

CHRONIC HYPERPLASIC GASTROPATHY WITH CYST FORMATION IN 13 GREEN IGUANAS (*IGUANA IGUANA*): A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Oral Presentation

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Brief Introduction:

Gastric erosions, ulcerations and gastritis have been reported in reptiles several times, mainly associated with gastrointestinal parasites, foreign bodies, bacterial and mycotic agents. Predisposing causes to these pathologies include iguana's habits of ingesting foreign objects and multiple and additive stress factors that result from captivity. To the author knowledge, aside from 5 previous cases being mentioned at the Fifth International Colloquium on the Pathology and Amphibians in 1995 (Alphen van Rijn, Netherlands) no other cases similar to these have been publishing.

Materials and Methods

A retrospective study was carried out in the Pathology Department, Escuela de Medicina Veterinaria, Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica, including 56 necropsies done on adult's iguanas (> 1 year old), between 1991-1994 and 1996. In total 13 green iguanas were diagnosed on histopathological examination with chronic hyperplastic gastropathy and glandular cyst formation.

Clinical findings: distribution included 7 females and 6 males. Five were reported as adults. In the remaining 8, age ranged from 3 1/2 to 11 years (mean, 6 years). The main clinical complaint record was stomatitis (8 cases), weight loss with cachexia (4 cases), and dehydration (3 cases).

Pathological findings: Grossly, the lesions consist of focal and diffuse proliferative mucosal gastric changes with formation of polyps.

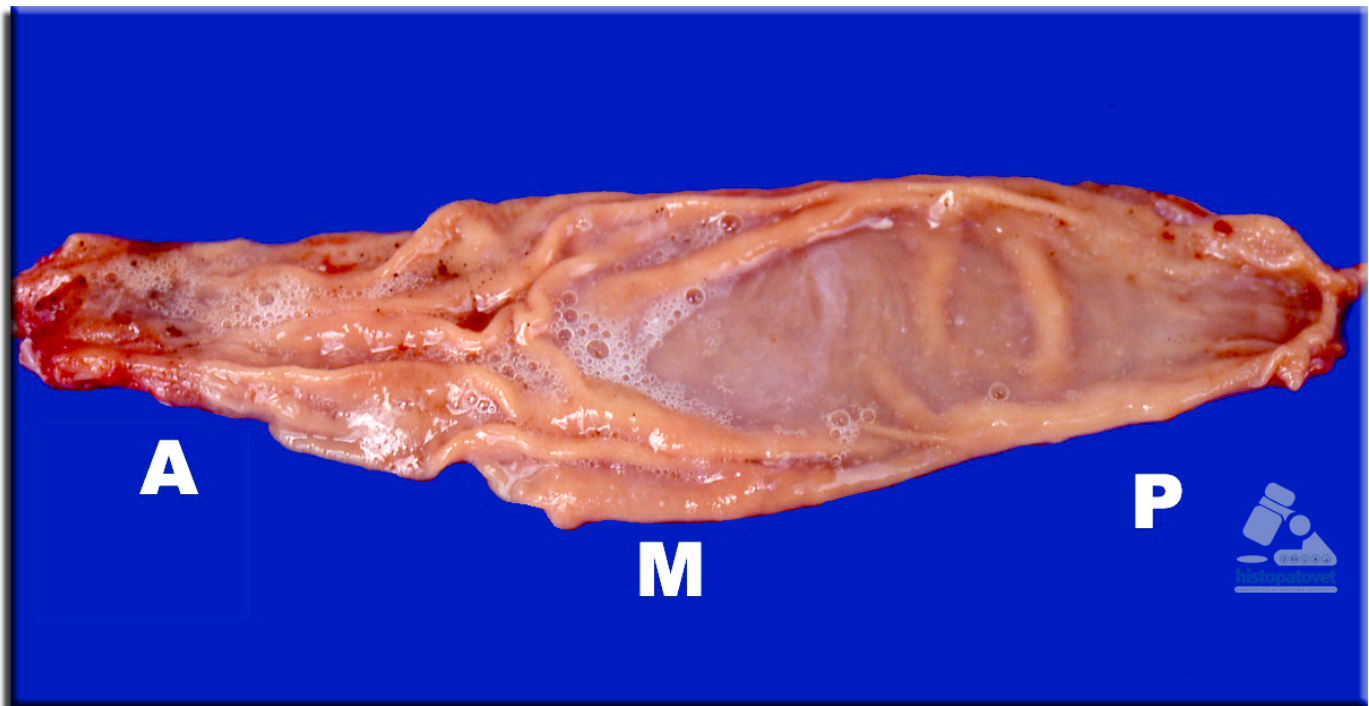


Fig.1. Stomach. Normal aspect divided in three sections. A= Anterior. M= Medium. P= Posterior.

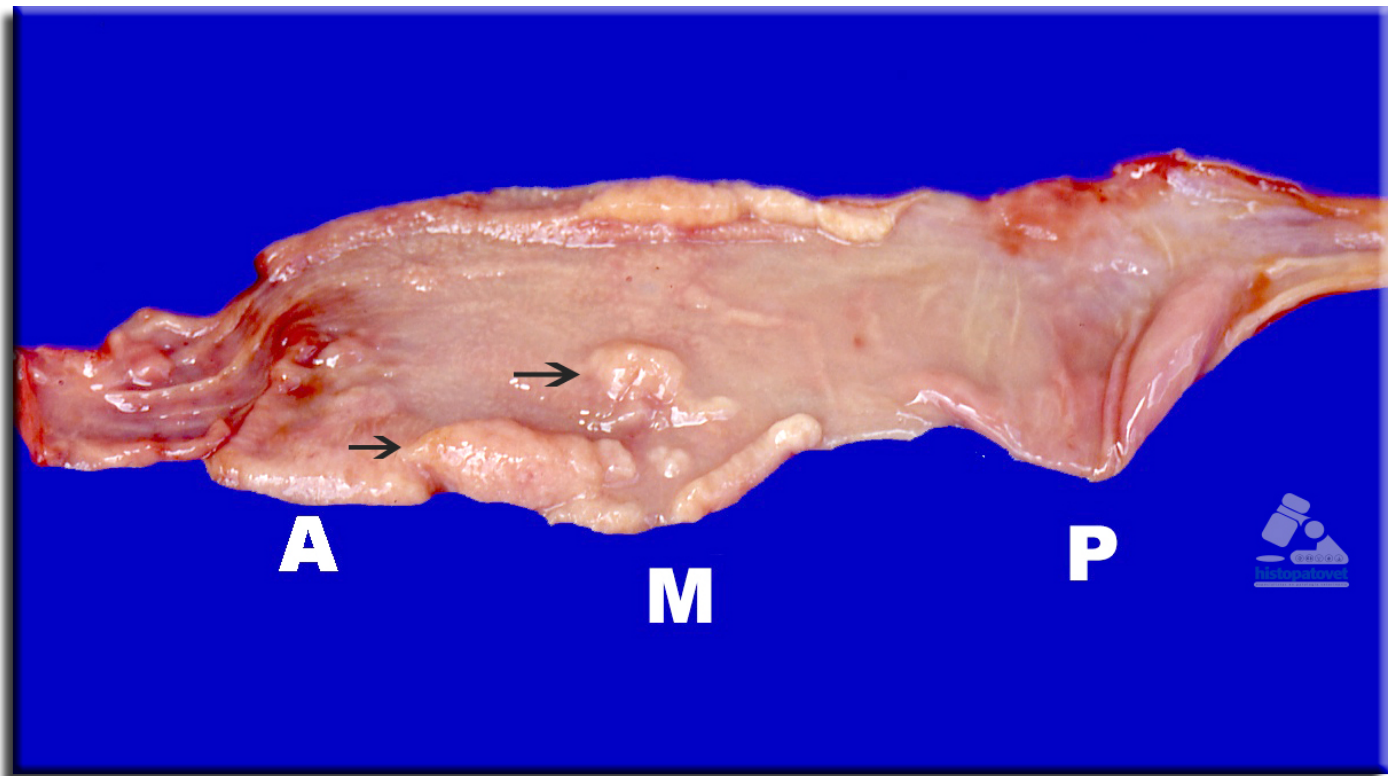


Fig. 2. One stomach showing a focal mucosal overgrowth (see the arrows).

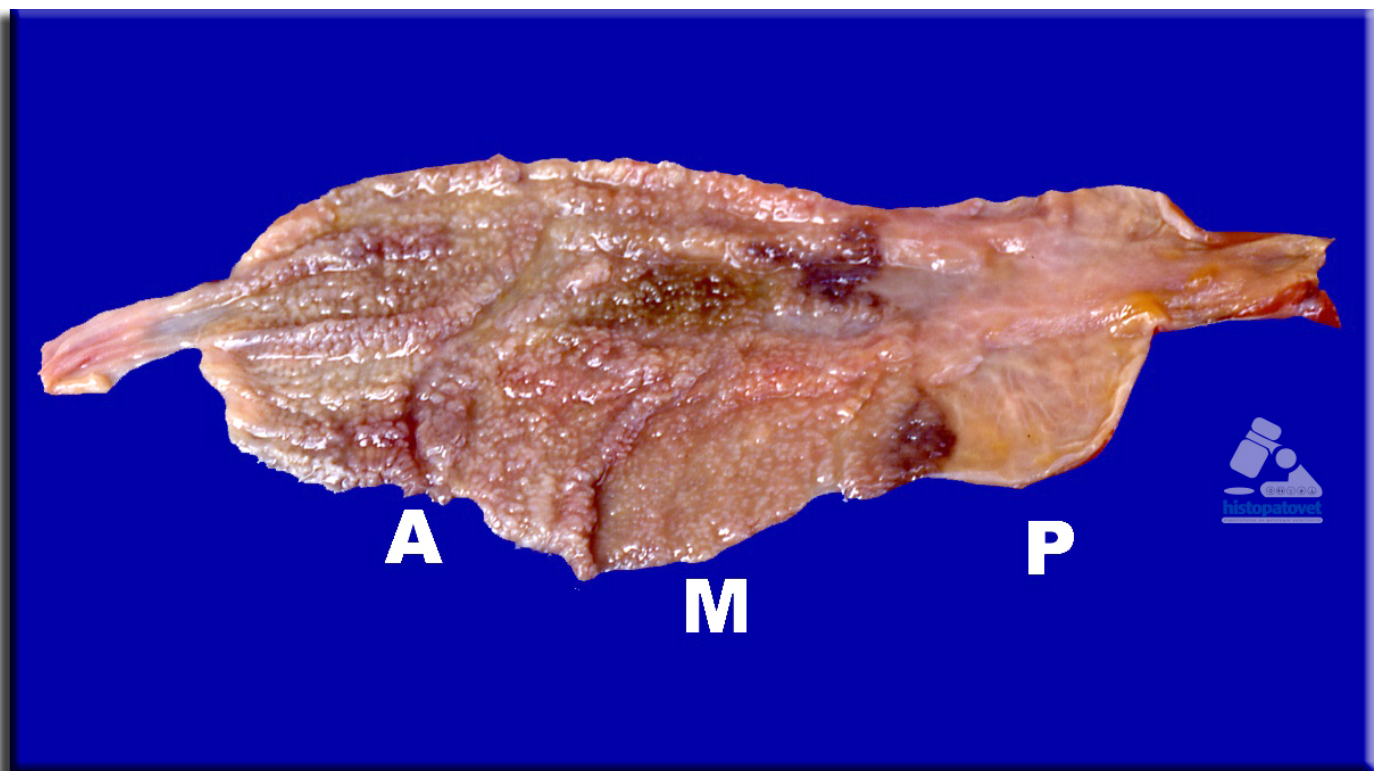


Fig. 3. Another one with a diffuse irregular mucosa surface

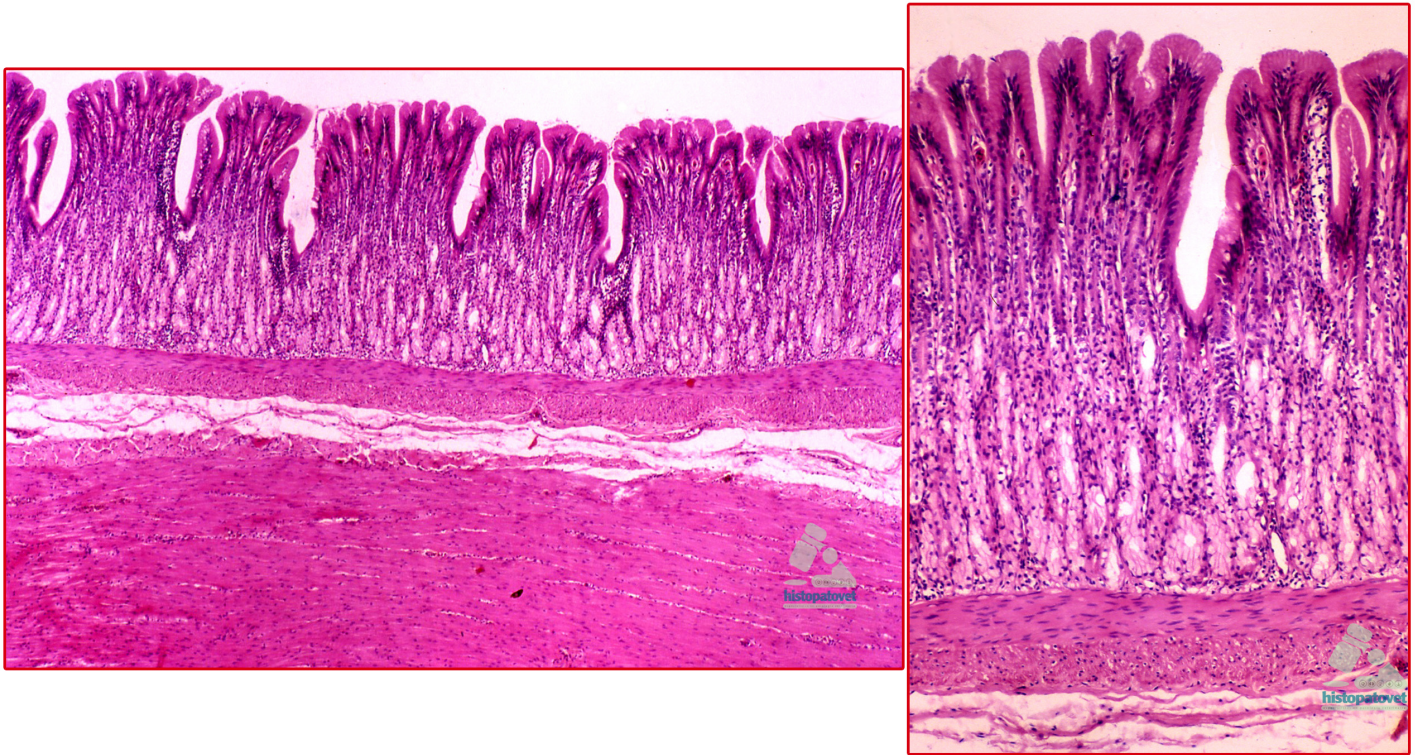


Fig. 4. Normal gastric histology.

Microscopically, 12 iguanas had chronic hyperplasic gastropathy and in 6 of these iguanas also had a cystic mucoid distention of gastric glands; one case had only a submucosal cyst.

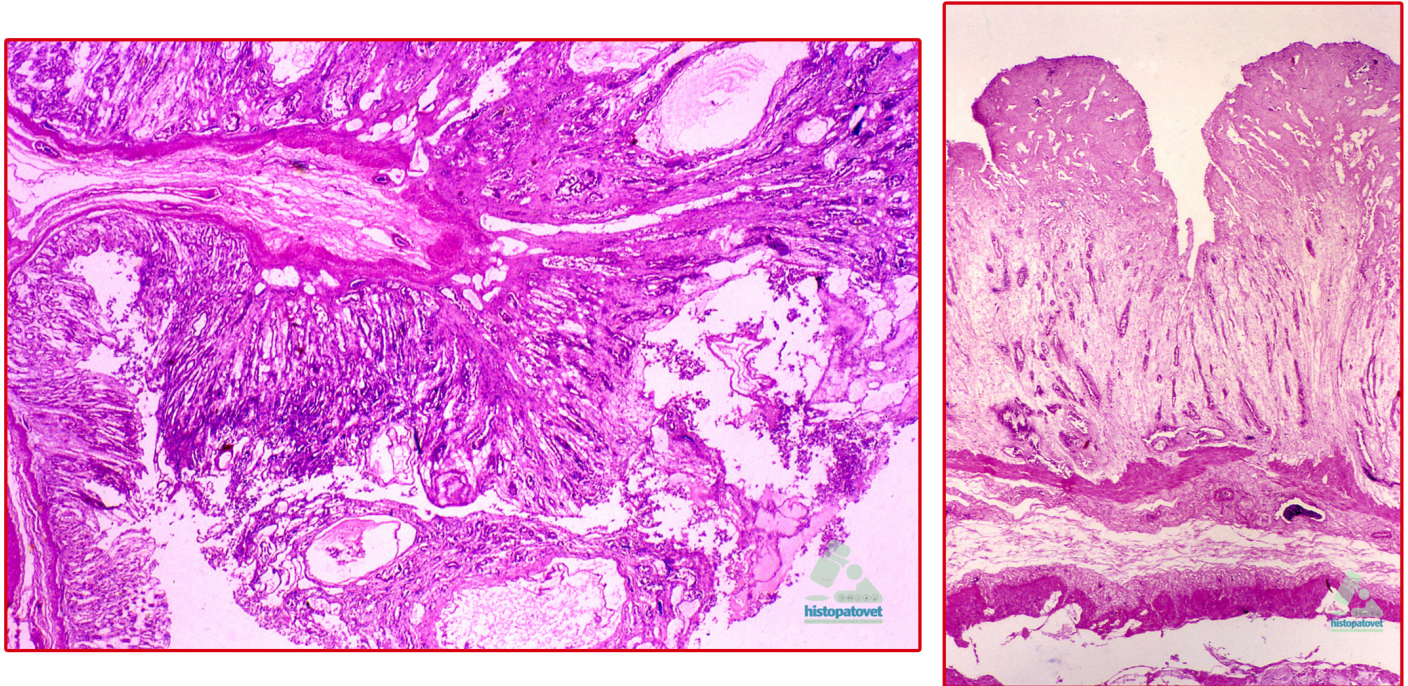


Fig. 5. Two different types of polys

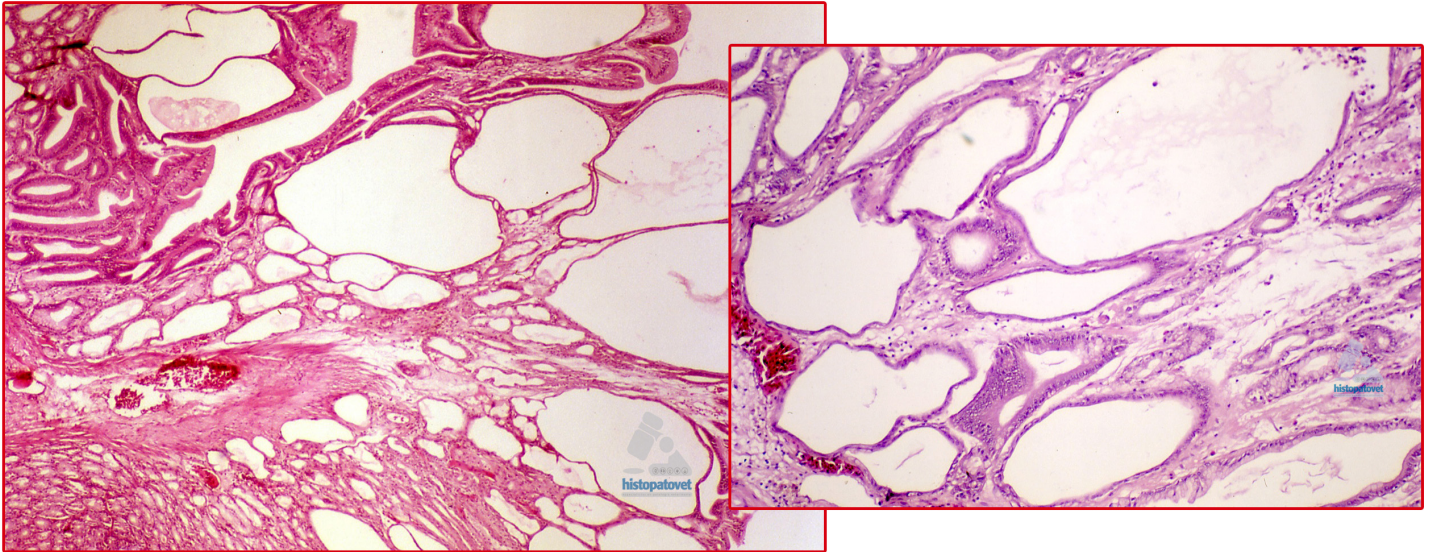


Fig. 6. Mucosa showing a multiples cavities (cysts).

Conclusion: Classically in domestic animals, especially dogs, two forms of chronic gastritis with mucosal hyperplasia have been described. Hypertrophy gastritis and giant hypertrophic gastropathy both share some similarities with the present cases here. The main difference, however, is the absence of smooth muscle hypertrophy.