

# Hepatocellular Lesions

Note: All of these lesions stain with Hepatocellular stains (Hepar-1 and Arginase)!

Also, canalicular staining with CD10 and pCEA. Cytoplasmic TTF-1. Negative MOC-31.

## Macroregenerative Nodule

An unusually large regenerative nodule (often >1 cm) that develops in the setting of **cirrhosis**.

Hyperplastic liver parenchyma. Plates may be slightly thickened (usu. 1-2 cells thick, maybe focally 3). Have **normal constituents** (bile ducts, arteries, veins, etc...). **No atypia** (Unless dysplastic).

## Focal Nodular Hyperplasia (FNH)

**Not a true neoplasm; "Focal Cirrhosis"**

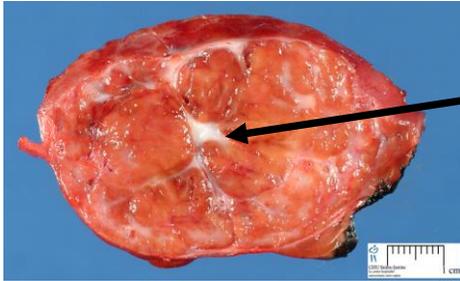
Regenerative hyperplastic response of hepatocytes secondary to vascular abnormalities

Very common

Well-circumscribed with **central stellate scar** with fibrous septae with entrapped vessels, bile ducts, and inflammatory cells

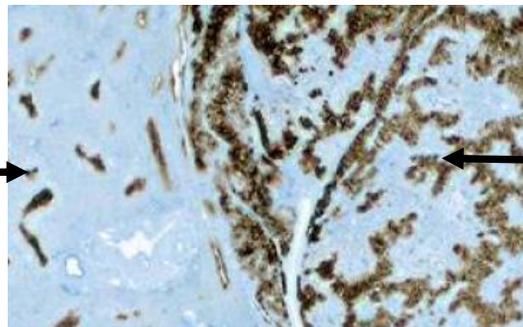
Normal plate thickness. No true portal tracts.

"Map-like" staining with glutamine-synthetase



### Glutamine Synthetase IHC:

Normal, pericentral staining



Strong "Map-like" staining

Note: In cirrhosis it shows weak, patchy periseptal staining.

## Hepatocellular Adenoma

### Subtypes:

**Inflammatory/Telangiectatic (~45%)** → Stain with serum amyloid A and CRP; associated inflammatory infiltrate, peliosis, and bile ductular reaction in fibrous septae. Transformation to HCC occurs.

**B-catenin activated (~15%)** → Nuclear B-catenin (focal), Diffuse, strong glutamine synthetase. Highest risk of malignant transformation

**HNF1α-inactivated (~30%)** → Loss of LFABP staining. Associated with adenomatosis (>10 adenomas). Very low risk of transformation.

**Unclassified (~10%)** → None of the above (~10%)

**Benign** liver neoplasm.

Assoc. with oral contraceptives/steroids.

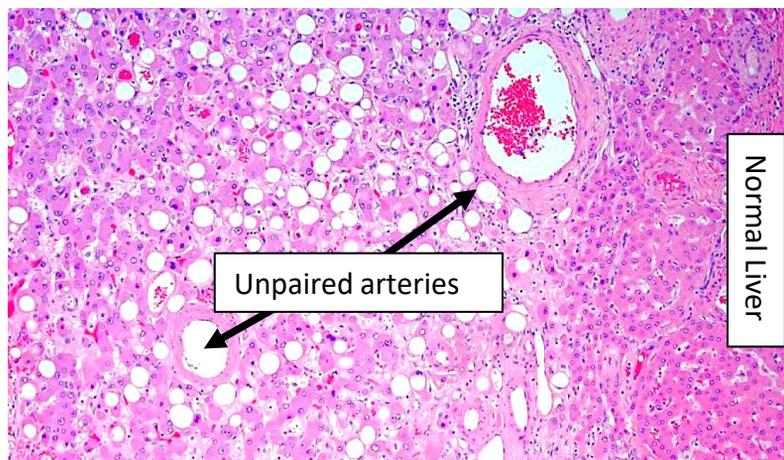
**Risk of transformation to HCC and/or bleeding/rupture**

Benign-appearing hepatocytes, No significant atypia.

**Normal plate thickness (1-2 cells thick)**

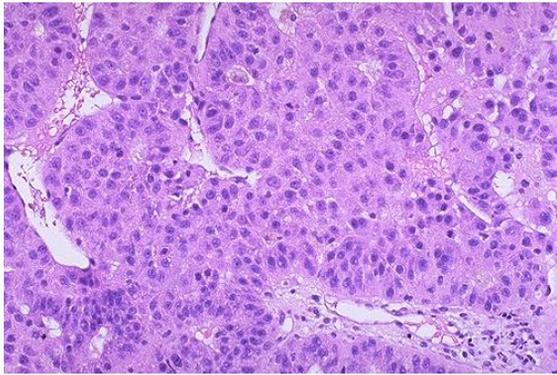
Unpaired arteries, absent bile ducts

No mitoses



# Hepatocellular Lesions

## Hepatocellular Carcinoma



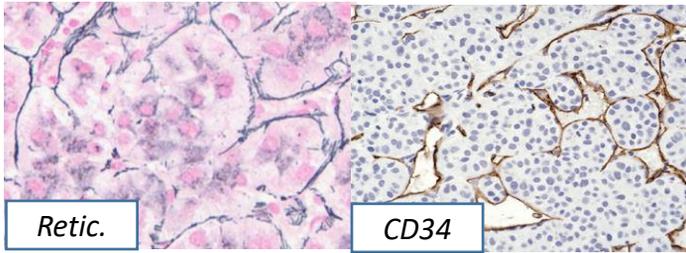
**Malignant** tumor with hepatocellular differentiation  
Often occurs in setting of **cirrhosis** (associated with chronic liver damage such as viral hepatitis, EtOH, and NASH)  
Dx often made clinically (Radiology + ↑ AFP = HCC)  
Treat often with embolization, resection, or transplant

### Widening of hepatic plates (>2 cells thick)

Absent portal tracts, often unpaired arteries.  
Architecture and cytologic atypia varies and includes pseudoacini/pseudogland formation and wide trabeculae.  
Often bile production by tumor cells.

### Staining:

**Reticulin** → Widening of hepatic plates  
**CD34** → Diffuse sinusoidal (“capillarization”)  
**Glypican-3** → +/- (but negative in benign liver, Positive staining supports malignancy)

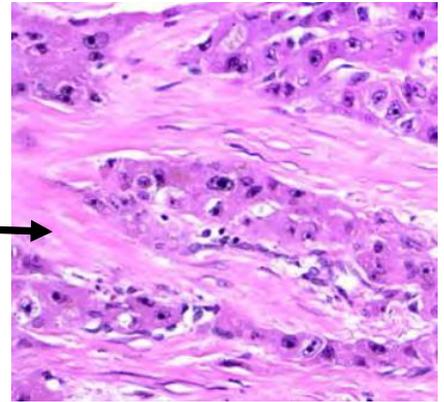


Retic.

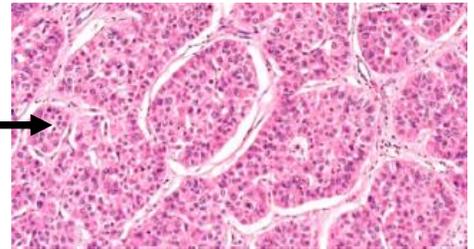
CD34

### Variants:

**Fibrolamellar HCC** → Often young, non-cirrhotic patients. Normal AFP. Often large, solitary. Large oncocytic tumor cells with bands of lamellar fibrosis. Cytoplasmic pale bodies. Recurrent DNAJB1-PRKACA translocation. Stain with CD68 and CK7.  
Classically thought to be better prognosis, but this is likely mostly due to demographics (younger, non-cirrhotic patients)



**Steatohepatic HCC** → Assoc with Hep C with NASH. Macrovesicular steatosis, ballooning degeneration, M-D bodies. Can be hard to recognize on biopsy (esp. if background NASH)!



**Macrotrabecular-Massive HCC** → Thick trabeculae coated by endothelial cells and surrounded by vascular space. Aggressive subtype with high AFP and TP53 mutations or FGF19 amplification.

## Hepatoblastoma

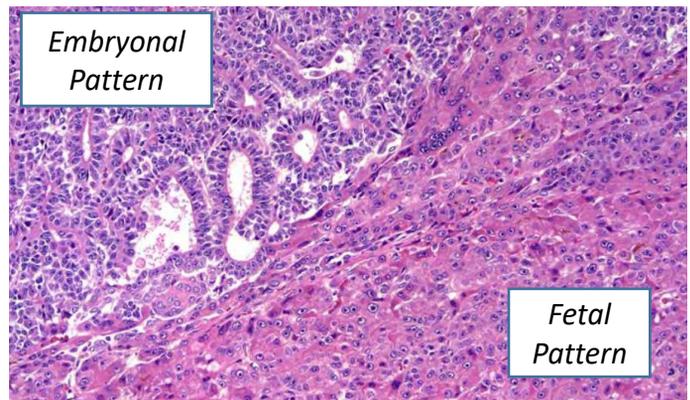
**Most common liver tumor in Children.**

**Malignant.** Assoc. w/ Beckwith-Wiedemann

Shows a variety of epithelial (e.g., fetal and embryonal) and mesenchymal cell types (“teratoid”) recapitulating hepatic ontogenesis.

Frequent  $\beta$ -Catenin mutations

Nuclear localization by IHC → worse prognosis

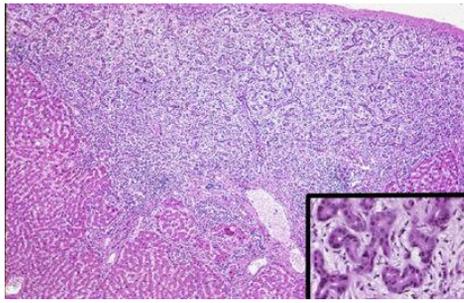


Embryonal Pattern

Fetal Pattern

# Biliary Lesions

Note: The epithelium in all of these lesions stain with CK7, CK19, and MOC31 (among other stains). These lesions are negative for hepatocellular stains (Hepar-1, Arginase, and Glypican-3).

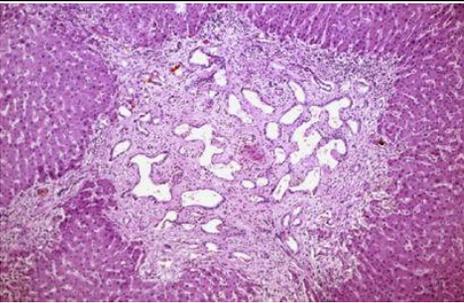


## Bile Duct Adenoma

### Benign bile duct proliferation

Usu. <1 cm, subcapsular, and well-circumscribed.

Small, uniform, small ducts with cuboidal cells and regular nuclei. Biliary adenofibroma → more complex epithelial growth with abundant fibroblastic stromal components  
Clinically, may mistake intraoperatively for a metastasis



## Bile Duct Hamartoma *aka Von Meyenburg Complex*

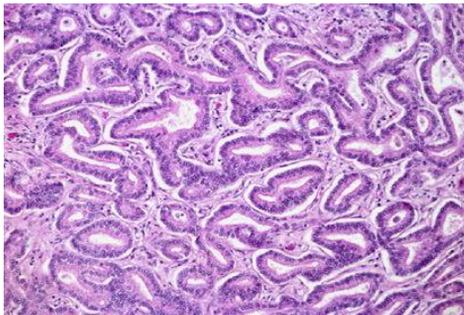
Benign, may be multiple.

Usu. small (several mm)

**Irregular** to round bile dilated bile ducts

Associated with **fibrous/hyalinized stroma**

Lumens **contain bile** and proteinaceous material



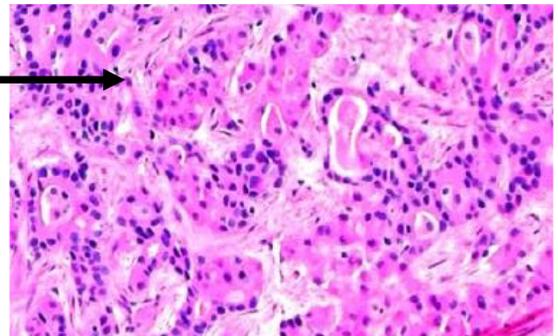
## Adenocarcinoma arising from intrahepatic bile ducts

## Cholangiocarcinoma

Inflammatory disorders can predispose (e.g., PSC or liver fluke infection). Must clinically distinguish from metastasis as overlap.  
Usu. tubular pattern. Sometimes large ducts. Often sclerotic center.  
Non-specific IHC profile, but (+) Albumin ISH supports intrahepatic

## Combined Hepatocellular - Cholangiocarcinoma

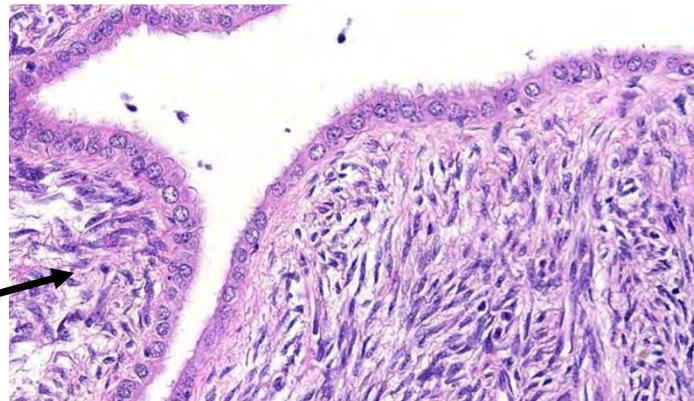
A single tumor with morphologically distinct areas of HCC (Arginase and Hepar +) and Cholangiocarcinoma (CK7+).  
Treated and prognosis similar to cholangiocarcinoma (Worse than HCC, No transplantation).



## Additional DX:

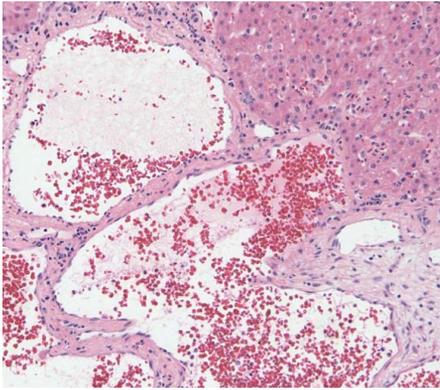
**Intraductal Papillary Neoplasms** → Similar to IPMNs in the Pancreatic duct. Can progress to cholangiocarcinoma.

**Mucinous Cystic Neoplasms** → Just like in the pancreas! Ovarian-type stroma surrounding mucinous epithelium.



# Vascular Lesions

Note: All of these lesions stain with endothelial markers, including CD31, ERG, and FLI-1.



## Cavernous Hemangioma

**Most common benign tumor of the liver.**

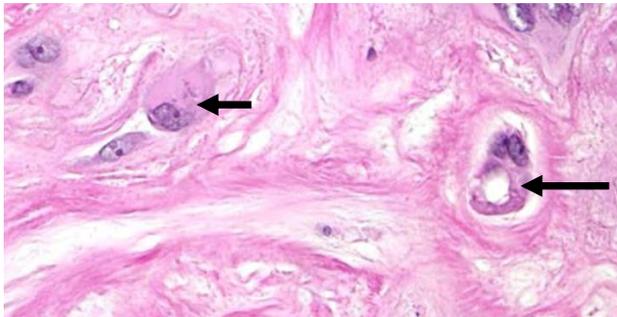
Thought to be malformations and non-neoplastic.

**Often asymptomatic and diagnosed radiographically.**

More common in females

Fibrous septae lined by single layer of flat endothelial cells.

Can thrombose and calcify.



## Epithelioid Hemangioendothelioma

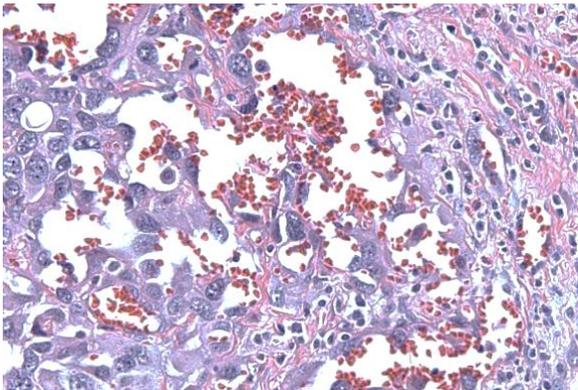
Endothelial tumor of **low-grade malignancy**.

Eosinophilic, slightly epithelioid cells with **signet ring-like** features representing intracytoplasmic lumina (often contain RBCs). Associated dense fibrous stroma.

Often have intravascular papillary growth and infiltrate sinusoidal spaces at edge of lesion

Translocation: **WWTR1-CAMTA1 fusion**

Sometimes focally positive for cytokeratins by IHC



## Angiosarcoma

**Malignant** endothelial tumor. Most common liver sarcoma.

Spindled to epithelioid cells. Variably **atypical** endothelial cells with **multilayering and mitoses**. Anastomosing spaces.

Like to grow along pre-existing vascular spaces.

Usually **large and/or multifocal**.

Assoc. with exposure to Vinyl Chloride or Thorotrast.

Poor prognosis.

## Other Tumors:

**PEComa/Angiomyolipoma** → **Benign** tumors, just like in the kidney! Think of this if you see **fat**.

Variable admixture of fat, smooth muscle, and thick-walled blood vessels. Associated with tuberous sclerosis. Usu. Asymptomatic. Stain with HMB45. MelanA+/-

**Embryonal Sarcoma** → Malignant tumor composed of undifferentiated mesenchymal cells. Usu. older children. Loose myxoid tissue with immature and giant cells. Characteristic eosinophilic intracellular hyaline globules. Can rupture. Previously bad prognosis, but improving.