

NTP Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas

Harderian Gland – Dilation

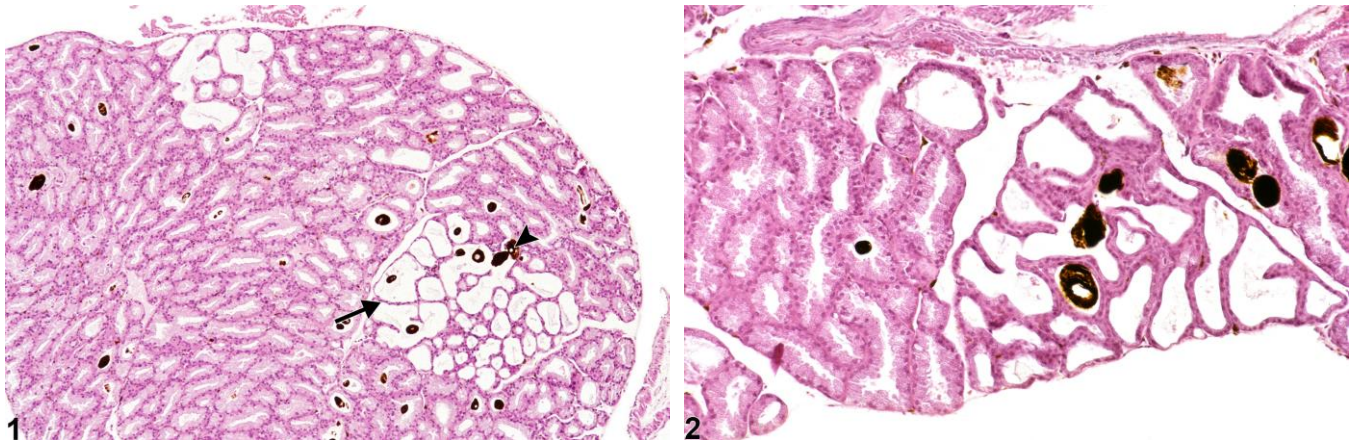


Figure Legend: **Figure 1** Harderian gland - Dilatation in a male B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. There are focal clusters of alveoli with dilated lumens lined by slightly flattened epithelial cells (arrow) some of which contain intraluminal porphyrin-pigment (arrowhead). **Figure 2** Harderian gland - Dilation in a female B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. There is little interstitial fibrosis separating the dilated acini.

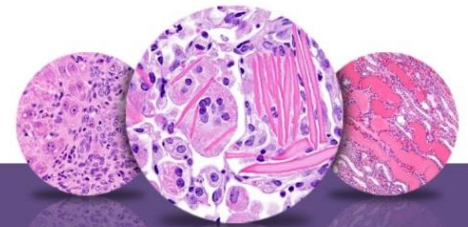
Comment: Harderian gland dilation is characterized by focal clusters of Harderian gland alveoli with dilated lumens lined by slightly flattened epithelial cells (Figure 1 and Figure 2); there is little if any associated interstitial fibrosis. Some dilated gland alveoli also exhibit intraluminal porphyrin pigment aggregates. Such dilatation is a common spontaneous finding in the Harderian glands of rats and mice but can also be induced by administration of various chemical agents.

Recommendation: Harderian gland dilation should be diagnosed only if there are treatment-related differences in incidence and/or severity. When diagnosed, it should be assigned a severity grade. The associated porphyrin pigment should not be diagnosed separately (unless warranted by severity), but should be described in the pathology narrative.

References:

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