Mulberry-Like Bodies - an artifact of autolysis

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Mulberry-Like Bodies—an artifact of autolysis

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Dear Editor:

Post-mortem histologic examination of tissue sections is challenging due to the effects of autolysis, which can complicate microscopic interpretation. A rarely seen artifact at perinatal autopsy is “Mulberry-like” bodies. We recently found well-formed mulberry-like bodies in the pulmonary blood vessels of a stillborn infant. Although little is known about “mulberry-like” bodies, they are believed to represent an artifact of red blood cell autolysis, as they are generally found in macerated fetuses(1). They have not been associated with any pathological event. “mulberry-like” bodies appear as cohesive clusters of medium sized anucleated cells with basophilic cell borders and vacuolated cytoplasm, in a background of red blood cells(figure 1,2).
Reference:
1-Flemming BS. Intravascular “Mulberry-like” Bodies: Morphological, Immunohistochemical, and Ultrastructural Observations of an Incidental Finding Caused by Autolysis.
Legend:

Figure 1-Multiple mulberry-like bodies are seen within a pulmonary vessel from a stillborn infant.

Figure 2-On higher power, the clusters of anucleated cells can be seen.