

Sarcoma botryoides is a highly malignant embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. Rhabdomyoblasts can be found anywhere in the body where smooth muscle tissue surrounds an epithelial lumen. They are present in the vaginal epithelium. There is a peak incidence of this vaginal cancer in childhood, commonly in those less than 4 years old.

"Bunch of Grapes" in Vagina

Vagina-violet with Grapes

Sarcoma botryoides is associated with clear, gross polypoid masses that resemble a bundle of grapes, which protrude from the vagina.

Spindle-Shaped Cells

Spindle Cell

Tumor cells of sarcoma botryoides are characterized by a spindle-shaped pleomorphic appearance on microscopy.

Desmin Positive

Desmin Positive

Sarcoma botryoides is desmin positive on immunohistochemical staining. Desmin is a muscle-specific protein that comprises intermediate filaments. Desmin IHC is used to identify neoplastic cells arising from muscle.