



PATIENT

Chewy Higbee

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Overweight. No history given. Concern over elevated liver values.
Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: ALP 813, ALT 273, GGT 21

SPECIES

Canine

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

The urinary bladder, trigone, and pelvic urethra are normal in thickness and the mucosal surface is smooth. The bladder lumen is moderately distended with anechoic urine. No masses, inflammatory changes or calculi are observed. Ureteral papillae and visualized portion of the proximal urethra, visible to a depth of 2 cm, are normal.

BREED

Boxer mix

The prostate is not definitively visualized due to its pelvic location.

SEX

Male, neutered

The left kidney is normal size (7.13 cm in length); normal shape and architecture with smooth peripheral margins. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with normal corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydronephrosis. Renal vasculature is normal.

AGE

12 years

The right kidney is normal size (7.12 cm in length); normal shape and architecture with smooth peripheral margins. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with normal corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydronephrosis. Renal vasculature is normal.

WEIGHT

68 lbs

Adrenal Glands

The left adrenal gland is prominent at the cranial pole with a slightly irregular shape. The caudal pole is normal in size. The cranial pole is slightly heterogeneous in appearance. The glandular echogenicity and detail at the caudal pole are unremarkable. The phrenicoabdominal vein and surrounding vasculature are normal.

INTERPRETED BY

Andrea Nicastro, DVM,
Diplomate ACVIM
(Small Animal Internal
Medicine)

The right adrenal gland is normal size (0.93 cm at cranial pole) (0.55 cm at caudal pole) (2.67 cm in length); normal shape; homogenous parenchyma. The glandular echogenicity and detail are unremarkable. Capsule, cortex, and medullary definition are normal. The phrenicoabdominal vein and surrounding vasculature are normal.

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Potomac Mobile
Veterinary Ultrasound

Spleen

The spleen is normal in size (2.72 cm in width at the level of the hilus) with a normal capsular contour. There is appropriate echogenicity and echotexture. A 0.78 cm ill-defined hypoechoic nodule is observed approximately mid-spleen. Splenic vasculature is normal.

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Banfield Leesburg
Village

Liver

The liver is subjectively normal in size with normal curvilinear peripheral contours. The parenchyma is hyperechoic relative to the spleen and diffusely homogeneous in appearance. No distinct focal lesions are observed. Vascular and biliary tracts are of normal volume with no evidence of congestion. The gall bladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall is thin and smooth. A small amount of aggregated echogenic partially dependent debris is observed within the lumen. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal/not seen. The gall bladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall is thin and smooth. Luminal contents are mostly anechoic. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal/not seen.

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Gastrointestinal

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The stomach and intestine are free of stasis and exhibit normal peristaltic activity. The gastric lumen is not distended. The gastric wall and pylorus are normal in thickness with a normal layering pattern. The pyloric outflow tract is patent. The small intestinal lumen is not dilated. The small intestinal wall thickness is normal with a normal layering pattern and appropriate mural detail. Discreet masses are not identified. The colonic wall is normal. No obstructive disease is noted.

SPECIES

Canine

Pancreas

BREED

Boxer mix

The right limb of the pancreas is visible with normal curvilinear peripheral contours. The parenchyma is largely isoechoic relative to surrounding omental fat and slightly mottled in appearance. The pancreatic duct is visible but not overtly dilated. There is no evidence of peripancreatic inflammation or effusion.

SEX

Male, neutered

Free Abdomen

The peritoneal cavity is normal. There is no evidence of inflammation or effusion. The abdominal lymph nodes are normal/not visible.

AGE

12 years

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

WEIGHT

68 lbs

Primary Findings:

- The diffuse hepatic changes are non-specific and could be consistent with vacuolar hepatopathy, regenerative nodular hyperplasia, and/or age-related remodeling. Inflammatory and infiltrative disease are considered less likely.
- The left adrenal changes are suggestive of early hyperplastic change.

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Secondary Findings:

- The pancreatic changes are most consistent with age-related parenchymal remodeling, potentially secondary to a prior inflammatory episode, early fibrosis or chronic pancreatitis.
- The splenic nodule trends toward to the benign (i.e., a region of lymphoid hyperplasia or extramedullary hematopoiesis). However an early neoplastic process cannot be completely excluded.

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INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider pre and post prandial serum bile acids to assess for hepatic dysfunction. If normal, recheck liver values in 3-4 weeks. If the values continue to increase, particularly the ALT repeat abdominal imaging +/- hepatic tissue sampling may be warranted.
- Leptospirosis testing (i.e., blood and urine PCR, serology) can also be considered if the liver value elevations are acute in nature although this differential is considered less likely.
- Consider testing for hyperadrenocorticism with a low-dose dexamethasone suppression test or ACTH stimulation test if clinical signs (i.e., PU/PD) develop.

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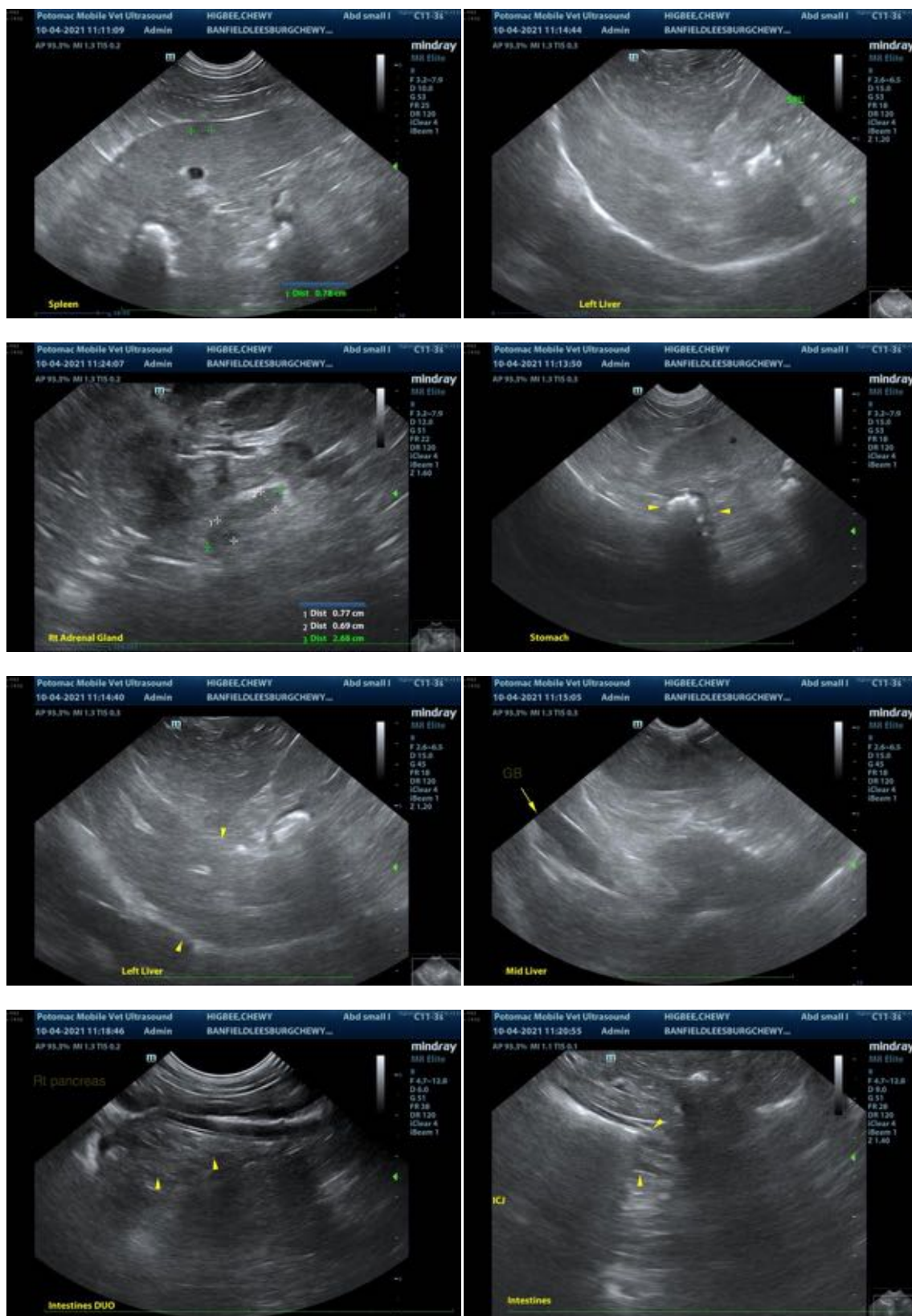
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

Thank you for this referral. If the clinical or image interpretation does not parallel your findings or if I can be of any further assistance please contact me.

Andrea Nicastro, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (*Small Animal Internal Medicine*)

Andrea.nicastro@sonopath.com