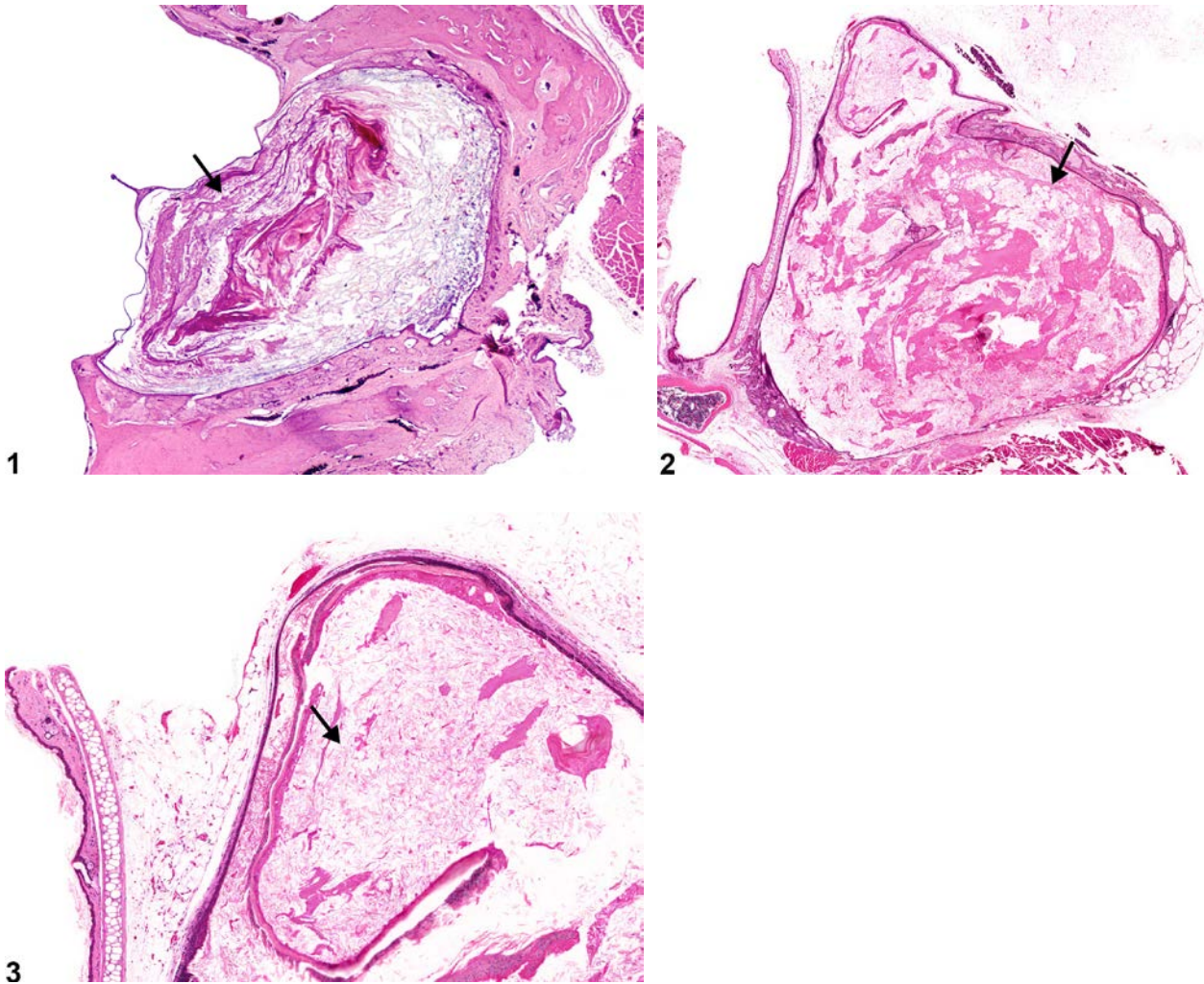




# NTP Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas

## Ear, Canal – Dilation



**Figure Legend:** **Figure 1** Ear, Canal - Dilation in a male Fischer 344/N rat from a chronic study. Dilation of the external ear canal (arrow), characterized by plugs of sloughed keratin lamellae, cerumen, and necrotic debris that occludes and distends the canal. **Figure 2** Ear, Canal - Dilation in a male B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. The dilated external ear canal (arrow), is distended by sloughed keratin lamellae, cerumen, and necrotic debris that occludes the canal. **Figure 3** Ear, Canal - Dilation in a male B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. This higher magnification image of Figure 2 shows the dilated external ear canal (arrow) plugged with sloughed keratin lamellae, cerumen, and necrotic debris in greater detail.



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## *Ear, Canal – Dilation*

**Comment:** Dilation of the external ear canal (Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3) is usually secondary occlusion of the ear canal by plugs of sloughed keratin lamellae, cerumen, and necrotic debris that distends the canal. The lining epithelium may be hyperplastic. These findings usually occur in aged animals.

**Recommendation:** Dilation of the ear canal should be diagnosed with an appropriate topography modifier (external ear canal, etc.). Dilation should be diagnosed as present (without assignment of a severity grade). Associated lesions such as inflammation or epithelial hyperplasia should not be diagnosed separately unless warranted by severity, though they can be described in the pathology narrative.

### **References:**

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