



NTP Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas

Testis, Rete testis – Dilation

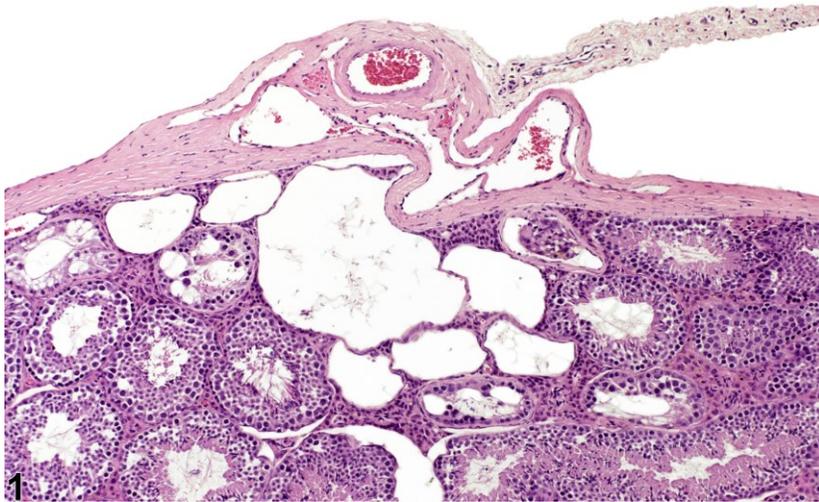
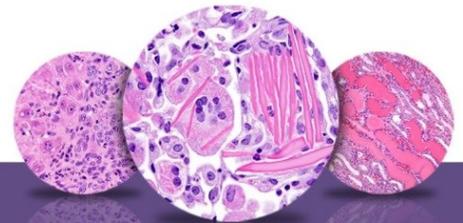


Figure Legend: **Figure 1** Testis, Rete testis - Dilation in a male B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. The rete testis is dilated.

Comment: Dilation of the rete testis (Figure 1) is a relatively common incidental finding in aging mice. The normal rete testis comprises a series of ductular channels called tubuli recti that lie subjacent to the capsule at the cranial pole of the testis. They are lined by a low cuboidal epithelium and are joined to the seminiferous tubules by transitional tubules that are lined by Sertoli cells and occasional germ cells. The transitional tubules and the tubuli recti can be mistaken for atrophic seminiferous tubules (see “Male Reproductive System - Introduction” for normal histology of rete testis). Partial obstruction to the outflow of fluid from the testis is the most common cause of rete testis dilation, and this can be incidental or chemically induced. The finding may also be associated with dilation of the adjacent seminiferous tubular lumens (see “Testis, Seminiferous tubule - Dilation”). The dilated ducts may be empty or filled with sperm (see “Testis - Sperm Stasis”).

Recommendation: Rete testis dilation should be diagnosed and graded and should be discussed in the pathology narrative if the incidence and/or severity appears to be related to chemical administration. Bilateral involvement should be diagnosed when present. Attention should be paid to any evidence of gross or microscopic lesions within the initial segment of the epididymis or the epididymal fat pad (location of the efferent ducts) that may reflect sperm granulomas, sperm stasis, or dilated ducts. Rete



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testis dilation may be associated with seminiferous tubular dilation and/or germinal epithelial atrophy, since these may be a consequence of obstruction of fluid outflow.

References:

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