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Pet Animal Ultrasound Service
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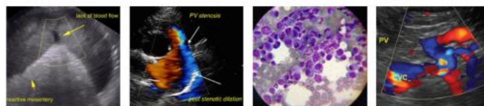


SonoPath
Clinical Sonography & Telecytology
EDUCATIONAL TELECONSULTATION SERVICES™
1-800-838-4268 info@sonopath.com SonoPath.com

PATIENT
Bonnie Normandin

SPECIES
Canine

BREED
German Shephard

SEX
Female Spayed

AGE
7 years

WEIGHT
75.2lbs

INTERPRETED BY
Maggie Machen Lamy, DVM DACVIM (Cardiology)

IMAGING PERFORMED BY
Pamela Harrigan, RDCS

HOSPITAL NAME
Wignall Animal Hospital

REFERRING VET
Dr. Thomas

INVOICE
30494

DATE
4/28/23

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Bradycardia. Episode of collapse when exerted. No murmur heard. BP: 160-170mmHg.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

A six lead ECG is available at 25mm/s; 20mm/mV. The P wave rate is ~90bpm with a largely regular rhythm. The ventricular rate is 25bpm. High grade 2nd degree AV block is present with primarily 3:1 conduction; occasional 4:1 appreciated.
ECG diagnosis: High grade 2nd degree AV block.
*A single lead tracing was attached throughout the echocardiogram, performed after the six-lead ECG. Complete AV block is suspected with an inconsistent PR coupling. A junctional escape rhythm firing at 30bpm is appreciated.

ECHOCARDIOGRAM FINDINGS

2D, m-mode, color flow and Doppler imaging is available.
Left ventricle: The LV diameter is increased with adequate myocardial function. LV wall thicknesses are decreased with increased sphericity.
Left atrium: The left atrium is moderate to severely dilated.
Mitral valve: The mitral valve is mildly thickened with no prolapse into the left atrial lumen. Mild diastolic mitral regurgitation. Trace systolic MR.
Aortic valve/Aorta: The aortic valve is normal in morphology and mobility. Mildly elevated aortic outflow velocity; laminar flow. No aortic insufficiency.
Right ventricle: Mild RV dilation. No obvious RVH.
Right atrium: Mild RA dilation.
Tricuspid valve: The tricuspid valve appears normal with mild diastolic tricuspid regurgitation. No obvious systolic tricuspid regurgitation.
Pulmonic valve/Pulmonary artery: The pulmonic valve is normal in morphology and mobility. No pulmonic insufficiency. Normal RVOT velocity; laminar flow.
Pericardium/other: No pericardial or pleural effusion noted. No obvious cardiac masses.

2-Dimensional Measurements

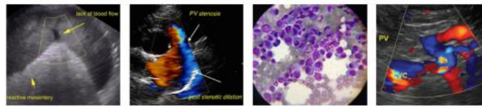
Ao diam (cm)	2.4
LA diam (cm)	5.5
LA:Ao (Swe)	2.3
IVS thickness (cm)	0.6
LVID diastole (cm)	4.8
PW thickness (cm)	0.6
LVID systole (cm)	3.3
FS (%)	32

Doppler Measurements

PV Vmax (m/s)	
AoV Vmax (m/s)	2.0
MR Vmax (m/s)	5.8
TR Vmax (m/s)	
TR PG (mmHg)	

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS

The rhythm diagnosis is high grade 2nd and 3rd degree AV block with a ventricular rate of 20-30bpm. There does appear to be some AV nodal conduction present, as is seen on the six-lead tracing; however, the single lead taken at a slightly later time-point is more consistent with 3rd degree. The differentiation is academic at this point as both are considered pathologic and warrant immediate pacemaker implantation. Significant bradycardia and AV block is usually an acutely progressive disorder, with most dogs requiring transvenous pacemaker implantation to relieve clinical signs such as collapse or



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lethargy. In a collapsing patient, immediate referral should certainly be considered for discussion of medical and surgical options. The overall cardiac dimensions are increased with is likely secondary to chronic bradycardia, given a lack of significant regurgitation and adequate systolic function. No additional issues are identified at this time, such as cardiac neoplasia.

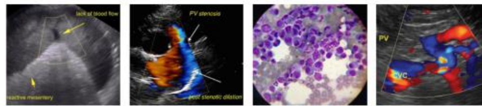
AV block is typically idiopathic in origin, with progressive deterioration of the electrical system resulting in persistent bradycardia, significant lethargy and collapse. An atropine challenge is recommended in any case of bradycardia, although the response is expected to be minimal. If there is any improvement in resting heart rate, stimulation through theophylline or propantheline (see below) can be attempted. Baseline full lab work should be performed, to rule out any electrolyte abnormalities that may be contributing. Additionally, baseline full body radiographs are recommended to rule out any neoplastic issues.

Barring any treatable systemic issues, the recommended treatment in this case is referral for discussion of pacemaker implantation. If declined, heart rate stimulation can be attempted as discussed; however, this is typically of limited benefit. That being said, this patient experienced a syncopal episode and if the rhythm is not corrected, this patient will succumb to either continued cardiac dilation resulting in CHF (which will be difficult to manage in the absence of a normal heart rate), or to worsening bradycardia/syncope/sudden death. The goal would be to stabilize the situation through heart rate management and use medical support to hopefully support the structural disease.

With this degree of left atrial enlargement, there is some risk for spontaneous congestive heart failure in the future and cardiac supportive Pimobendan is recommended as below. Unfortunately, the patient will always be at risk for recurrent CHF, development of arrhythmias, syncope and/or sudden death in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Highly recommend immediate referral to a local Cardiologist.
- Screening lab work and radiographs.
- Consider Atropine challenge if referral is declined. Administer 0.04mg/kg atropine IV and reassess ECG for 5-10 minutes post-injection.
- If there is any improvement with atropine, can attempt Theophylline 10mg/kg PO q12h.
- If this is ineffective, can attempt HR stimulation with propantheline bromide (difficult to find typically).
- Institute Pimobendan 0.25-0.3mg/kg PO q12h.
- Consider humane euthanasia if lethargy/syncope persists and affects QOL and/or CHF develops.
- Close monitoring for development of associated clinical signs (development of a cough, labored breathing, exercise intolerance or worsening collapse episodes) is recommended. Monitoring of sleeping breathing rates is recommended as the best way to screen for CHF at home.
- Activity restriction is advised.



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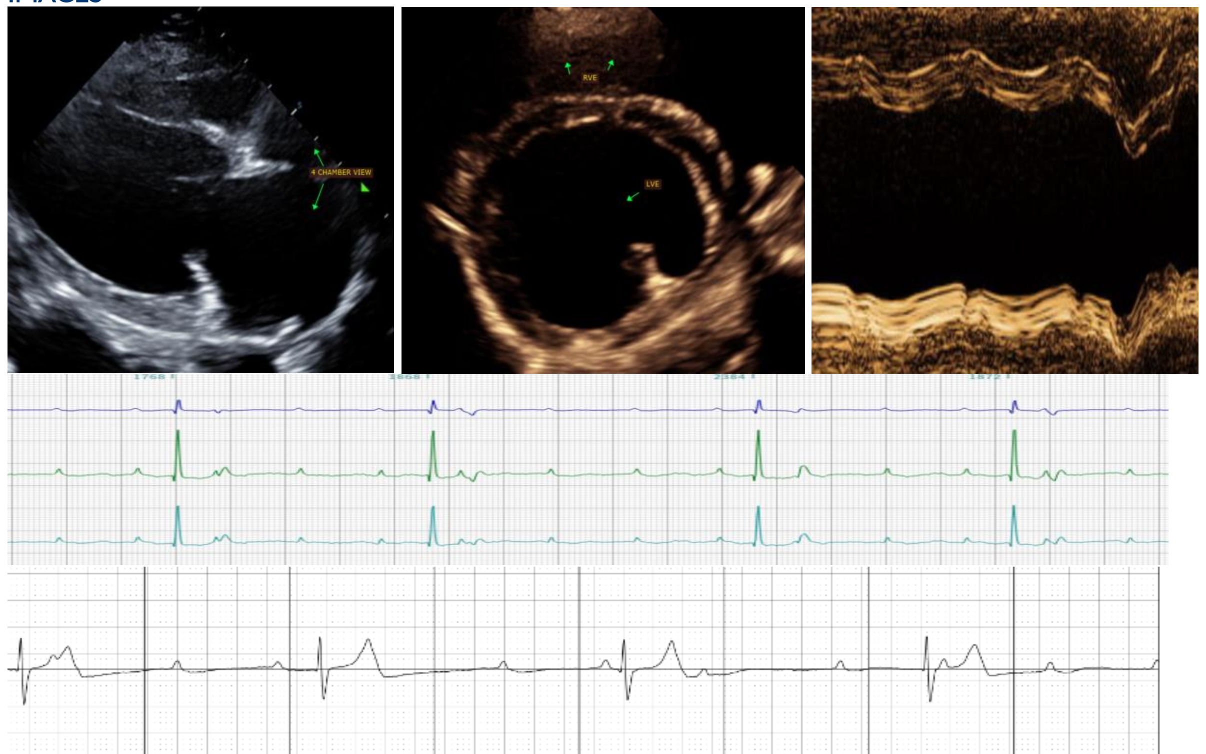
- Omega fatty acid supplementation and mild salt restriction may be of some long-term benefit.

PLAN

- Recommend conservative monitoring with a recheck echocardiogram in 6 months, sooner if any development of clinical signs.

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
Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology)
info@sonopath.com

Echocardiogram performed by: Pamela Harrigan, RDCS
Pet Animal Ultrasound Service (4paus.com)