How to Prevent Grossing Nightmares

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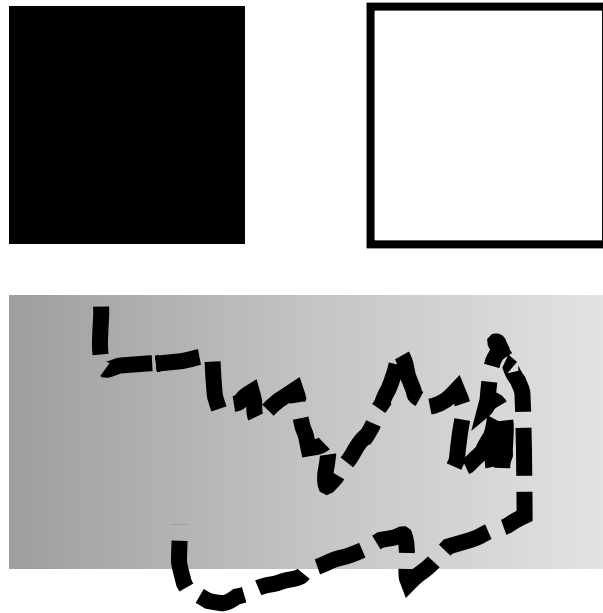Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

@emma_furth

My Nightmares

- I don't know what I don't know.
- Can't see the forest for the trees.
- Goldilocks.
- Mono-color jigsaw puzzles with 10^{100} pieces.
- My resident sign out consists of 100 trays (100*20 slides = 2000 slides).
- Sections of a LAMN with mucin on the surface.

"Solution(s)"

- Understand and Teach.
- Serve as Role Models.
- Acknowledge, Embrace and Harness Ambiguity.

Understand THE Importance of the Gross Specimen

- Proper handing is critical for patient care.
- Its importance seems to have been unfortunately diminished over time.
- It harbors key diagnostic elements which can not be replaced by microscopic examination.

Teaching Points: Think and Understand

- Check paper work.
- Formulate the questions to be answered.
- Know the anatomy.
- Document.
- Observe and understand.

Critical Thinking
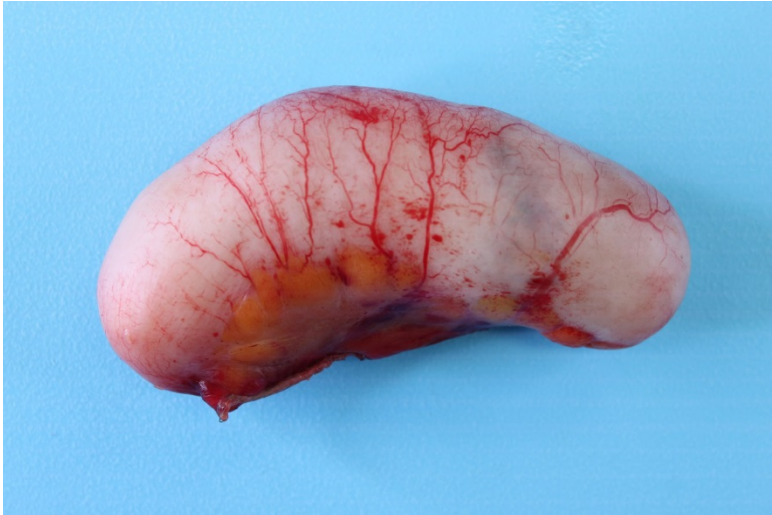
- Ask "why."
- Challenge assumptions.
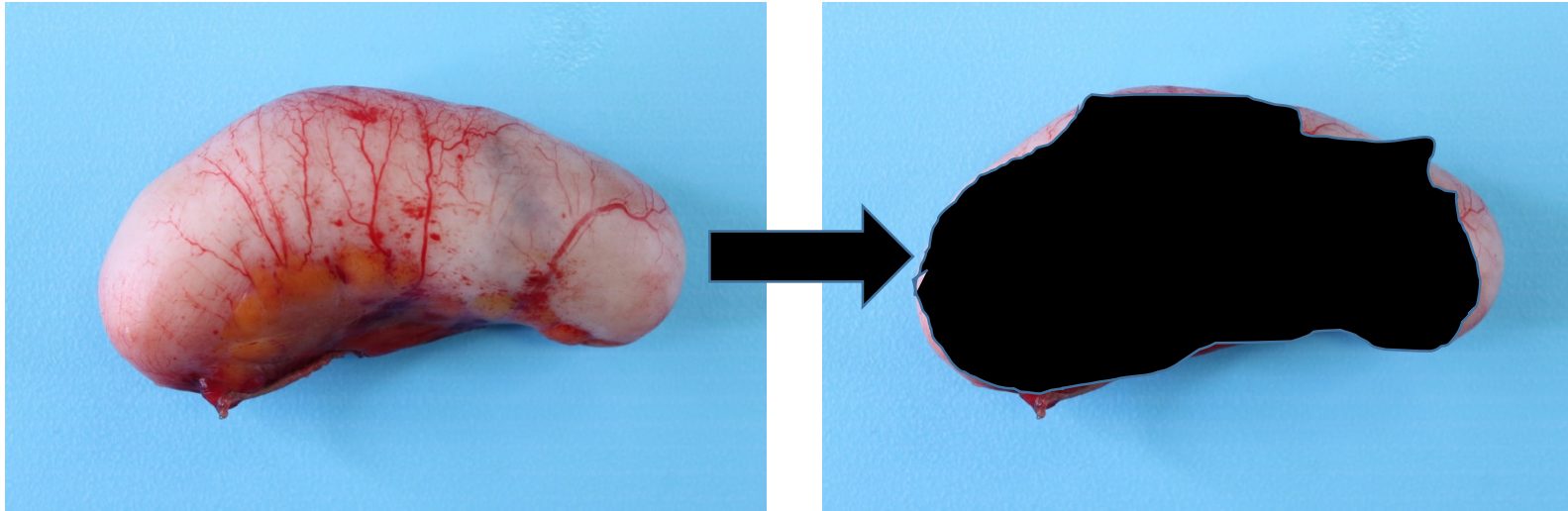
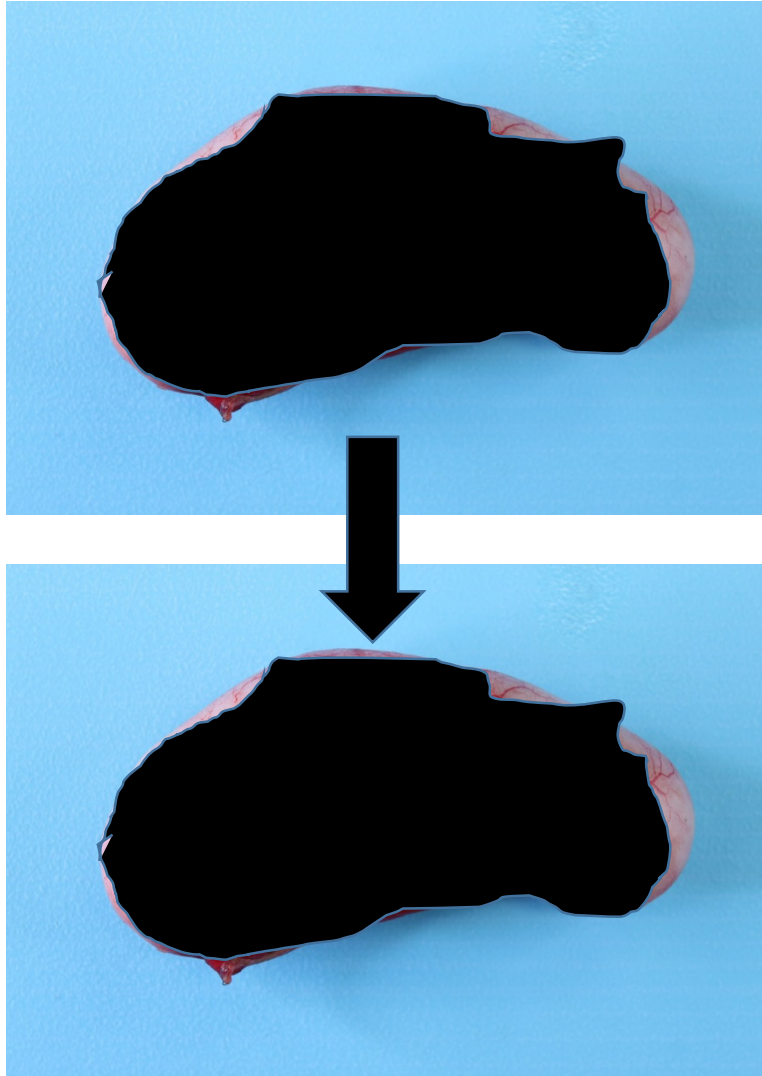# LAMNs and Mucin: T4??????????

LAMNs and Mucin: T4??????????????
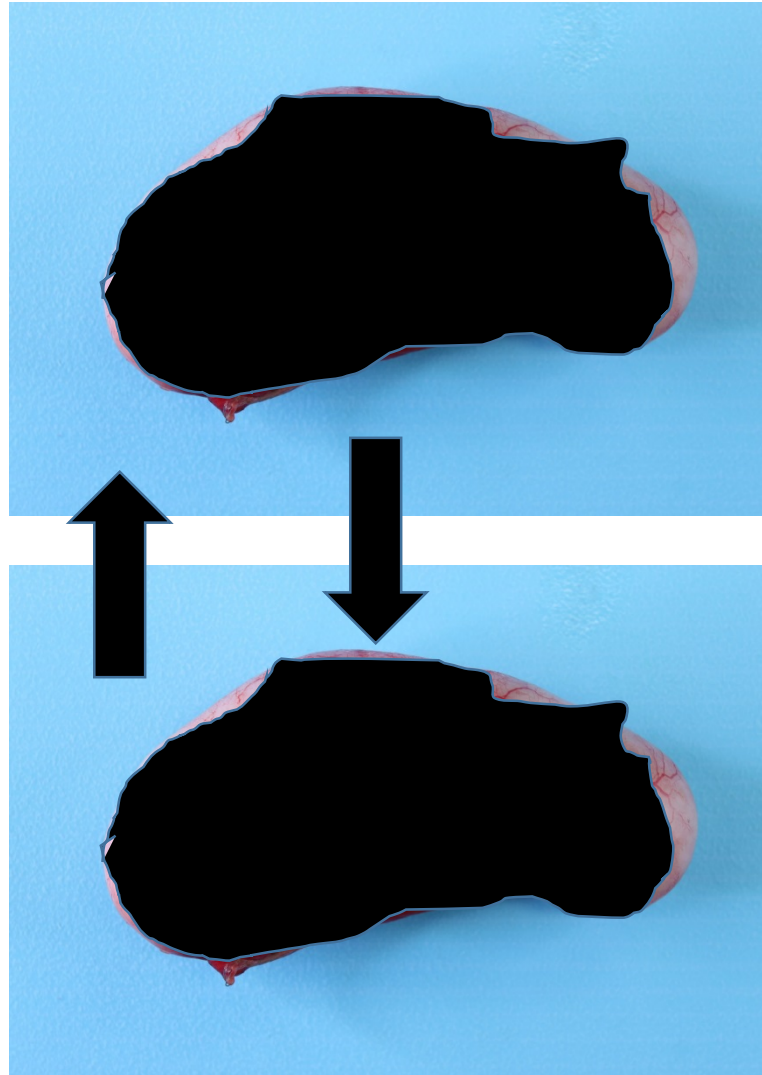
LAMNs and Mucin: "Hack"
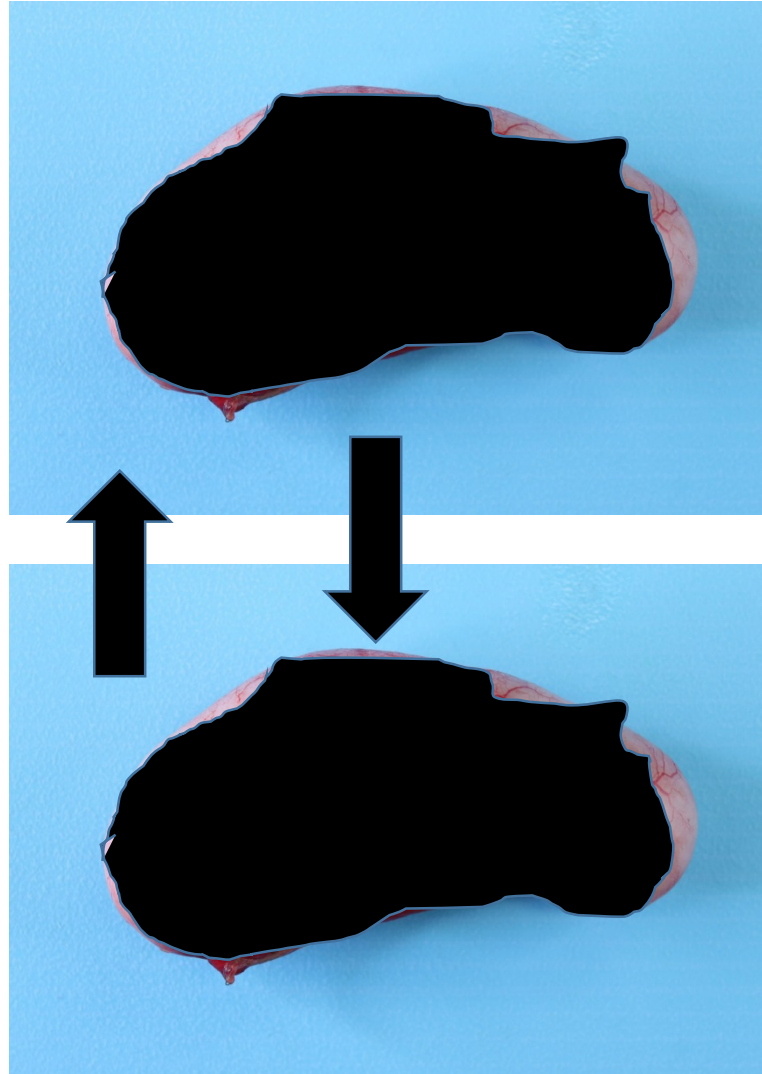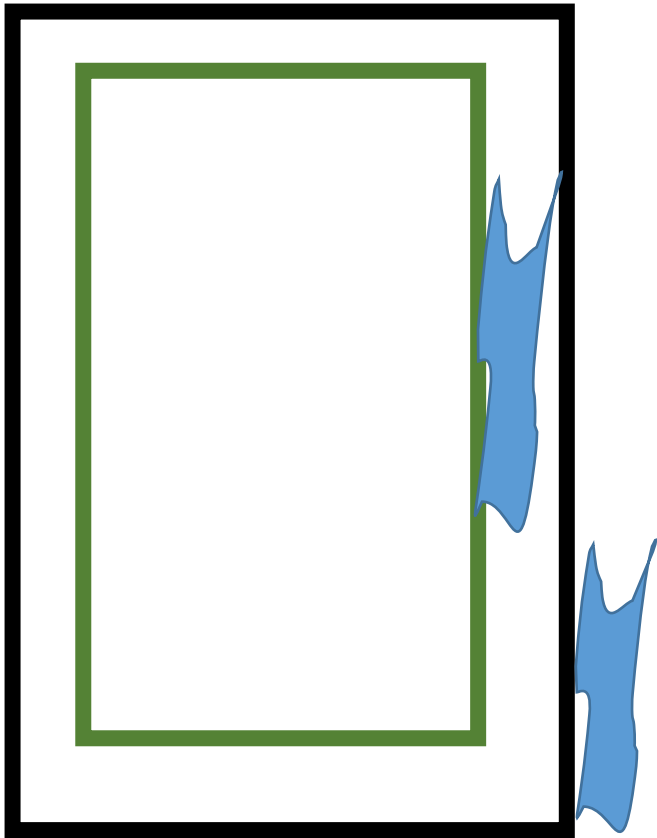
LAMNs and Mucin: "Hack" 1. Ink

LAMNs and Mucin: "Hack" 2. Spray with Acid
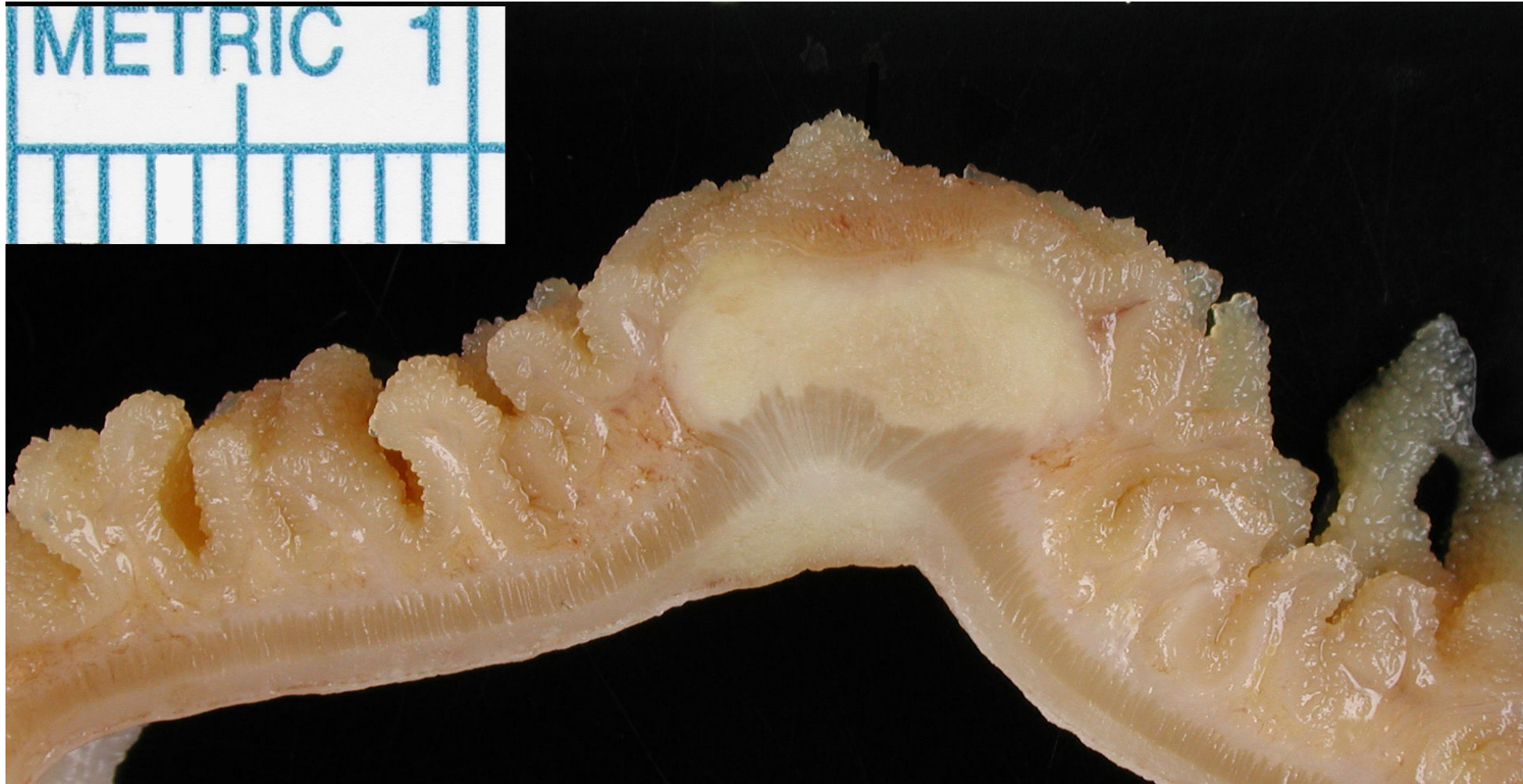
LAMNs and Mucin: "Hack" 3. Repeat
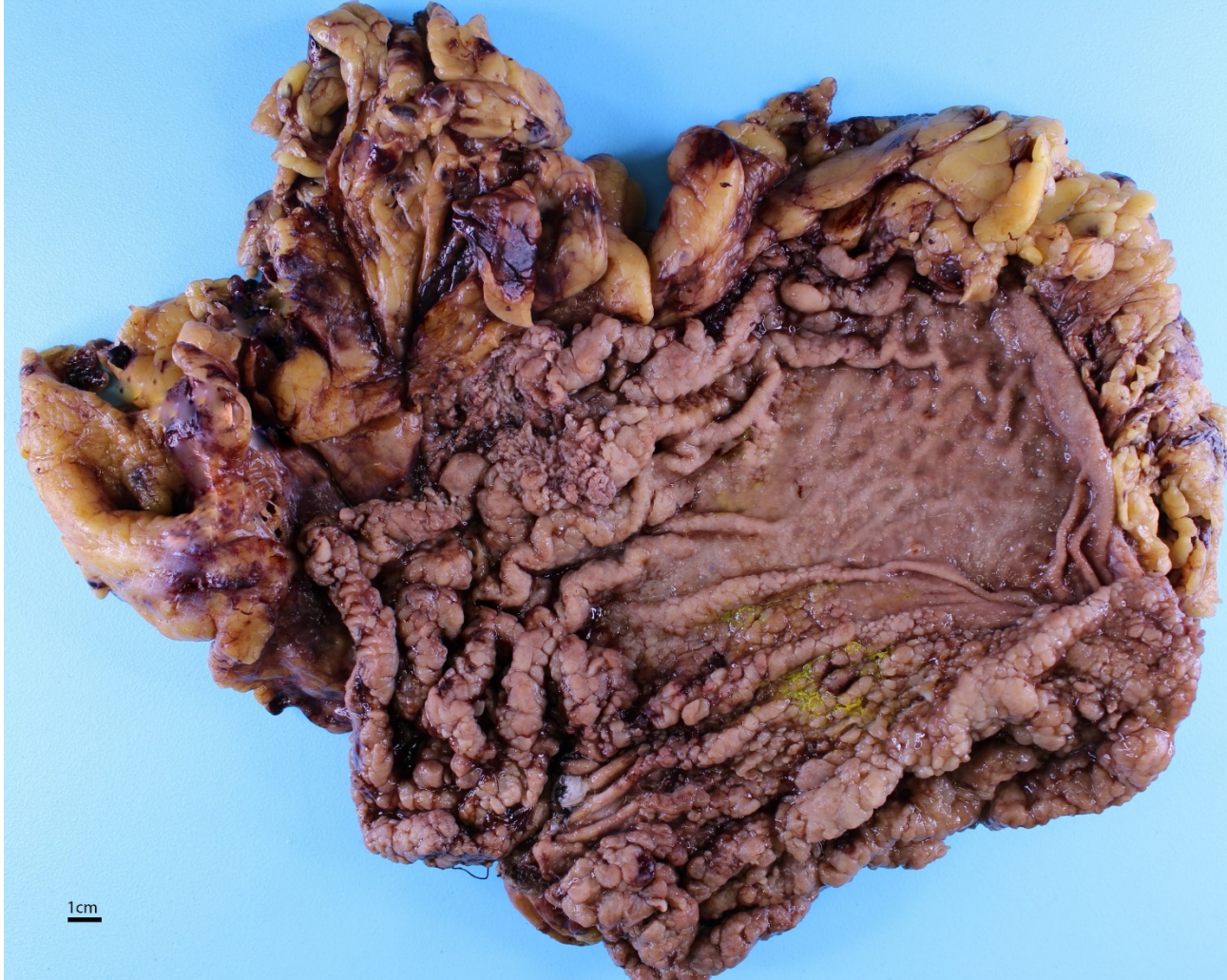
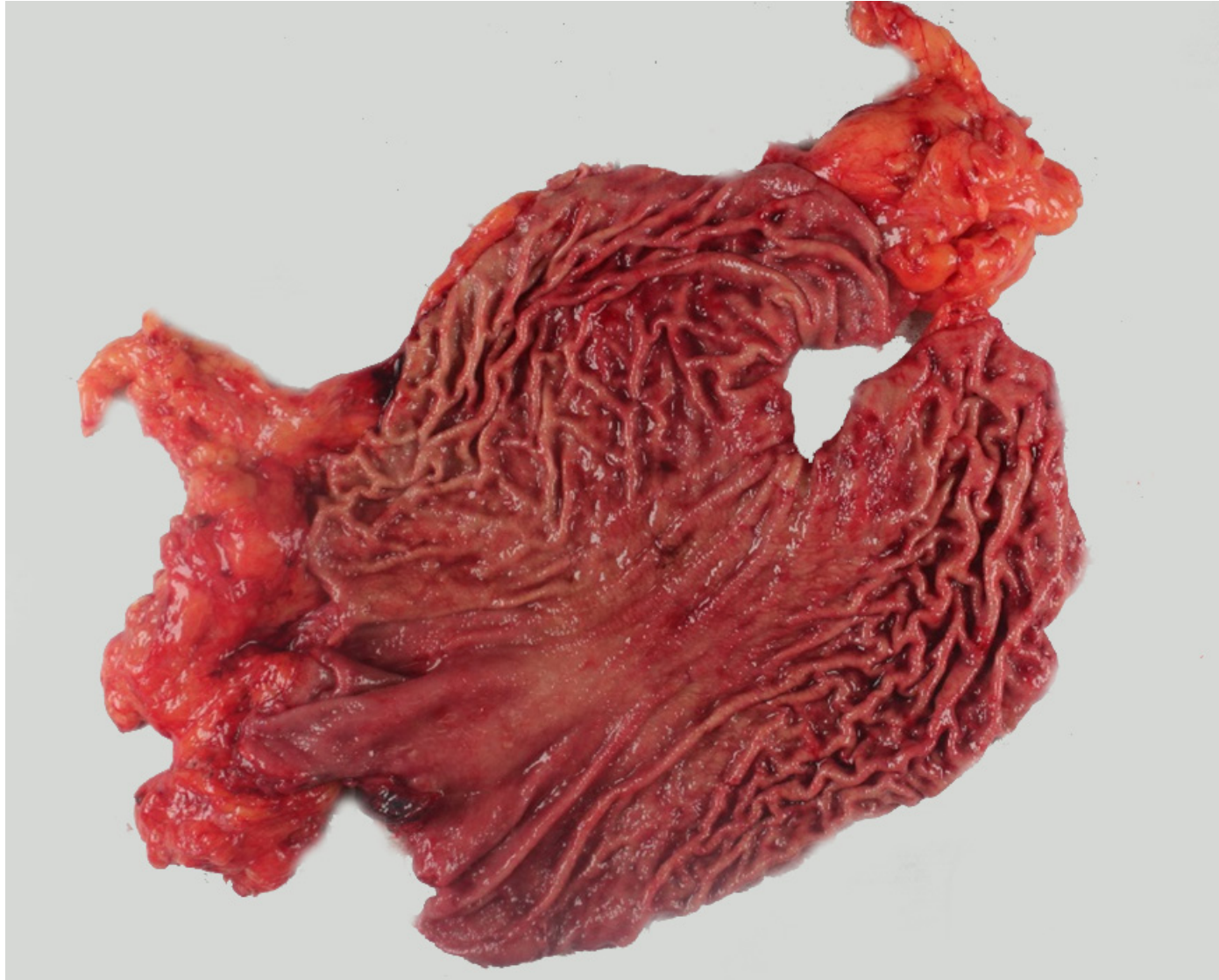# LAMNs and Mucin: "Hack" 3. Repeat

"How Many Sections?"

"How Many Sections?"
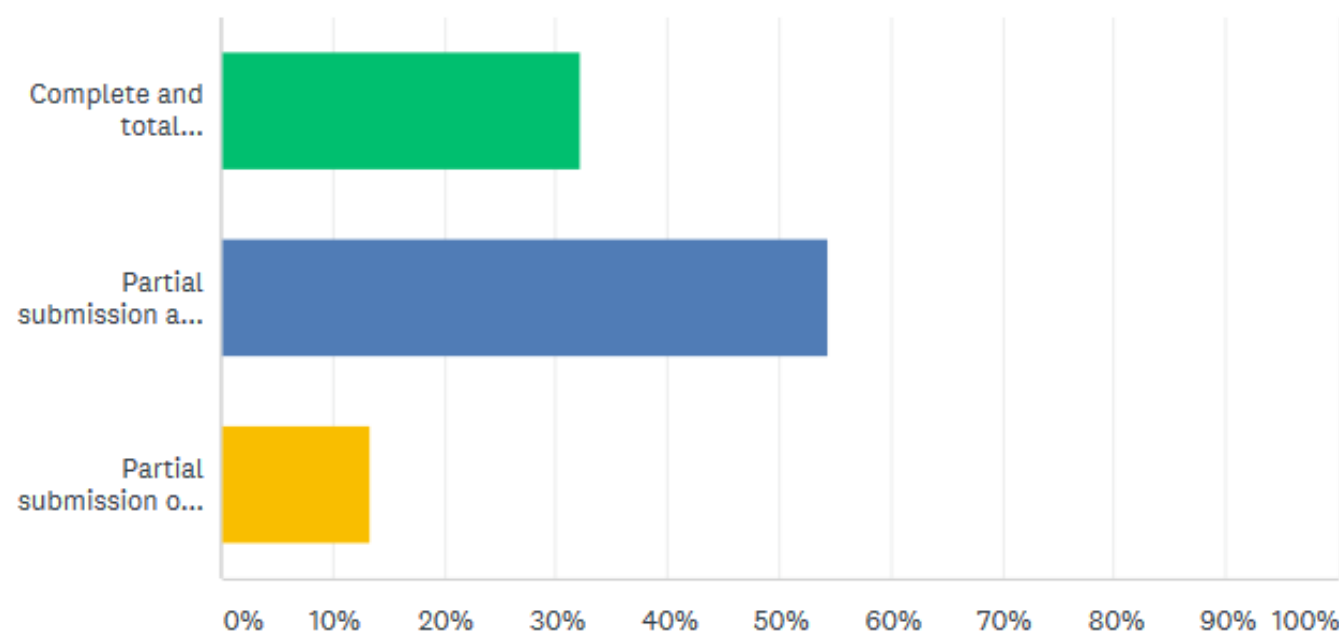
"How Many Sections?": GAPPS

1cm

"How Many Sections?": *CDH1* Germline Mutation

For prophylactic gastrectomy specimens from patients with germ-line pathogenic mutations in CDH1 which of the following best describes your usual practice for tissue submission of the stomach:
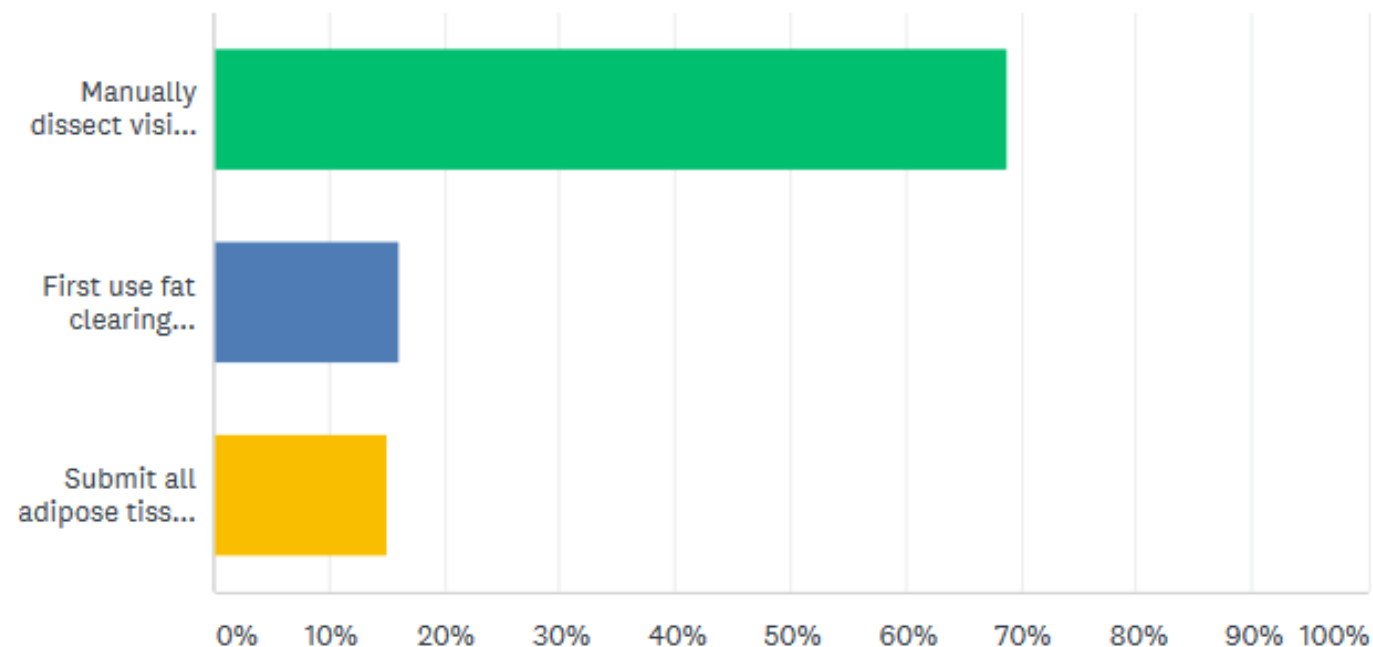
Answered: 90   Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
▼	Complete and total submission at the outset.	32.22%	29
▼	Partial submission at first with continued submission until cancer is or is not found.	54.44%	49
▼	Partial submission only regardless of the presence or absence of cancer.	13.33%	12
TOTAL			**90**

Considering lymph node assessment for tumor staging, which method best describes your usual practice for tissue submission:

Answered: 93   Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Manually dissect visible and/or palpable lymph nodes until you reach at least the lower limit of standard of care numbers.	68.82%	64
First use fat clearing methods and then dissect as per the first answer choice (above).	16.13%	15
Submit all adipose tissue in key areas known to have lymph nodes.	15.05%	14
TOTAL		93

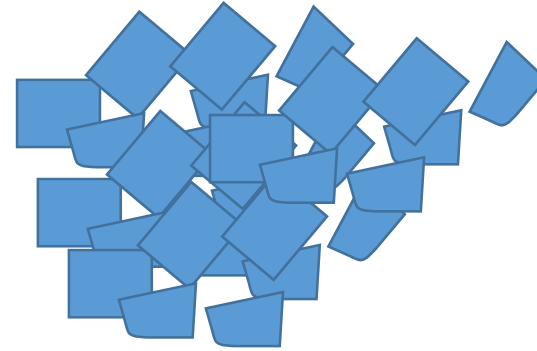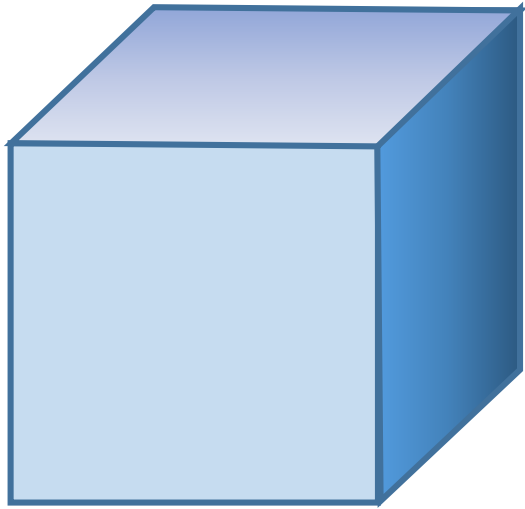# Grey Areas

- How many sections of a tumor to submit?
- Lymph node submission.
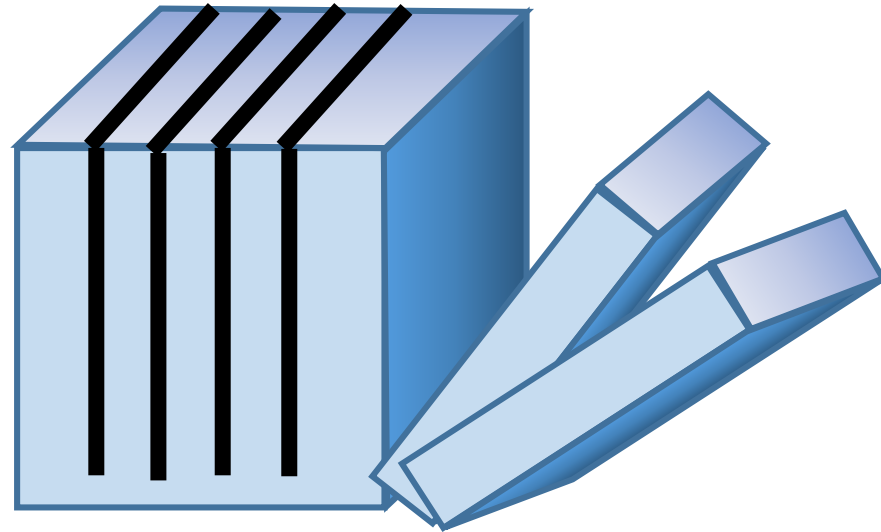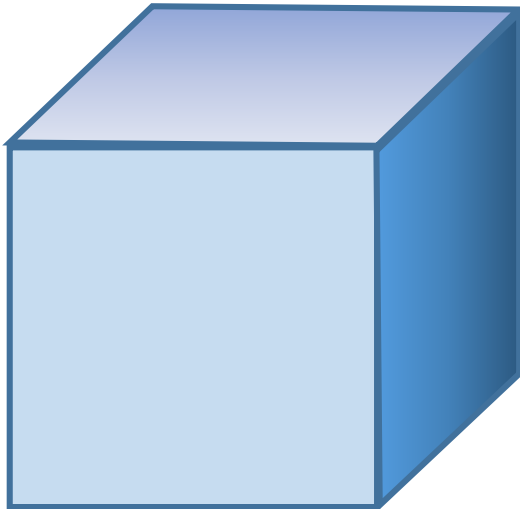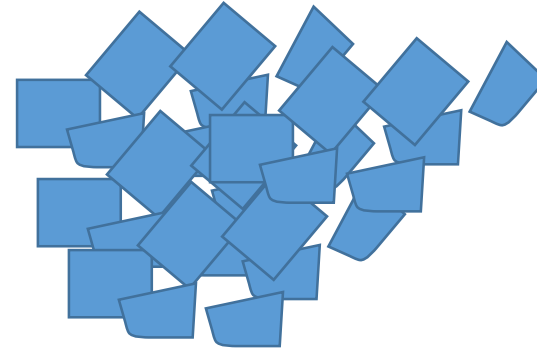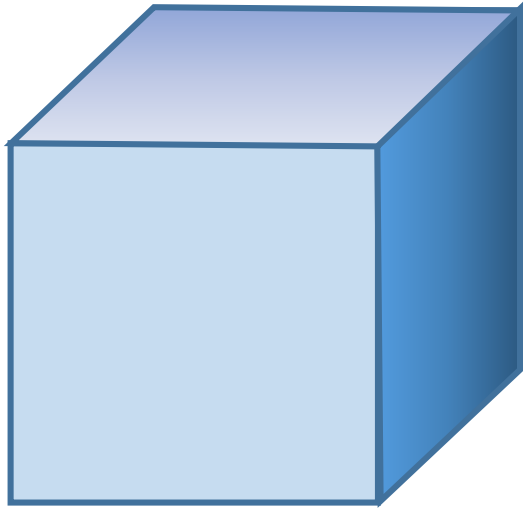- Prophylactic gastrectomies.

Lymph Node Submission Modality Considerations

- Bias versus non-bias.

- Does size relate to probability of metastatic disease e.g. "Choose the really big nodes because that's where the money is!"

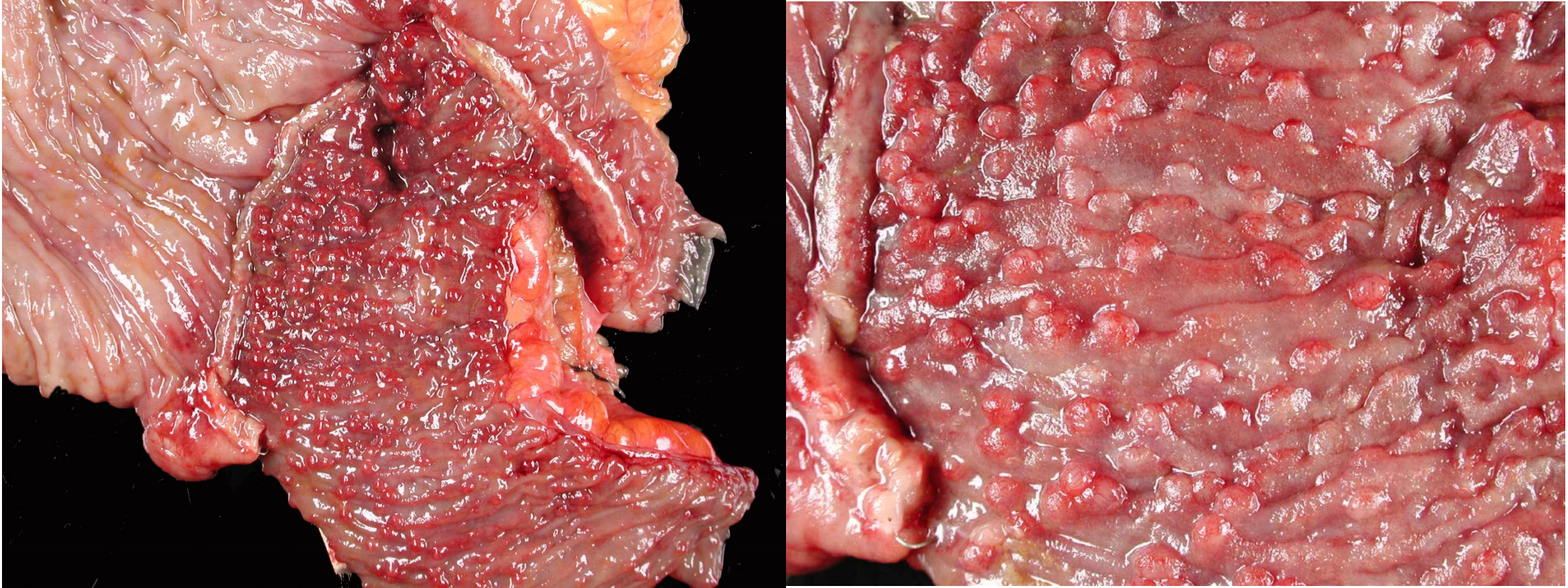- If absolute number and/or % of positive lymph nodes is important then _____.

Mono-color Jigsaw:

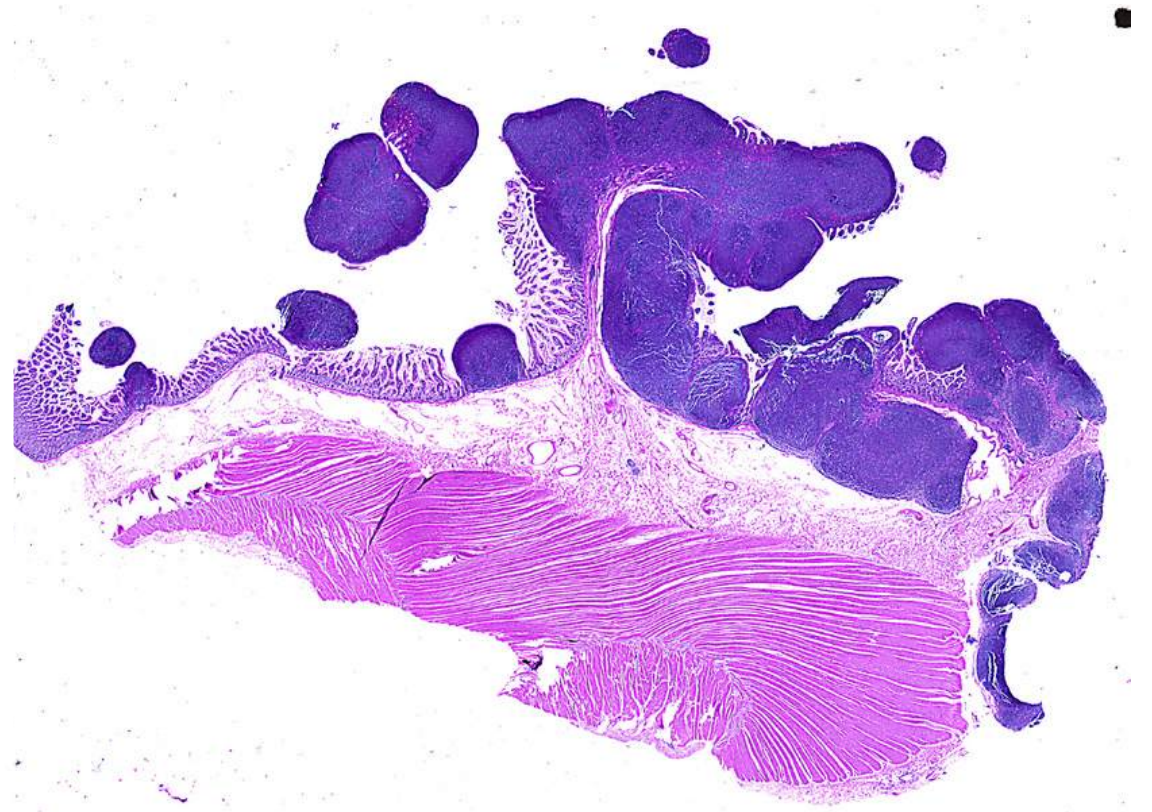# Mono-color Jigsaw: Serial Section Book Style

My resident sign out consists of 100 trays (100*20 slides = 2000 slides): Teach Normal Variants

Terminal Ileum & Peyer Patches

My resident sign out consists of 100 trays (100*20 slides = 2000 slides): Logical Submission

Follicular Lymphoma

Awake

- I don't know what I don't know: Insight
- The gross helps me see the forest for the trees.
- Goldilocks was right.
- Mono-color jigsaw puzzles with 10^{100} pieces should be avoided.
- My resident sign out consists of 100 trays (100*20 slides = 2000 slides) because we have 100 cases. (Still scared).
- Sections of a LAMN with mucin on the surface is truly a T4.