

Case 43

64 year old Chinese woman presented with a breast lump that was ultrasonographically noted to be cystic. Aspiration yielded haemorrhagic fluid, with collapse of the cyst.

On follow-up, the cyst reappeared and re-aspiration obtained serous fluid.

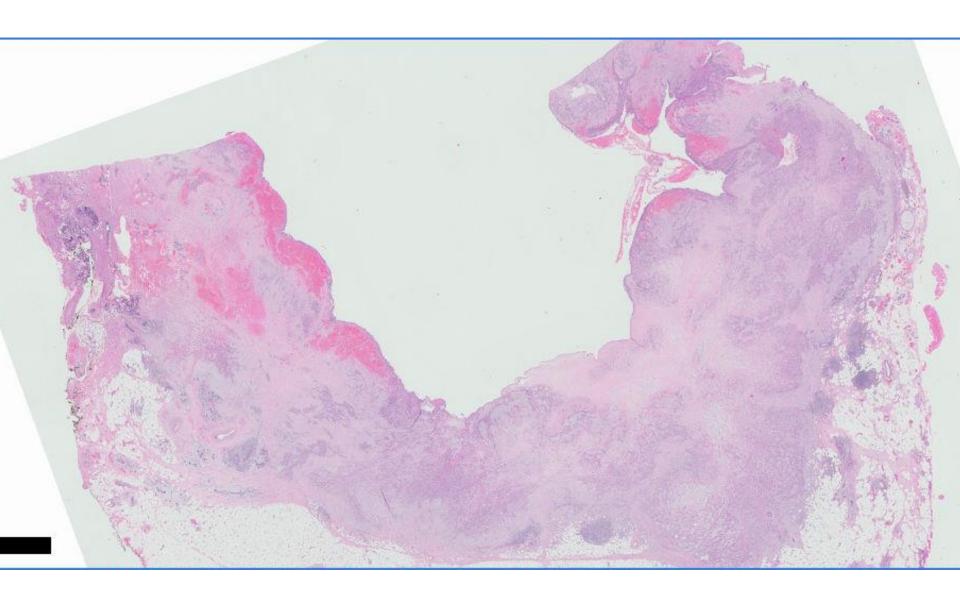
As the lump persisted, an excision was performed.

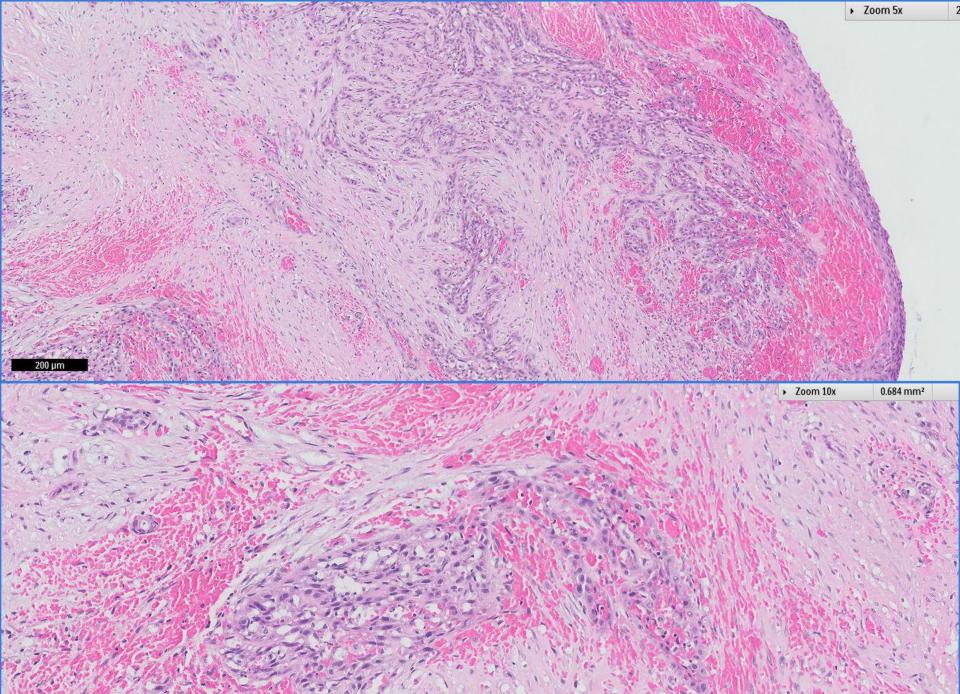


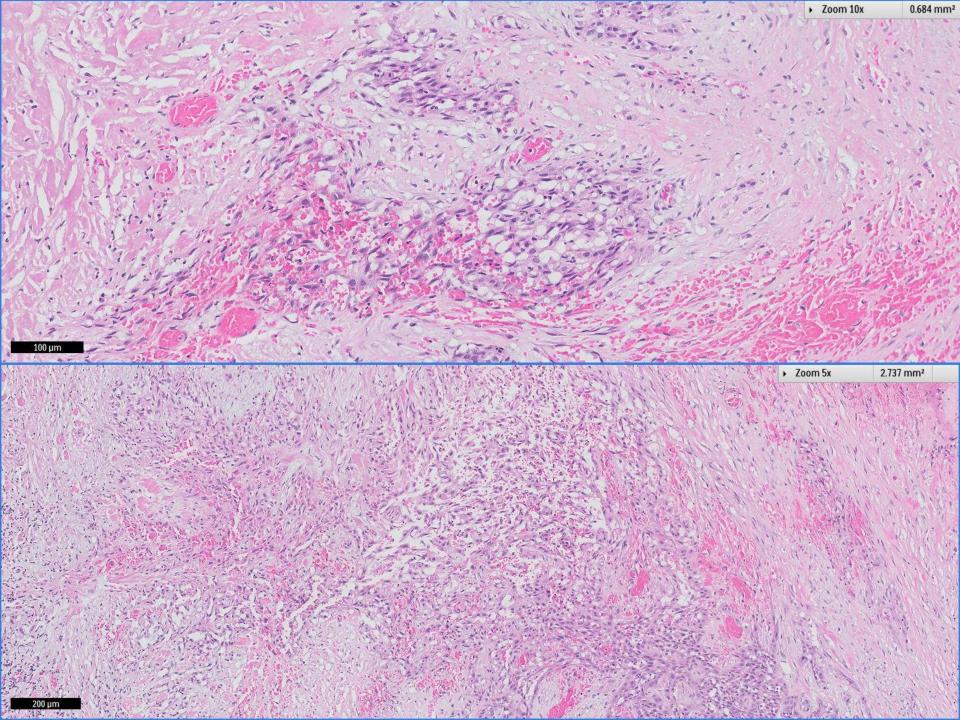


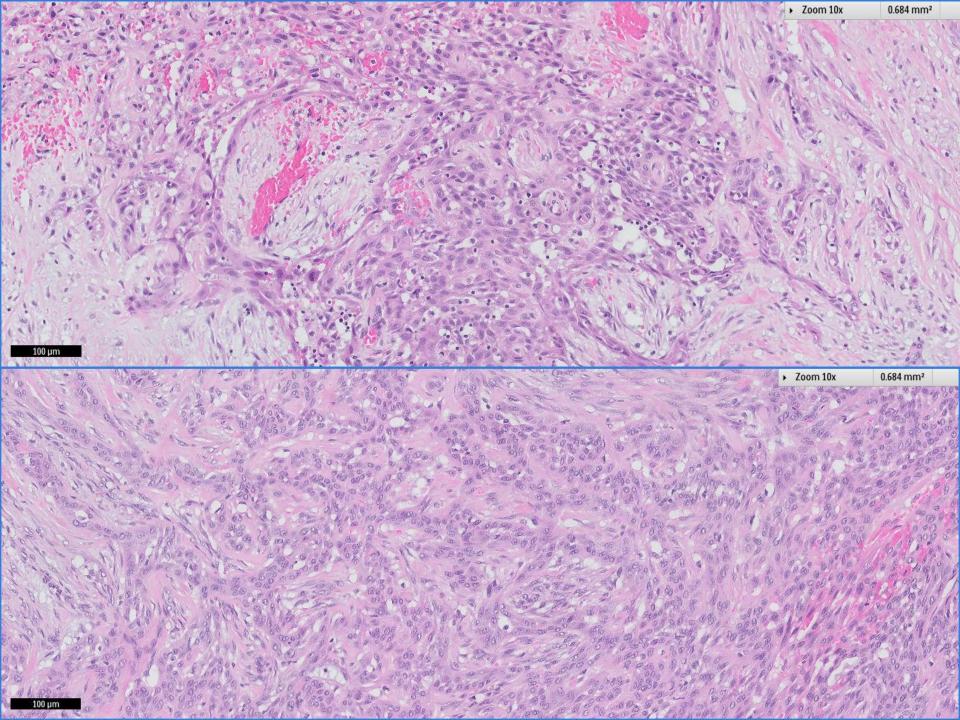


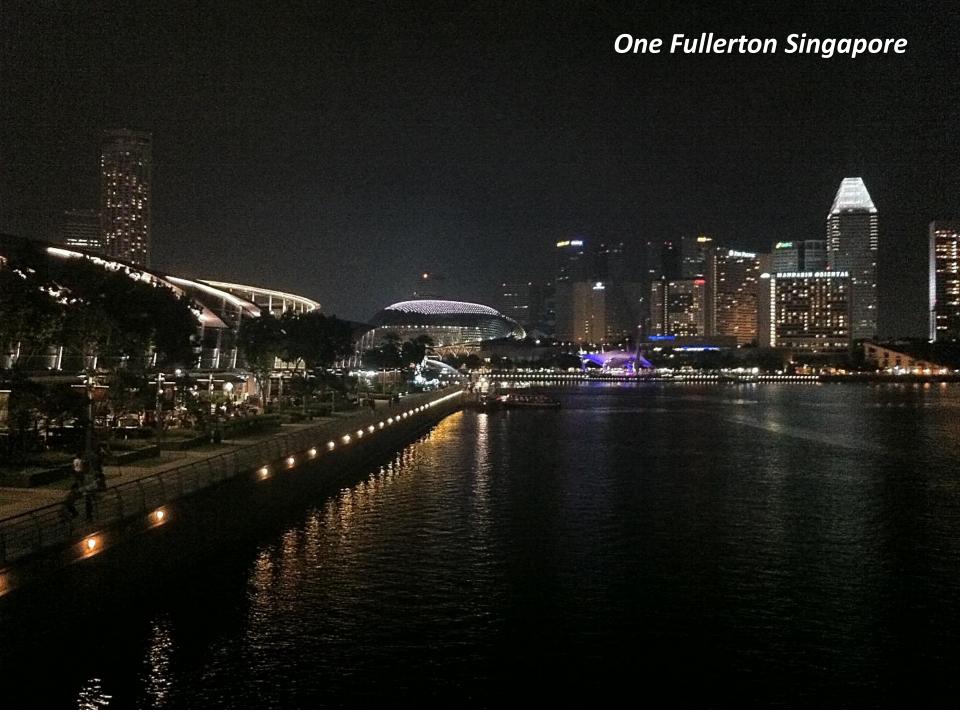


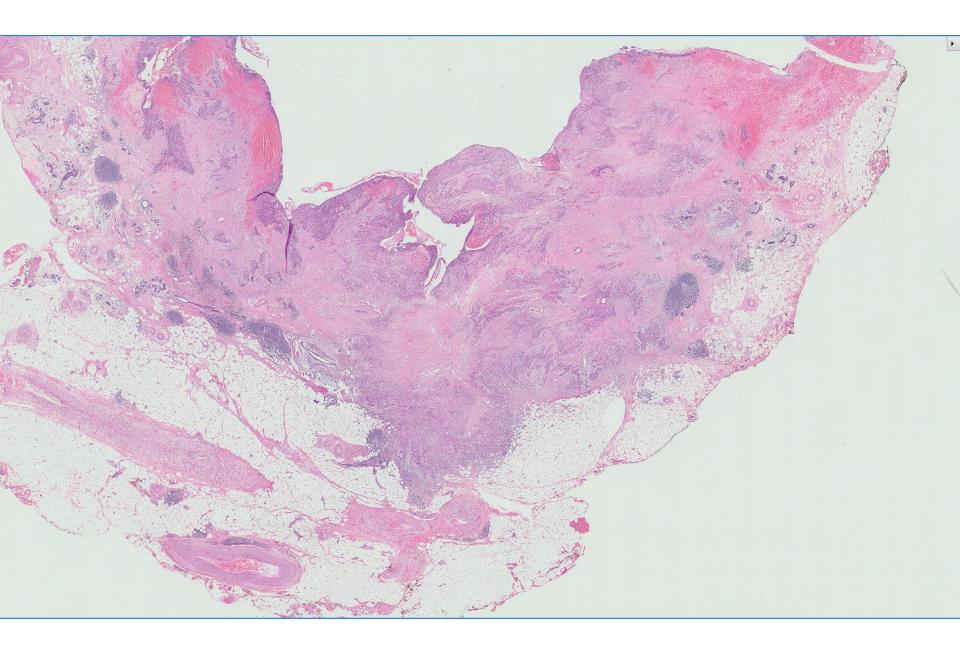


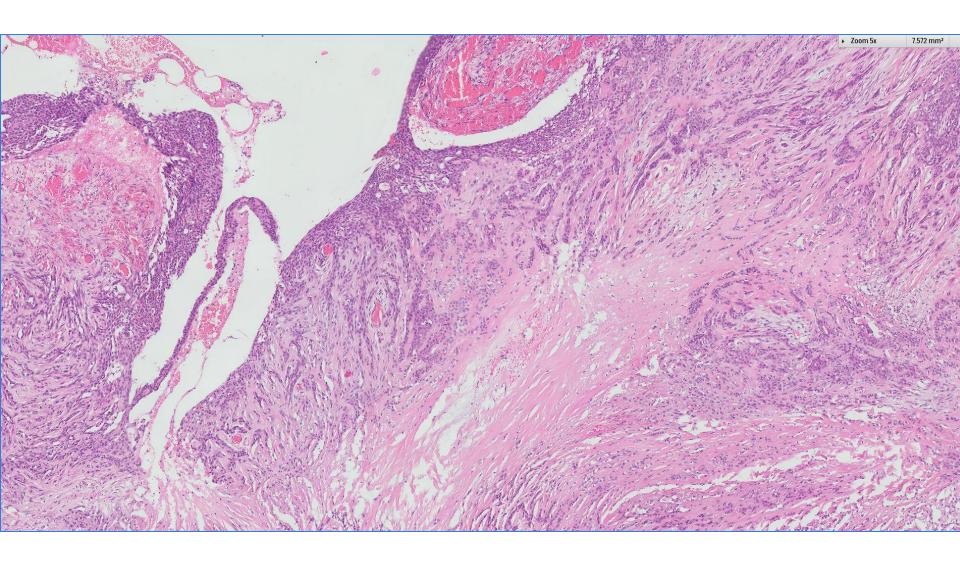


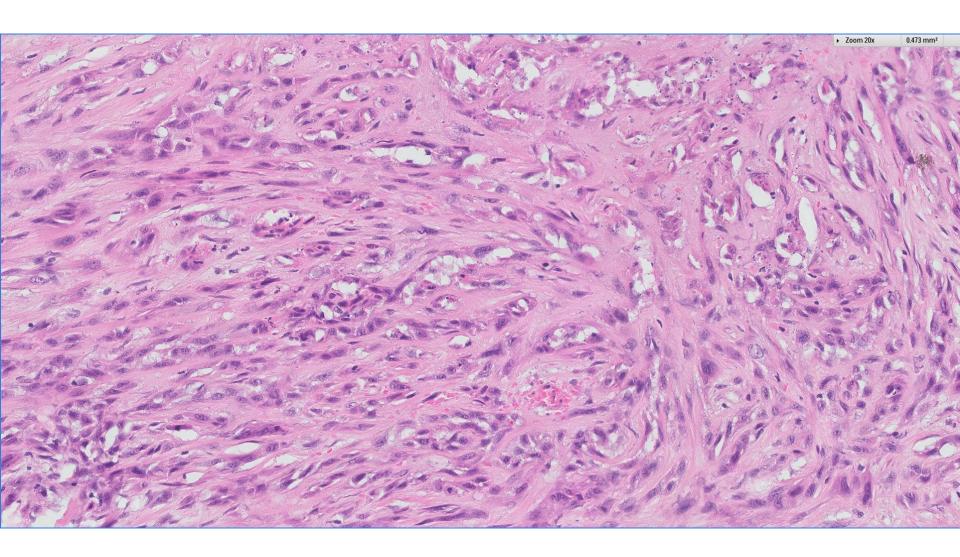


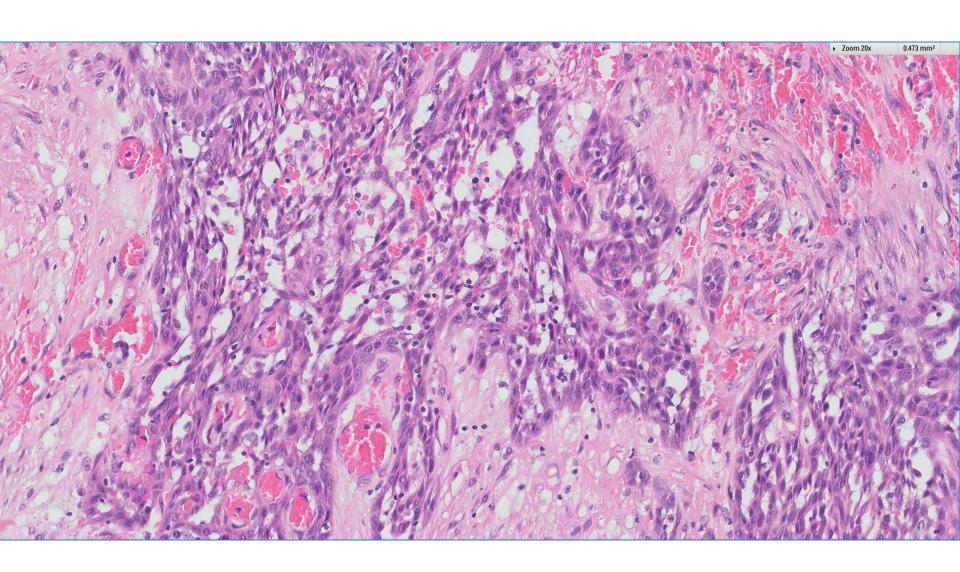


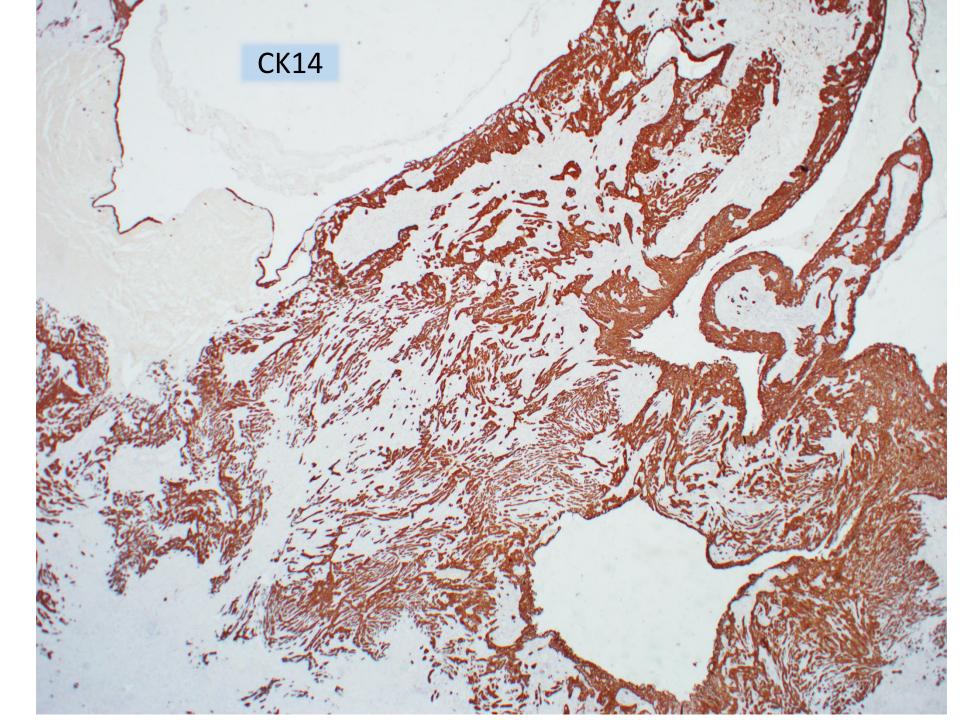


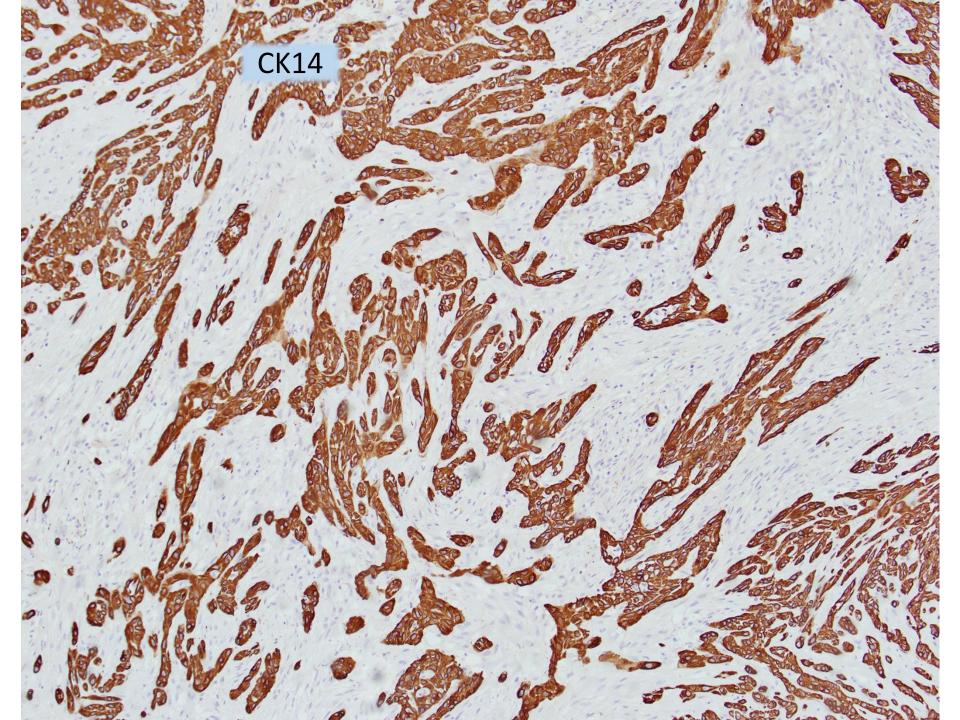


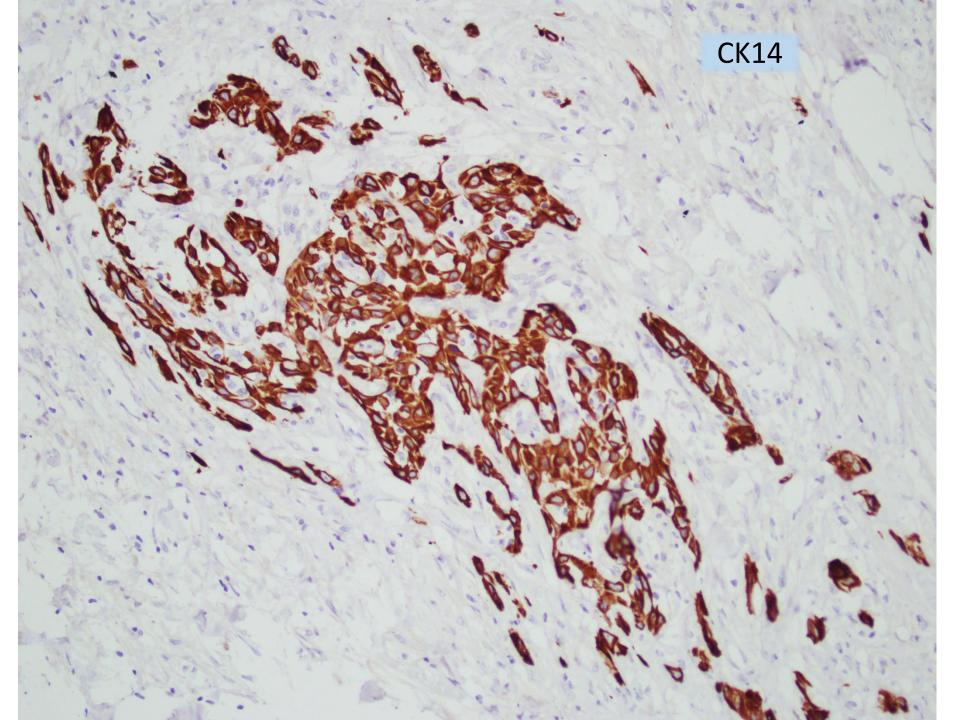


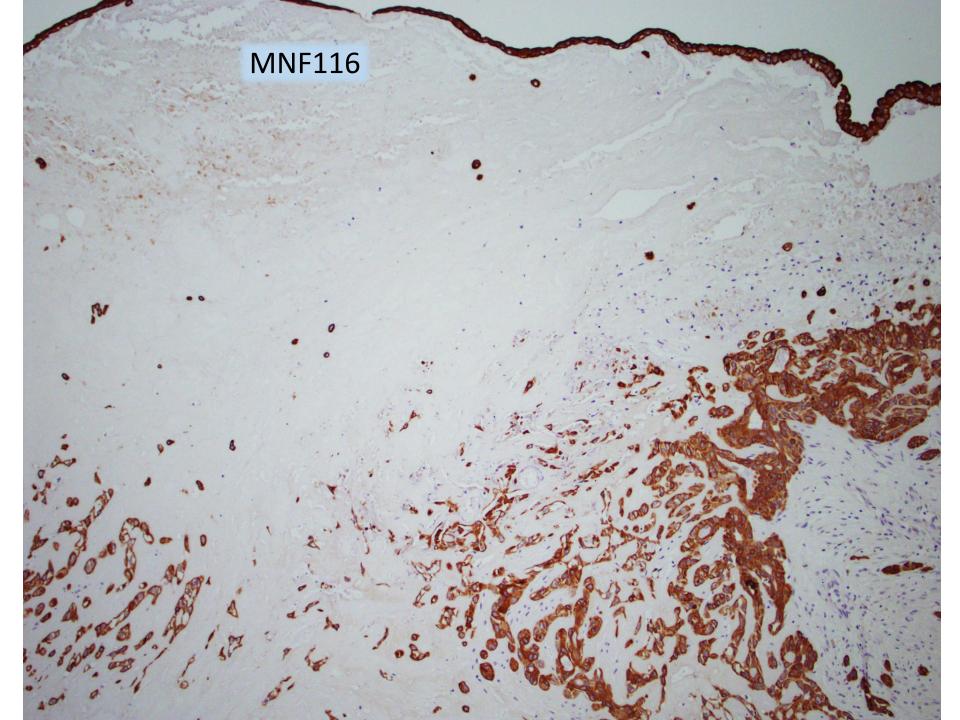


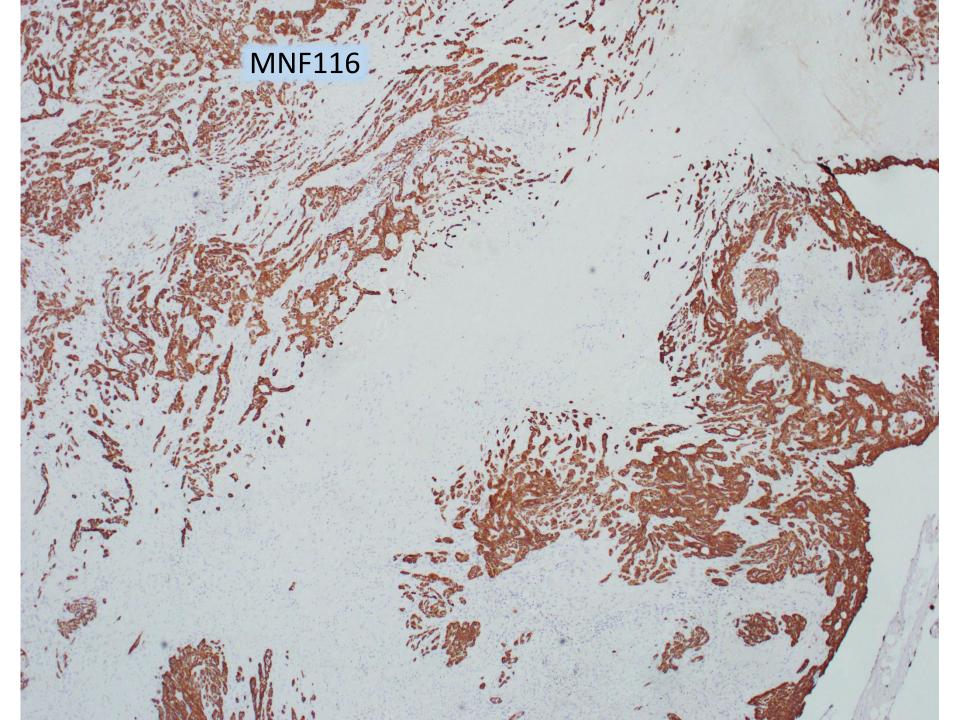


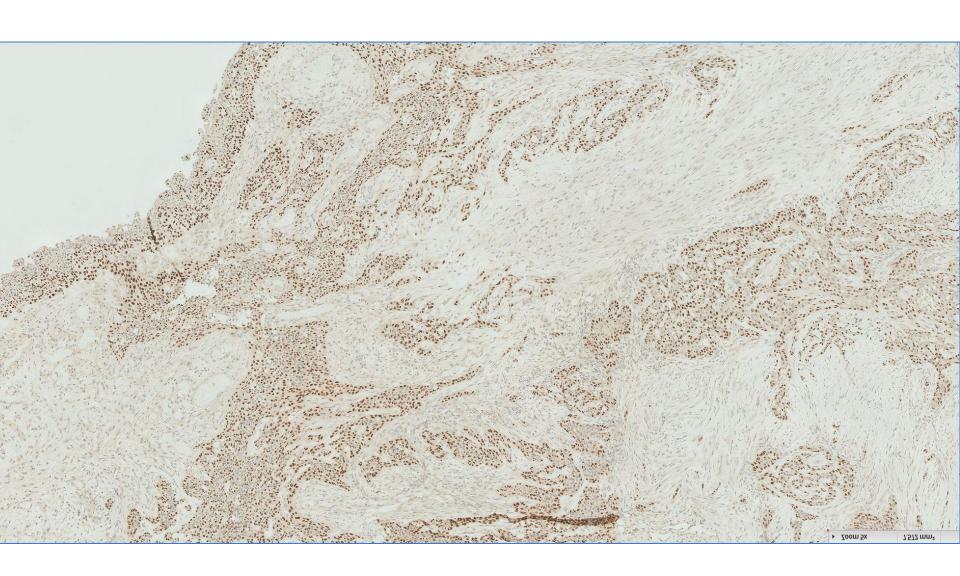












Diagnosis

Right breast lump at 12 o'clock ~

Metaplastic carcinoma with pseudoangiomatoid and focal spindle cell features, grade 2.

ER negative, PR negative, cerbB2 negative.









Metaplastic carcinoma of the breast

- Heterogeneous group of malignant breast tumours in which metaplastic elements are identified.
- Commonly used to denote breast tumours with:
 - Both malignant epithelial and sarcomatoid components.
 - Malignant epithelial elements only but with glandular and squamous appearances.
 - Sarcomatoid component only, but demonstrating epithelial differentiation on immunohistochemistry or electron microscopy.









Metaplastic carcinoma of the breast

- Behaviour is mostly aggressive, although there are subtypes with more indolent behaviour eg low grade fibromatosis-like carcinoma, low grade adenosquamous carcinoma.
- Hormone receptors and cerbB2 are usually negative.









Metaplastic carcinoma of the breast

 Need to distinguish from angiosarcoma in view of the angiomatoid appearances in parts of the tumour.









