

A Diagnostic Enigma in a Tortoise

Contributors

Eleonora Petrelli¹, Nazaré Pinto da Cunha² Ranieri Verin², Cheryl Sangster³, Danilo Gouveia Wasques², Ewa Bilewicz⁴, Niki Skeldon¹

¹Axiom Veterinary Laboratories Ltd, UK

²Vedis, Porto, Portugal

³Finn Pathologists – The Veterinary Pathologists, UK

⁴Coopers Veterinary Centre, Hastings, UK

Eleonora Petrelli: Eleonora.Petrelli@axiomvetlab.co.uk

Specimen

Fine needle aspirate of three proliferative dermal lesions around the head and neck.

Signalment

21 years and 10 months old male Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*).

History

The tortoise was presented at the first opinion veterinary practice with several dermal proliferative lesions around the head and the neck (Figures 1 and 2). The masses were first noticed approximately one year prior to presentation and had gradually increased in size over this period. The tortoise was otherwise clinically well.

Clinical findings

On clinical examination, three proliferative dermal growths were observed. There was a mild left periocular swelling which subsequently resolved. The tortoise was otherwise bright, alert and responsive and no additional abnormalities were seen.

The lesions comprised a prominent nodule on the left mandible, and two nodules (one larger and one smaller) on the right mandible. Fine needle aspirates (FNAs) were obtained and submitted for cytologic examination (Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6). The aspirates were described as consistent with 'solid material', with no evidence of purulent exudate.



Figure 1: Dermal lesions on the right mandibular and neck region.



Figure 2: Dermal lesion on the left mandibular and neck region and mild left periocular swelling.

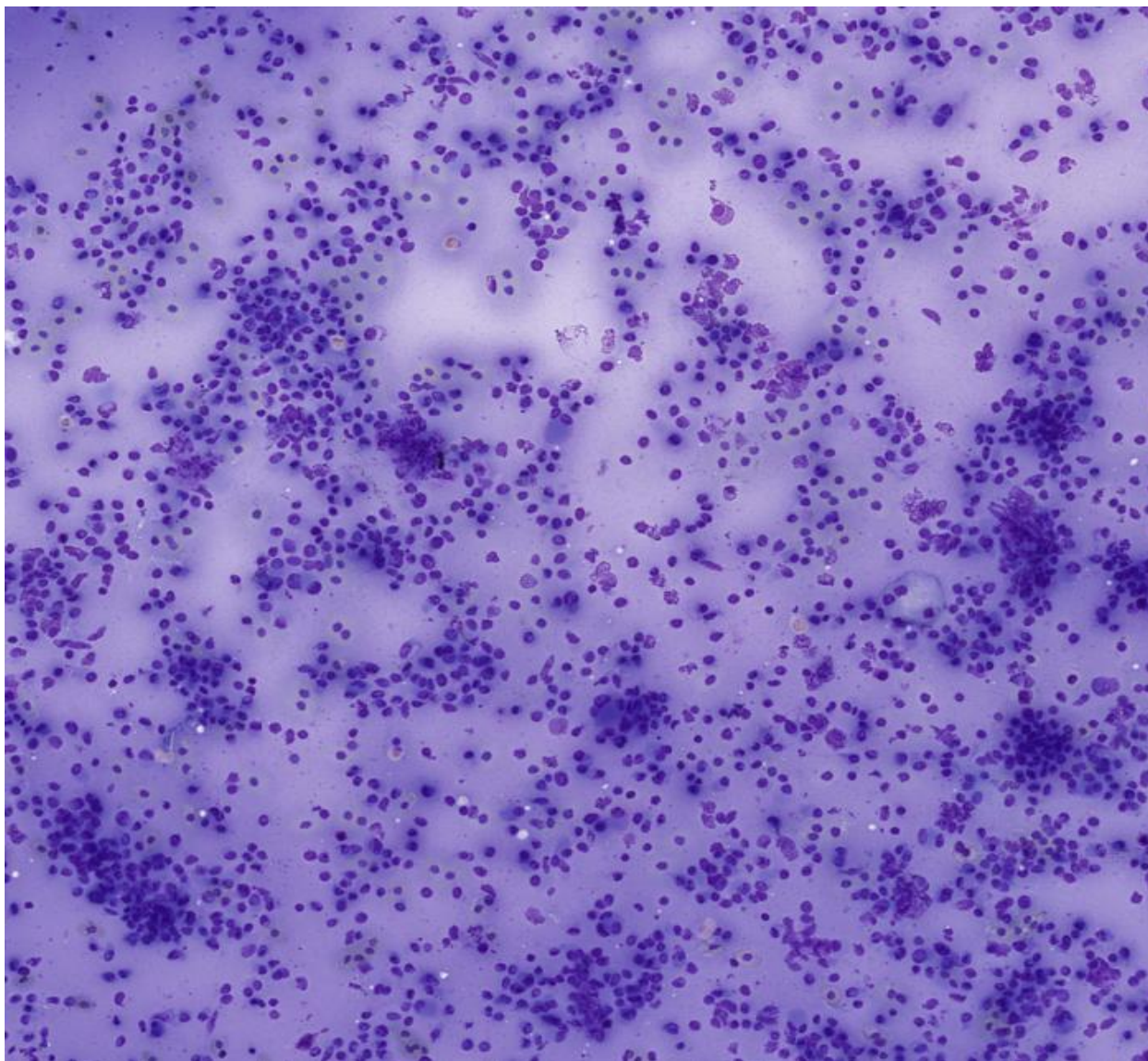


Figure 3: Fine needle aspirate from one of the dermal nodules. Wright-Giemsa stain, 100 x magnification.

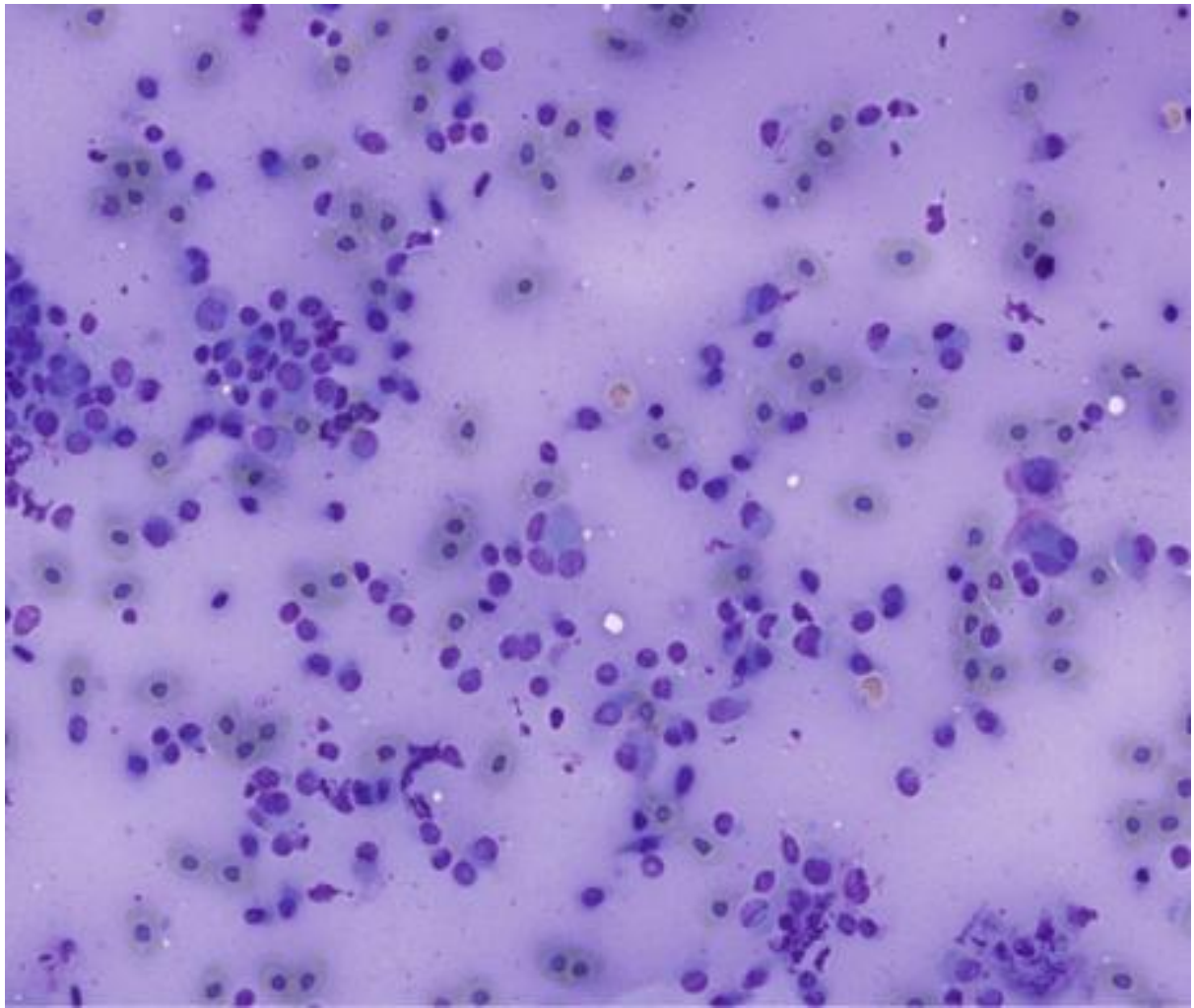


Figure 4: Fine needle aspirate from one of the dermal nodules. Wright-Giemsa stain, 200 x magnification.

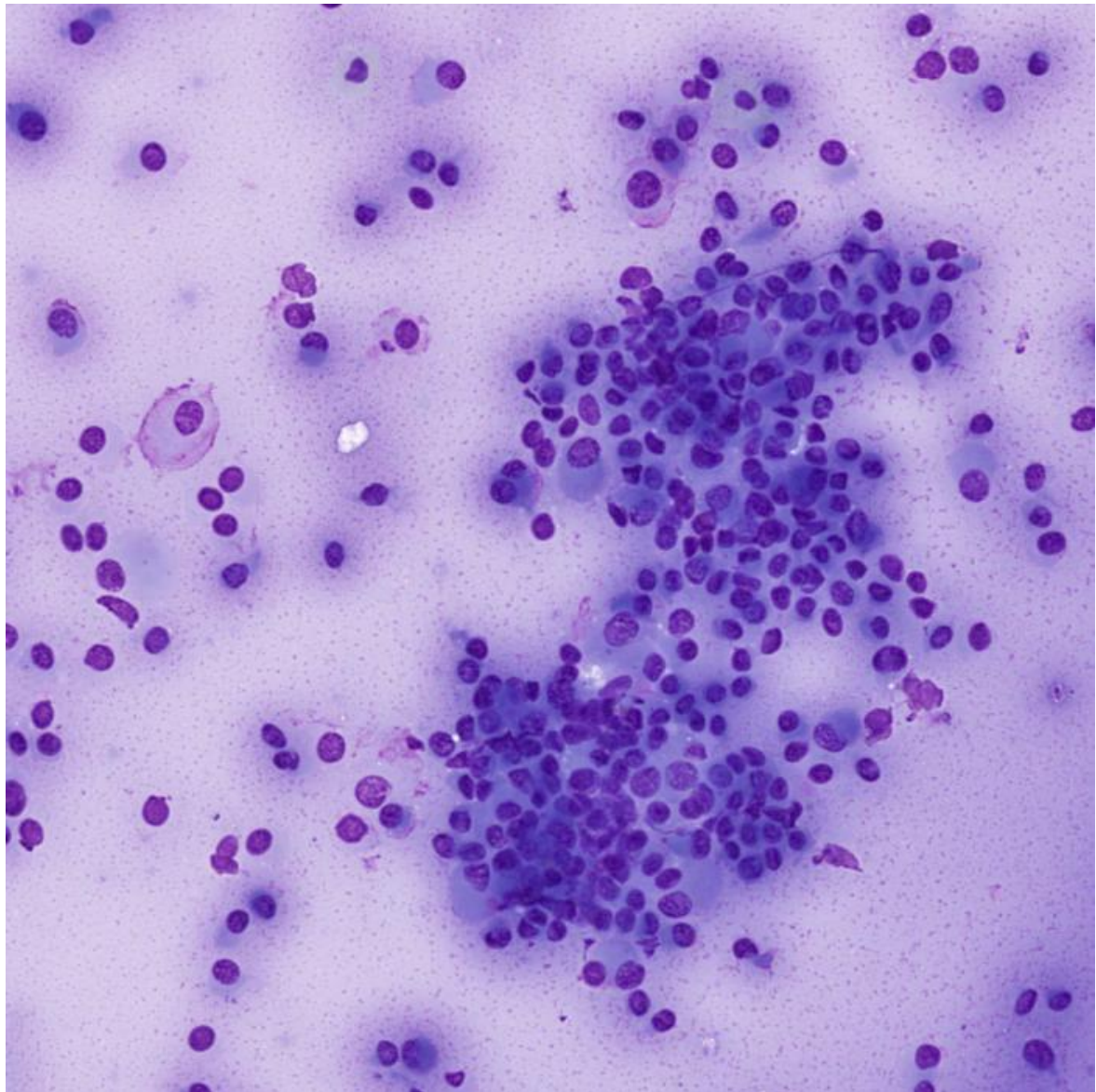


Figure 5: Fine needle aspirate from one of the dermal nodules. Wright-Giemsa stain, 400 x magnification.

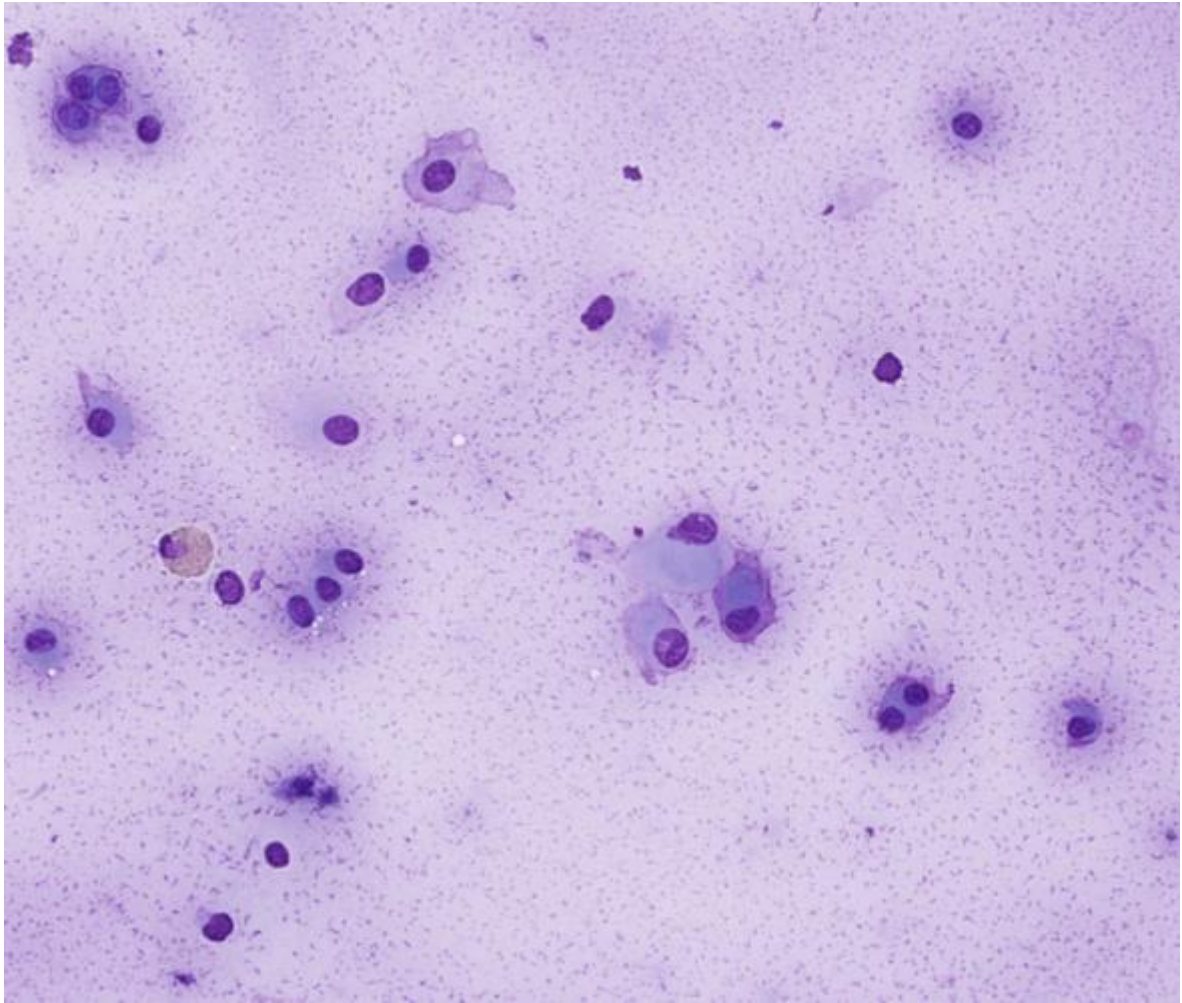


Figure 6: Fine needle aspirate from one of the dermal nodules. Wright-Giemsa stain, 400 x magnification.

Questions

- 1) What is your diagnosis, based on the cytologic findings and location of the lesions?
- 2) What are the main differential diagnoses?
- 3) What further tests would you recommend to clarify the diagnosis?