Lacrimal Gland – Atrophy

Figure Legend: Figure 1 Lacrimal gland - Atrophy in a male B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. Atrophy (arrow) is characterized by a focus of shrunken acini lined by small, low cuboidal to flattened cells with increased fibrous stroma. Figure 2 Lacrimal gland - Atrophy in a male B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). The atrophic glands on the left can be compared to the normal glands on the right.

Comment: Lacrimal gland atrophy (Figure 1 and Figure 2) occurs commonly in rats and mice as a spontaneous aging change and can also be a sequela of trauma, inflammation, or other primary lacrimal gland disease. It is characterized by focal to confluent areas of shrunken acini lined by small, low to flattened cuboidal cells and supported by variably increased fibrous stroma.

Recommendation: Lacrimal gland atrophy should be diagnosed and assigned a severity grade. Any associated reactive fibrosis should not be diagnosed separately, unless warranted by severity, but can be described in the narrative.

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