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Clinical History: This is tissue from a twenty-four-year old, female Gopher Snake (Pituophis catenifer) from a zoo collection that was presented, after decision for euthanasia, to the UC Davis Anatomic Pathology service for necropsy with a history of progressive anorexia, weight loss, and anemia. This patient had a previous (5 years prior) cholecystectomy followed by antimicrobial therapy for Mycobacterium chelonae infection of the gallbladder.

Necropsy Findings: At necropsy, this Gopher Snake was in poor nutritional condition based on moderately decreased intracoelomic fat stores and markedly decreased epaxial musculature. There were multifocal plaque-like lesions and nodules infiltrating the lung, spleen, and pancreas. Specifically, the lung was diffusely dark-red and contained 60-80, pale tan, round, slightly raised nodules affecting ~40% of the pulmonary surface. The pancreas and spleen contained scattered similar nodules throughout the parenchyma.

Follow-up Questions: What is your morphologic diagnosis? What are key histologic features? What diagnostic tests are indicated (special stains, IHC, culture, etc.)?
The Diagnostic Exercises are an initiative of the Latin Comparative Pathology Group (LCPG), the Latin American subdivision of The Davis-Thompson Foundation. These exercises are contributed by members and non-members from any country of residence. Consider submitting an exercise! A final document containing this material with answers and a brief discussion will be posted on the CL Davis website (http://www.cldavis.org/diagnostic_exercises.html).

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