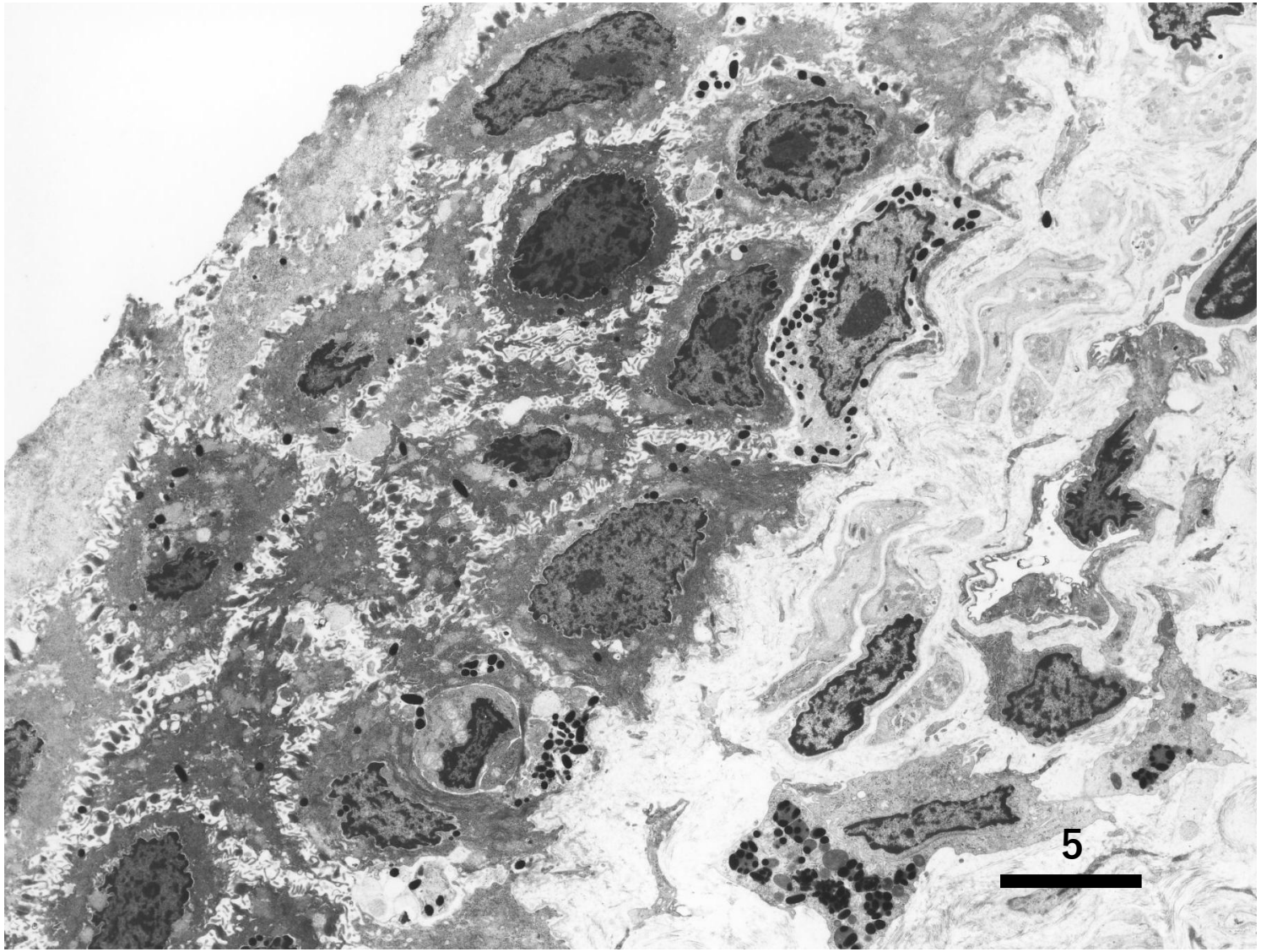
Melanocytic macule (Peutz-Jeghers syndrome)

Melanocytic macules on the lip (labial lentigines) are benign flat pigmented lesions, 1-8 mm in size, characterized by increased pigmentation at the tip of the rete ridge. The lesions are commonly seen on the central third of the lower lip, and may be provoked by sun exposure. Biopsy reveals increased basal pigmentation and dermal melanophages without significant increase in melanocytes. Mild acanthosis may be associated. It should be noted that multiple lesions may be a sign of a widespread skin condition, such as Peutz-Jeghers syndrome and Addison's disease.

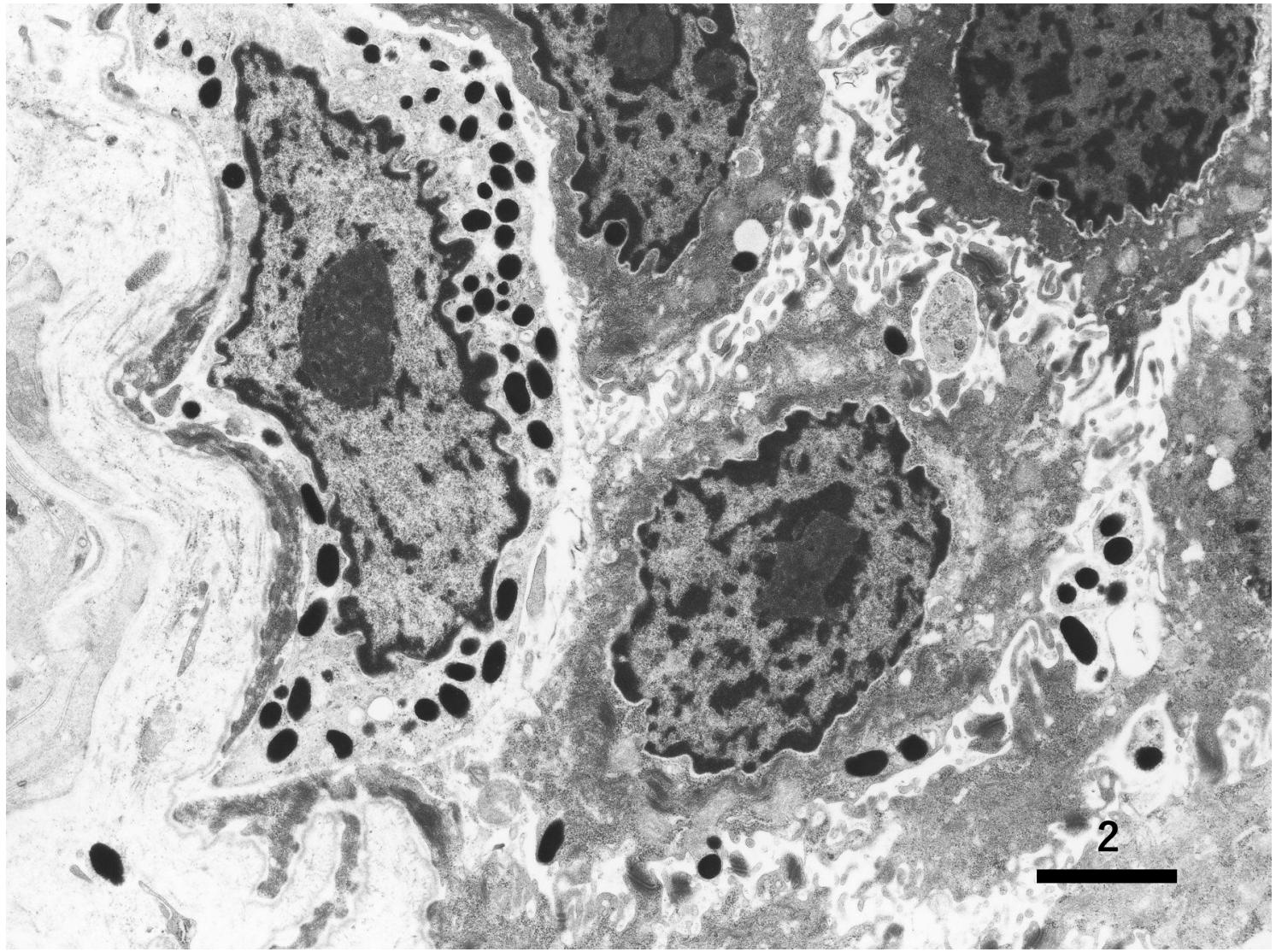
Ref.: Duffill M. Melanotic macule. DermNet 2008.
https://dermnetnz.org/topics/melanotic-macule

Melanocytic macules on the lower lip. Well-defined, oval, brown to black, flat patches are seen in the central third of the lower lip of a 4 y-o boy. The association with small intestinal polyposis confirmed the diagnosis of Peutz-Jeghers syndrome.

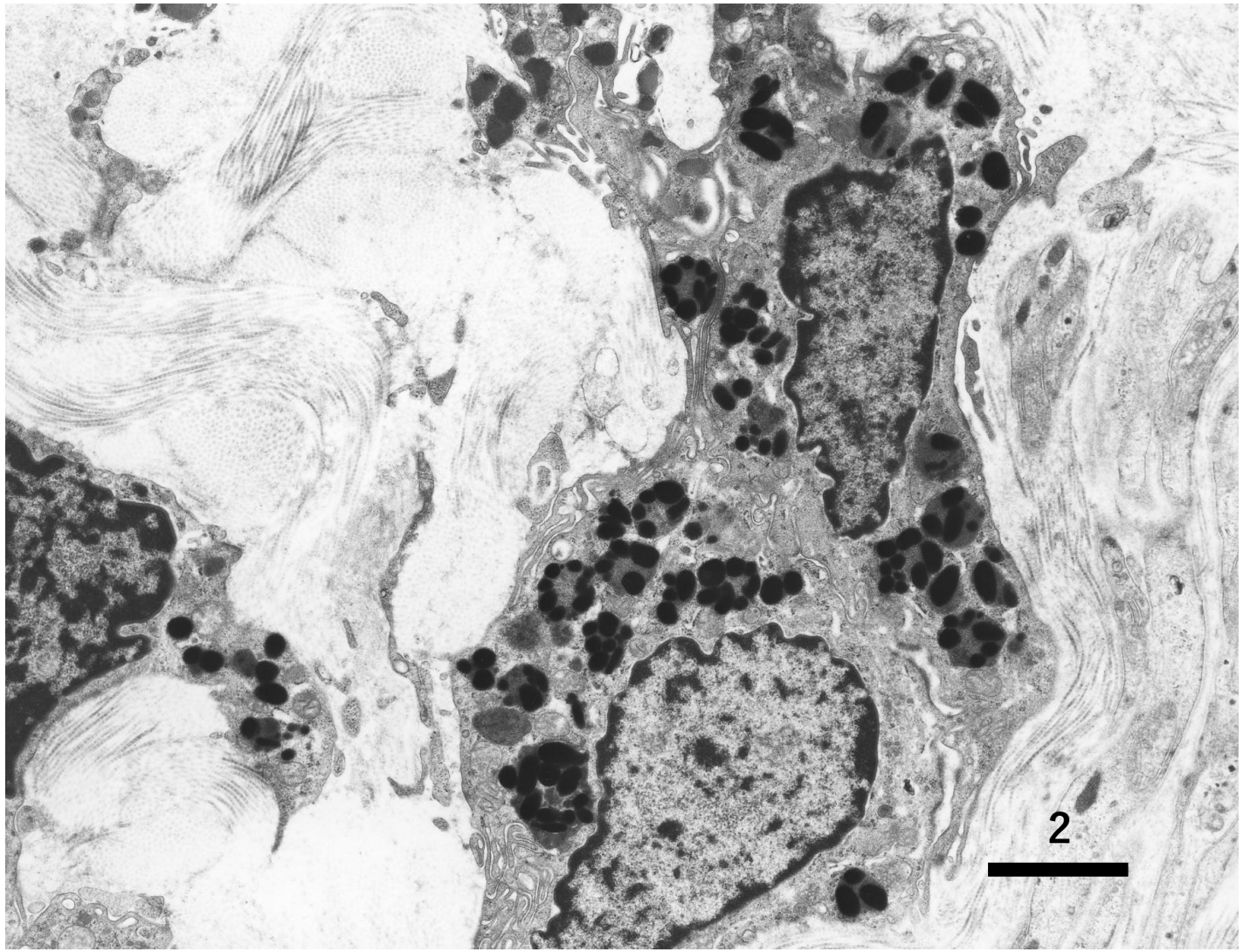
Melanocytic macules on the lower lip. Biopsy reveals distinct basal melanosis in mildly acanthotic squamous mucosa. A few melanophages are seen in the upper dermis (H&E).



Ultrastructure of melanocytic macule on the lower lip of a 4 y-o boy with Peutz-Jeghers syndrome. The basal keratinocytes contains a good number of melanosomes. A melanocyte is focally seen in the basal layer (TEM-1).



Ultrastructure of melanocytic macule on the lower lip of a 4 y-o boy with Peutz-Jeghers syndrome. The basal keratinocytes contains a good number of melanosomes. A melanocyte is focally seen in the basal layer (TEM-2).



Ultrastructure of melanocytic macule on the lower lip of a 4 y-o boy with Peutz-Jeghers syndrome. In the papillary dermis, a melanophage phagocytizing melanin pigments is focally seen (TEM-3).