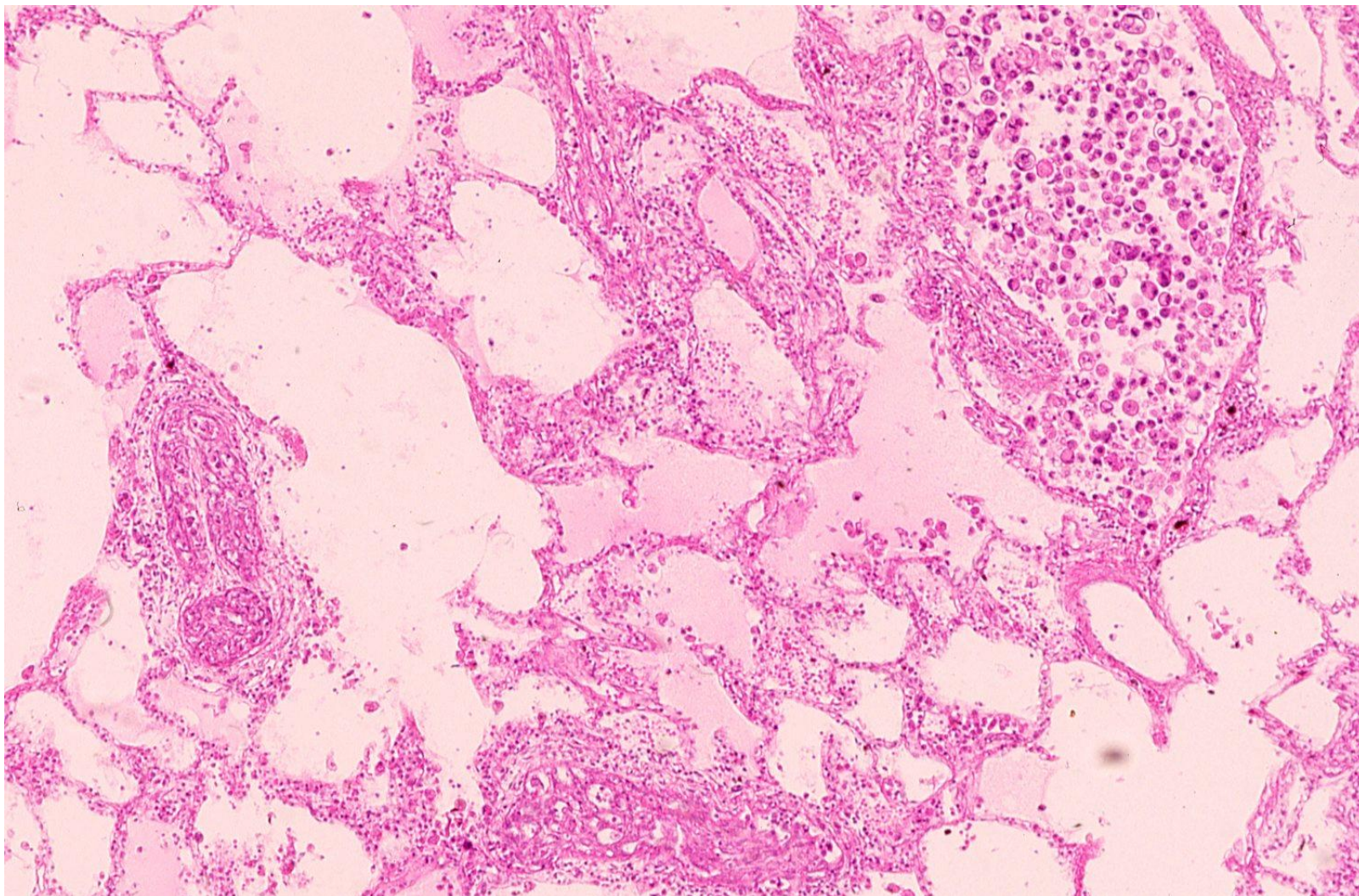
Ref.: AK AK, Mantri SN. Lymphangitic carcinomatosis. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing, 2023. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK560921/>



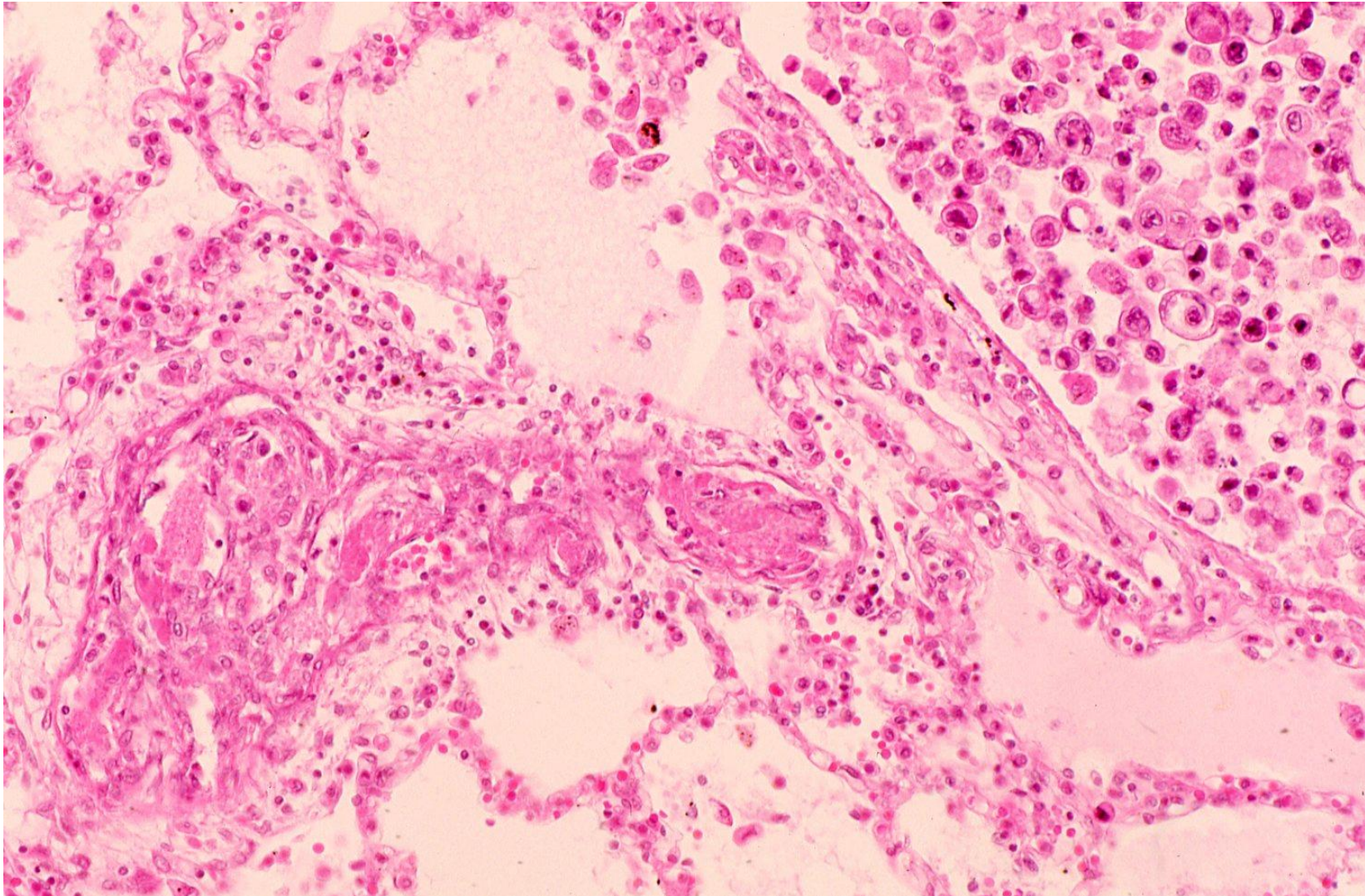
Lymphangitic carcinomatosis of the lung seen in a 58 y-o female patient with advanced gastric cancer. The cut surfaces of the autopsied lung after formalin fixation show white streaks representing distended and obstructed lymphatic vessels in the lung stroma.



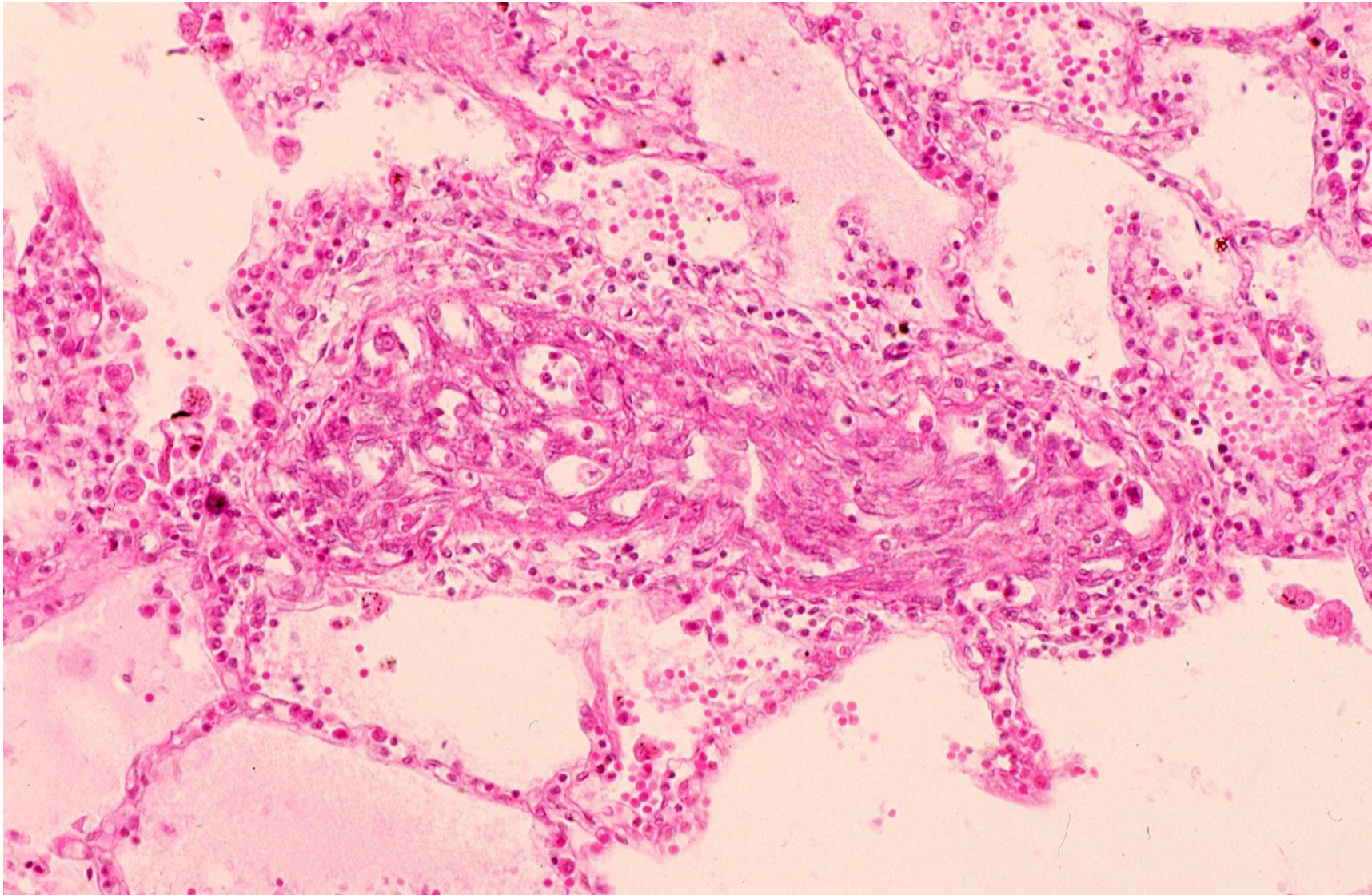
Lymphangitic carcinomatosis of the lung seen in a 58 y-o female patient with advanced gastric cancer. Microscopically, a peribronchial lymphatic vessel is distended and obstructed by signet ring-type cancer cells (H&E-1).



Lymphangitic carcinomatosis of the lung seen in a 58 y-o female patient with advanced gastric cancer. Lymphatic vessels in the interstitium of the lung are obstructed by the metastatic spread of signet ring-type cancer cells (H&E-2).



Lymphangitic carcinomatosis of the lung seen in a 58 y-o female patient with advanced gastric cancer. Lymphatic vessels in the interstitium of the lung are obstructed by the metastatic spread of signet ring-type cancer cells. Fibrinous thrombosis is focally associated (H&E-3).



Lymphangitic carcinomatosis of the lung seen in a 58 y-o female patient with advanced gastric cancer. Lymphatic vessels in the interstitium of the lung are obstructed by the metastatic spread of signet ring-type cancer cells. Intraluminal organization and recanalization are discerned (H&E-4).