

Large subcutaneous tumour in a roe deer

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Signalment

Adult (age unknown), female roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

History

A large mass had been noted on the neck of a wild roe deer by members of the public. Hunters were subsequently asked to identify and dispatch the deer for welfare reasons. The carcass was submitted the following day for post mortem examination to The Royal Veterinary College Diagnostic Laboratories.

Necropsy findings

A 71cm ovoid mass weighing 5147g occupied the distal third of the neck, on the ventral, left hand side with multifocal ulceration on the ventral surface (Figure 1A). The mass was well demarcated and separated easily from the surrounding tissue, with only small focal adhesions to surrounding structures. It was fluctuant to parenchymatous and contained multiple foci of mineralisation (Figure 1B).

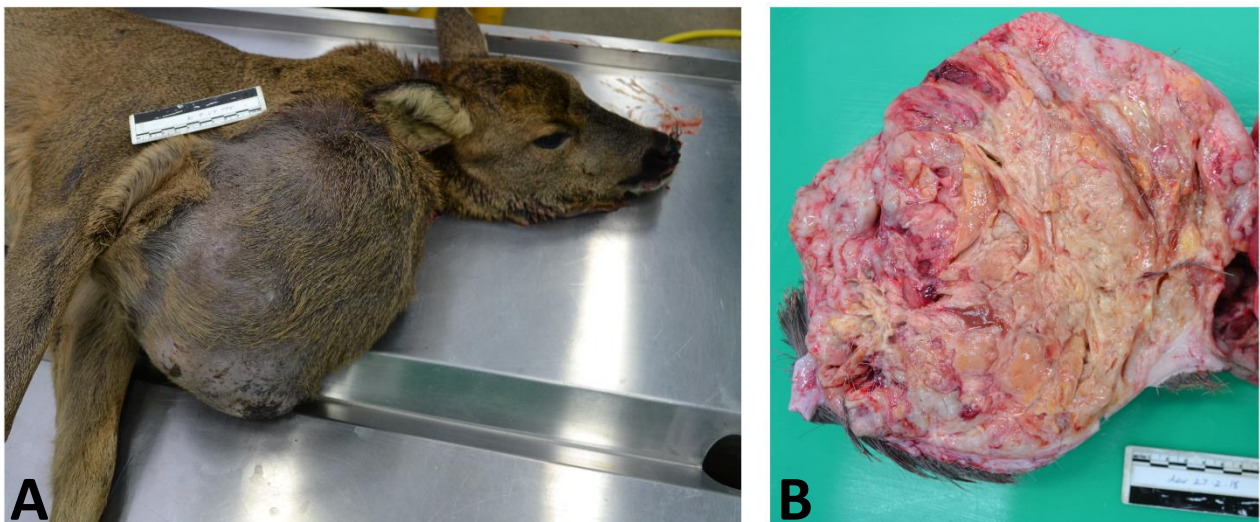


Figure 1: Gross pictures from necropsy of an adult female roe deer. **A)** Large, subcutaneous mass in situ. **B)** Cross section of the mass.

Mild enlargement of the right prescapular lymph node was also noted. The left prescapular lymph node could not be identified. No other evidence of metastasis was found.

The deer had no remaining fat deposits and bone marrow fat had started to undergo serous atrophy, suggestive of cachexia. There were three hairless foetuses within the uterus.

Impression smears of various areas of the mass were made (Figures 2 & 3).

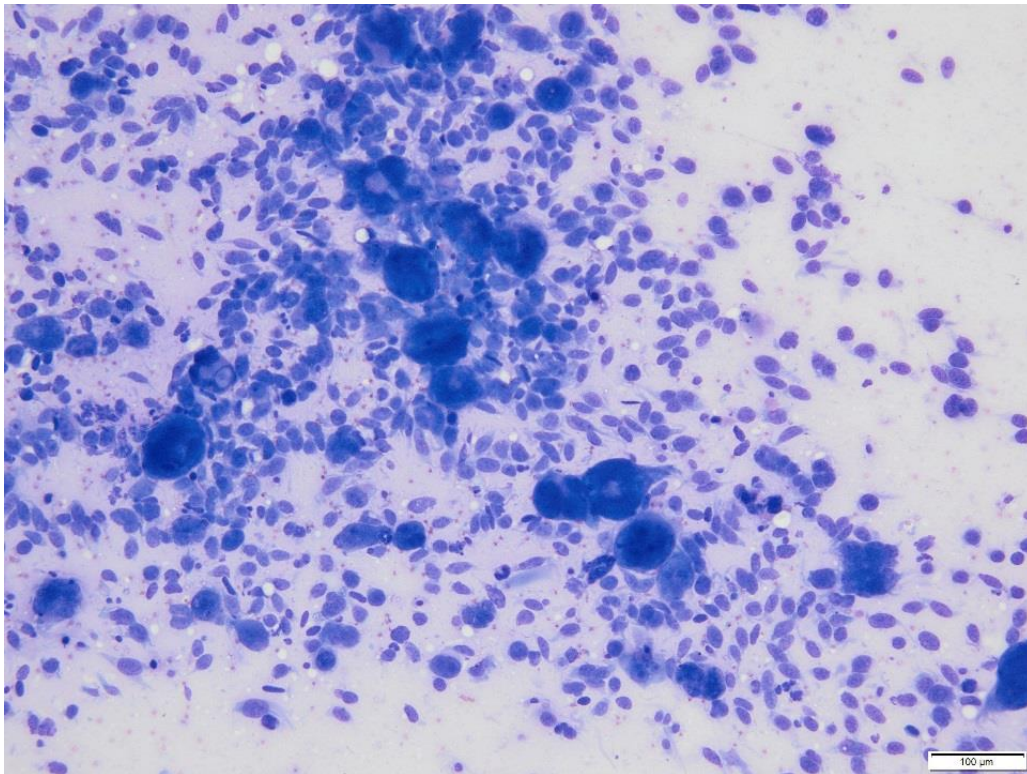


Figure 2: Impression smear from a large subcutaneous mass in a roe deer, 10x objective, modified Wright's stain. Scale bar = 100μm.

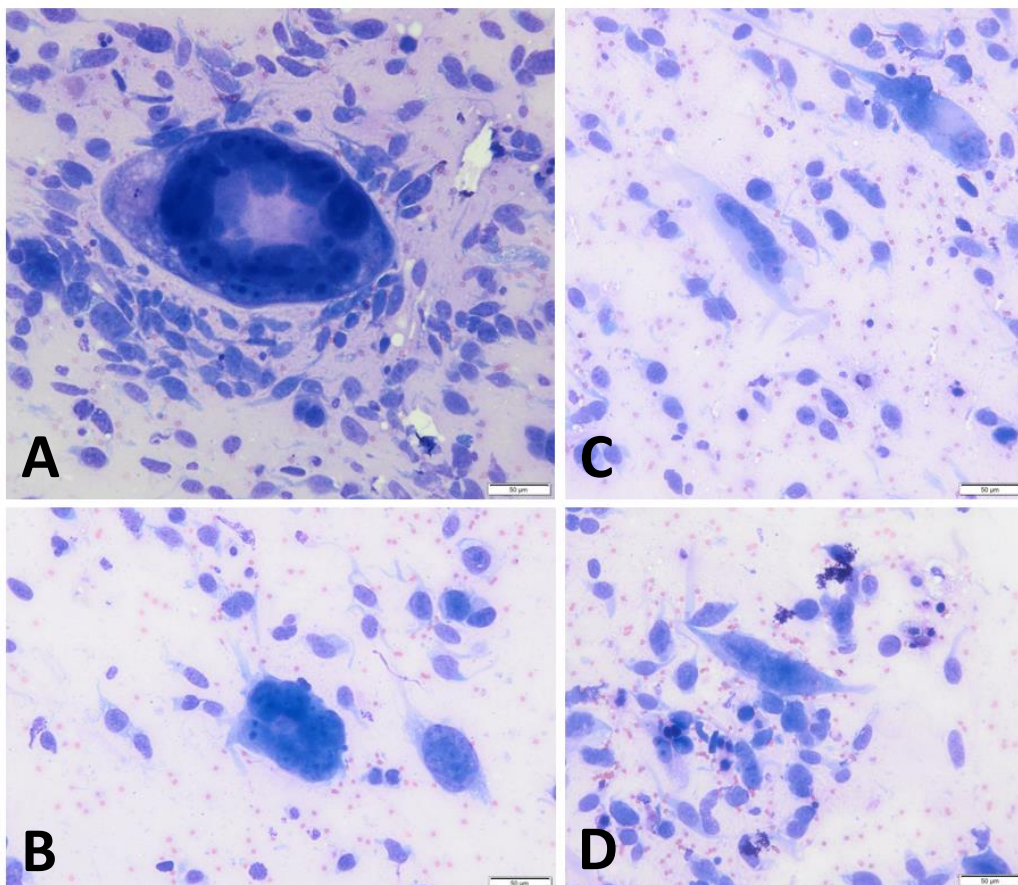


Figure 3 A-D: Impression smear from a large subcutaneous mass in a roe deer, 20x objective, modified Wright's stain. Scale bars = 50μm.