Medical Image of the Week: Lepidic Growth

Figure 1. Two different tumors showing lepidic growth along the alveolar interstitium with preserved alveolar architecture.

Lepidic growth is most often seen in adenocarcinoma in situ (Figure A, 40x magnification). Adenocarcinoma in situ is formerly known as bronchoalveolar cell carcinoma (BAC). A similar growth pattern in a morphologically very different tumor (mucinous adenocarcinoma) is shown for comparison (Figure B, 400x). Mucinous adenocarcinoma growing on alveolar septae nearly always is invasive, so the entity of mucinous adenocarcinoma in situ practically doesn't exist, further differentiating this entity from BAC.

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