

Introduction

- Adenosquamous carcinomas (ASC) of the ampulla of Vater are particularly uncommon, estimated to be less than 1% of all ampullary carcinomas, with less than 10 cases reported in the literature
- ASC carries a worse prognosis compared to conventional adenocarcinomas, although specific prognosis of ampullary ASCs is still unclear due to the rarity of the disease
- Postoperative mortality of conventional adenocarcinomas of the ampulla of Vater have been noted to be superior to adenocarcinomas of the pancreas

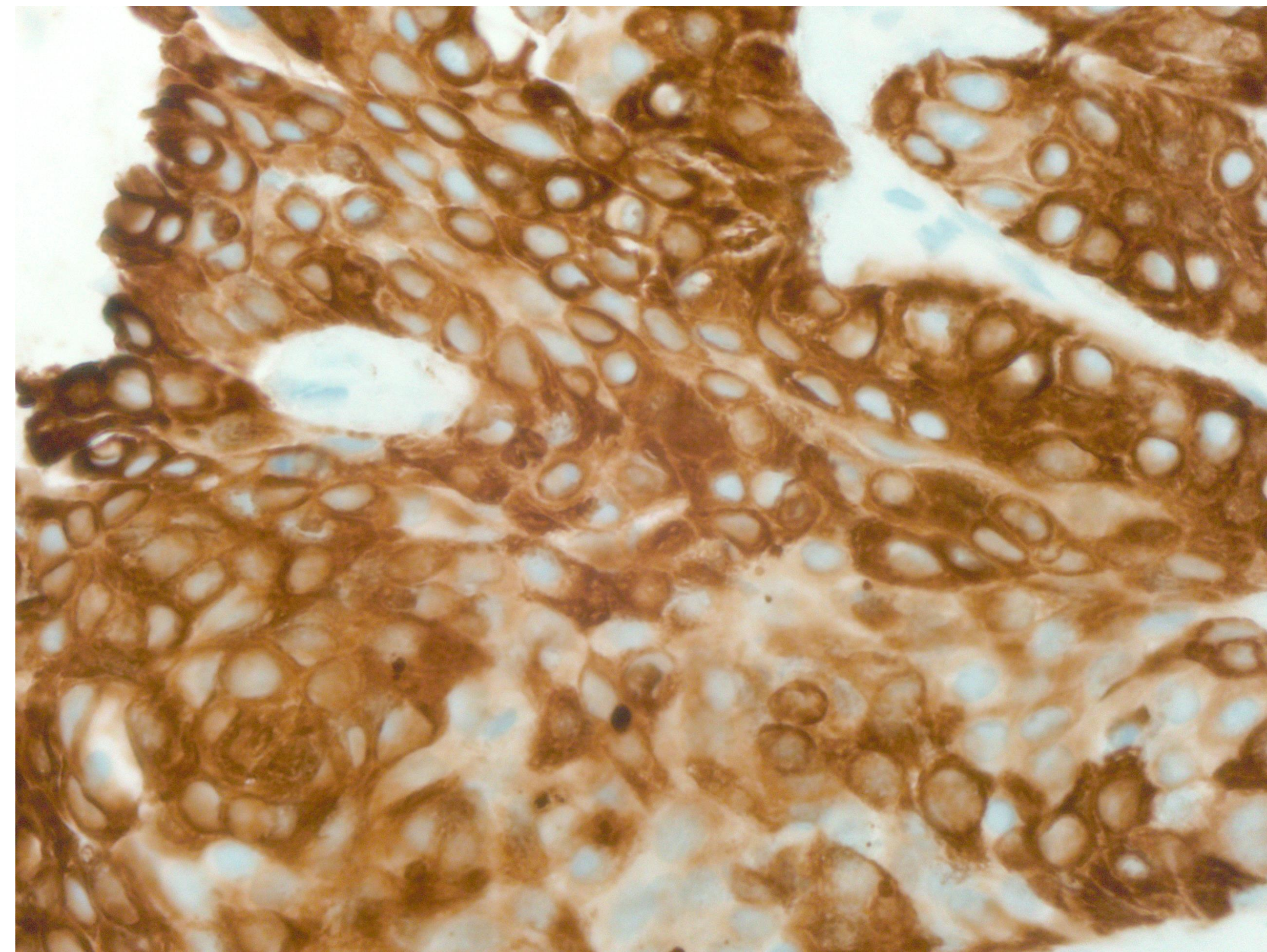


Figure: Biopsy of the ampullary mass was positive for immunohistochemical stains CK5/6, mostly seen in squamous cells

Case Description

- A 64-year-old male with GERD presented with jaundice, pale stools, and dark urine for 3 weeks, as well as a 30-pound weight loss over 3 months
- No family history of cancer or GI disease
- Labs: total bilirubin 22.4 mg/dL, ALP 653 U/L, AST 131 IU/L, ALT 103 U/L, lipase 642 U/L, CEA 5.4 ng/mL, and CA 19-9 4,880 U/mL
- CT imaging revealed biliary and pancreatic duct dilation as well as an ill-defined 7mm pancreatic head mass
- EUS revealed a severely dilated pancreatic duct with significant atrophic pancreatic parenchyma and hyperechoic ampullary and periampullary areas
- Endoscopic choledochoduodenostomy was performed with biopsies of the ampulla revealing adenosquamous carcinoma, whereas biopsies of the pancreas showed only inflammatory cells
- Histopathology was positive for p63, cytokeratin 5/6, and cytokeratin 7

Discussion

- ASCs are an extremely rare malignancy that uniquely contains both glandular and squamous components
- Although it is unclear how a squamous component develops, ASC is a rare malignancy that can be encountered in the ampulla of Vater
- Accurate diagnosis is essential for guiding management and prognosis for patients with carcinomas
- Advanced endoscopy can clarify location of carcinomas that may be difficult to distinguish on conventional imaging

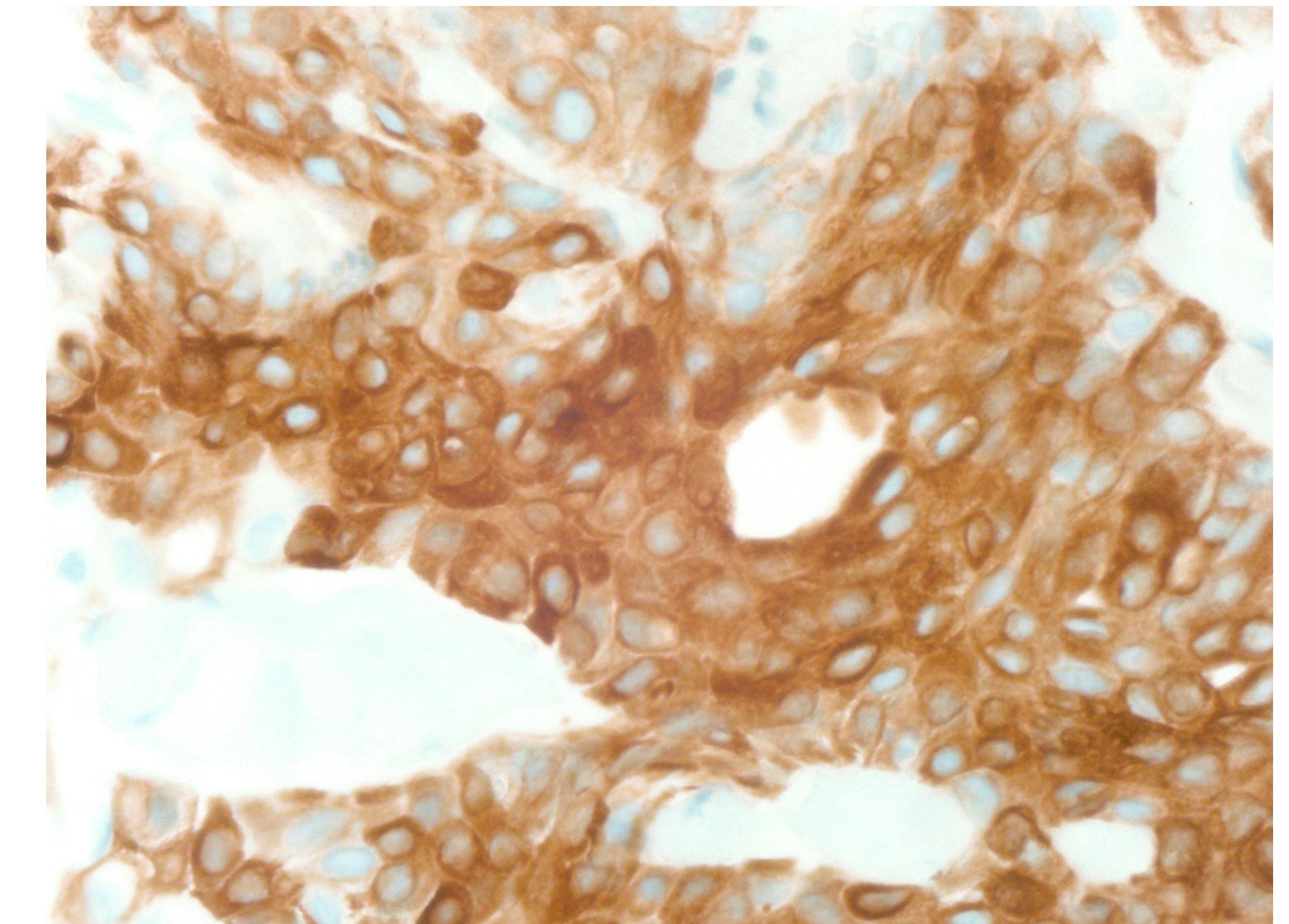


Figure: Biopsy of the ampullary mass was also positive for immunohistochemical stain CK7, mostly seen in glandular epithelium.