Basophilic granules in the dentin (Figure 1, Figure 2) are rarely seen in the NTP studies. They are small, round, basophilic globules that occur in a linear pattern within the dentin layer. They have been seen in the predentin and dentin in F344 rats exposed to sodium fluoride for 2 years. Similar deposits are reported to represent calcium fluoride crystal formation that occurs during decalcification of tooth/bone specimens.

**Recommendation:** Basophilic granules should be diagnosed and graded whenever present.

**References**


National Toxicology Program. 1996. NTP TR-393. Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies of Sodium Fluoride (CAS No. 7681-49-4) in F344/N Rats and B6C3F1 Mice (Drinking Water Studies). NTP, Research Triangle Park, NC.
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