



PATIENT

Brinkley DeSmith

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Australian Shepherd

SEX

Male Neutered

AGE

15.2 years

WEIGHT

28.4lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Maggie Machen Lamy,
DVM, DACVIM
(Cardiology)

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Greg Kuhlman, DVM

HOSPITAL NAME

Red River Animal
Emergency Hospital &
Referral Center

REFERRING VET

Dr. Kuhlman

INVOICE

46969

DATE

2/24/26

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Progressive cough for a few months, first noticed infrequently in June 2025, but increased frequency started in September. He wakes the owners up at night to cough. He coughs after drinking water occasionally. Coughing episode frequency varies greatly, from every 15 minutes to twice or three times daily. The cough seems dry and non-productive. The owner has no other concerns. Started on 3.75mg Pimobendan BID, 2.5mg Hydrocodone TID PRN. Treated with Doxycycline in January to r/o infection. At home RR rate is around 50bpm. BP: 184mmHg (extremely anxious). -Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results (12/10/25): Chem: SDMA 16 ug/dL, ALT 129, ALP 716 U/L, Amylase 1523 U/L, Lipase 428 U/L. UA: SPG 1.022 (low 1.030-1.098), trace protein. Snap 4Dx Neg. UPC Ratio 0.2. -CXR (1/13/26): Mild-moderate left-sided cardiomegaly. No CHF.

RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS *NOTE: Images submitted for supplemental cardiac information only. Cardiomegaly. No obvious evidence of CHF.

ECHOCARDIOGRAM FINDINGS

2D, m-mode, color flow and doppler imaging is available. Diffuse thickening of mitral valve leaflets (anterior>posterior) with mild prolapse into the left atrial lumen. Severe eccentric mitral regurgitation with moderate left atrial dilation (LA:Ao >1.6). Normal MR velocity. Mildly increased LV diameter with hyperdynamic myocardial function. The tricuspid valve appears mildly thickened, with trace tricuspid regurgitation. Velocity consistent with early pulmonary hypertension. Normal right atrial and ventricular diameter. The pulmonic and aortic valves are normal in morphology and mobility. Normal pulmonic and aortic outflow velocities. Mild aortic and trace pulmonic insufficiency. No pericardial or pleural effusion noted. No cardiac tumors observed.

CARDIAC CHART

CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	MR VMAX (m/s)	TR VMAX (m/s)	LA/AO (Boon method)	LA/AO (Heart Base; Swe)	FS (%)	EF (%)	EPSS (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	4.5-5.5	<2.7	1.3	<1.6	28-40	40-100	<0.6
PATIENT	>4.5	3.0	NM	1.8	45	86	NM
CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	HR (BPM)	AV VMAX (m/s)	PV MAX (m/s)	BODY WEIGHT (kg)	LA 2D short axis Base view (cm)	LVIDd Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)	LVIDs Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	50-100	0.7-1.7	0.7-1.6	BELOW	BELOW	BELOW	BELOW
PATIENT	NM	1.2	1.2	12.9	3.2	4.2	2.3
*Normal chamber parameters expressed as a mean value (SD)				3	1.27 (5.3)	2.46 (2.46)	1.36 (5.5)
BODY WEIGHT DEPENDENT PARAMETERS				5	1.40 (4.5)	2.74 (5.2)	1.60 (4.7)
<i>*Note: All measurements based upon multi-modal images and methods. An average value is reported.</i>				10	1.50 (3.8)	3.27 (3.5)	2.06 (3.1)
				15	1.83 (2.0)	3.71 (2.4)	2.43 (2.1)
				20	2.02 (1.9)	4.14 (2.2)	2.80 (2.0)
				25	2.18 (2.4)	4.48 (2.9)	3.10 (2.5)
				30	2.33 (3.3)	4.83 (3.9)	3.39 (3.4)
				35	2.48 (4.3)	5.17 (5.0)	3.69 (4.5)

Adapted from June Boon, Veterinary Echocardiography, 1998
Rishniw M and Hollis NE, J Vet Intern Med 2000; 14:429-435



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Hansson et al, Vet Rad and Ultrasound 2002	40	2.62 (5.2)	5.48 (6.1)	3.96 (5.4)
Bonagura et al. Echocardiography: principles of interpretation, Vet	50	2.88 (7.1)	6.07 (8.3)	4.46 (7.4)

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INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Chronic degenerative valve disease causing severe mitral and trace tricuspid regurgitation. Moderate left atrial enlargement indicates there is relatively low risk for imminent complication; however, risk for progression to spontaneous congestive heart failure in the future is elevated. Early pulmonary hypertension is noted, which is likely secondary to a reported cough. Finally, a small aortic valve insufficiency is noted, and the BP should further monitored going forward. No additional issues are identified.

Given these findings, continued Pimobendan is indicated in this patient as below. Consider addition of an ACE-I, given AI. Assessment of progression in the future will help predict long term outcome; however, prognosis is guarded at this stage (B2). Fifty percent of stage B2 patients typically develop CHF within 2-2.5 years of diagnosis. The median time to development of CHF in B2 cases treated with pimobendan is 3.5 years.

While mainstem bronchi compression may certainly be contributing to an increase in coughing, other primary airway contributions should also be considered (tracheal collapse, COPD/chronic bronchitis, etc.). Consider hydrocodone for any mechanical component due to cardiomegaly. If the cough is poorly controlled and/or progresses long term, pulmonary hypertension (PAH) can develop secondarily. Signs of clinically relevant PAH include exertional dyspnea or exertional syncope. It is important to note that PAH does not cause the cough; rather, the cough leads to PAH.

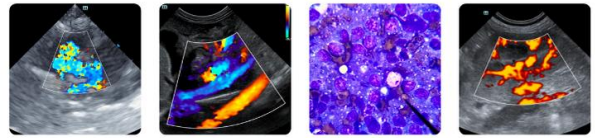
Omega fatty acid supplementation and mild salt restriction may also be of some long-term benefit. Monitor for development of a progressive cough, labored breathing, exercise intolerance or collapse episodes.

Anesthetic risk is considered mildly elevated. Pre-oxygenate for 5-10 minutes prior to induction. Cardiac protective drug choices (opioid/benzodiazepine premedication, Propofol or alfaxalone induction, iso or sevo gas) are recommended. Monitor for arrhythmias, hypotension, and/or hypoxia both intra and post-operatively and intervene as necessary. Judicious IV fluid rates are recommended to avoid fluid overload. Avoid heart rate stimulating drugs such as atropine unless clinically indicated.

PLAN

Reassess BP in the future. Continue Pimobendan 0.3mg/kg PO q12h. Institute ACE-I 0.5mg/kg PO q12h. Consider hydrocodone and/or further cough evaluation as indicated.

Recommend monitor for progression with a recheck echocardiogram in 6 months, sooner if any development of additional clinical signs in the interim.



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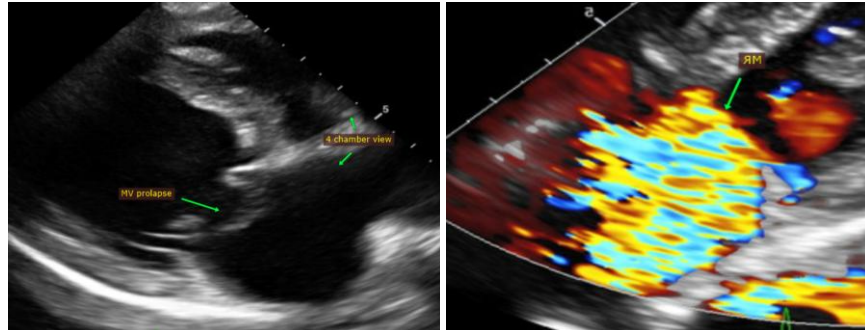
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IMAGES



The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

Thank you for this referral. This report was generated using transcription software, and minor dictation errors may be present. If the clinical or image interpretation does not parallel your findings or if I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

Maggie Machen Lamy, DVM

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