



**PATIENT PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

Molly Mann History: Elevated liver enzymes. On Denamarin

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**SPECIES**

Canine

*Urinary System*

The urinary bladder and visible portion of the pelvic urethra are normal for the degree of luminal distension. The urine is anechoic with no evidence of debris. Cystic calculi and discrete masses are not observed.

**BREED**

Shih Tzu

The left kidney is normal size (3.60 cm in length); normal shape and architecture with smooth peripheral margins. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with moderate loss of corticomedullary distinction. A thin hyperechoic medullary band is observed at the corticomedullary junction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter.

**SEX**

Female, spayed

The right kidney is normal size (3.45 cm in length); normal shape and architecture with smooth peripheral margins. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with moderate loss of corticomedullary distinction. A thin hyperechoic medullary band is observed at the corticomedullary junction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter.

**AGE**

5 Yrs.

*Adrenal Glands*

The left adrenal gland is normal size (0.58 cm at cranial pole) (0.48 cm at caudal pole); 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.

**WEIGHT**

11 lbs.

The right adrenal gland is normal size (0.81 cm at cranial pole) (0.58 cm at caudal pole) with a slightly irregular shape. A 0.81 x 0.78 cm hyperechoic nodule is observed at the cranial pole. The glandular echogenicity and detail at the caudal pole are unremarkable. Surrounding vasculature appears normal.

**INTERPRETED BY**

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

*Spleen*

One still image is available for interpretation. In the visualized section, the spleen appears normal in size (0.65 cm in width at the level of the hilus) with homogeneous parenchyma. No obvious abnormalities are seen.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Sonya Myers DVM

*Liver*

The liver is subjectively normal in size with normal contours and structure. There is appropriate echogenicity and echotexture. No overt structural evidence of inflammatory, infiltrative or regenerative pathology is evident. Vascular and biliary tracts are of normal volume with no evidence of congestion. No pathological hepatic lymphadenopathy observed. The gallbladder is of normal contours and contains some dependent echogenic debris. The wall is normal in thickness. No choleliths are observed. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal.

**HOSPITAL NAME**

VCA Clemont AH

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Blosssey

*Gastrointestinal*

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.

**INVOICE**

14599

**DATE**

2/15/23



**PATIENT**

*Pancreas*

Molly Mann

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.

**SPECIES**

Canine

*Free Abdomen*

**BREED**

Shih Tzu

Trace free fluid is observed post fine needle aspirate of the liver. The abdominal lymph nodes are normal/not visible.

**SEX**

Female, spayed

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

**Primary Findings:**

**AGE**

5 Yrs.

- An obvious cause for the elevated liver enzymes is not identified in the study. However, a microscopic hepatopathy (i.e., bacterial cholangiohepatitis, Leptospirosis, chronic active hepatitis, copper-associated hepatotoxicity, infiltrative neoplasia (less likely)) should be considered.

**WEIGHT**

11 lbs.

- Gallbladder debris- incidental.

**Secondary Findings:**

**INTERPRETED BY**

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

- Bilateral chronic renal changes.
- The pancreatic changes are most consistent with age-related parenchymal remodeling, potentially secondary to a prior inflammatory episode, early fibrosis or chronic pancreatitis.
- The right adrenal nodule could be consistent with benign nodular hyperplasia or an emerging tumor (i.e., adenoma, adenocarcinoma, pheochromocytoma).

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Sonya Myers DVM

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- Consider pre and post prandial serum bile acids to assess hepatic function. If liver enzyme elevations are acute in nature, also consider Leptospirosis testing (i.e., blood and urine PCR, serology).
- If the above diagnostics and hepatic cytology are inconclusive, liver biopsies (i.e., laparoscopic or surgical) may be necessary to get a definitive diagnosis. If pursued, aerobic and anaerobic bile cultures should be obtained and copper quantitation performed. Thoracic radiographs are recommended prior to anesthesia.

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**PATIENT**

Molly Mann

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Shih Tzu

**SEX**

Female, spayed

**AGE**

5 Yrs.

**WEIGHT**

11 lbs.

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PERFORMED BY**

Sonya Myers DVM

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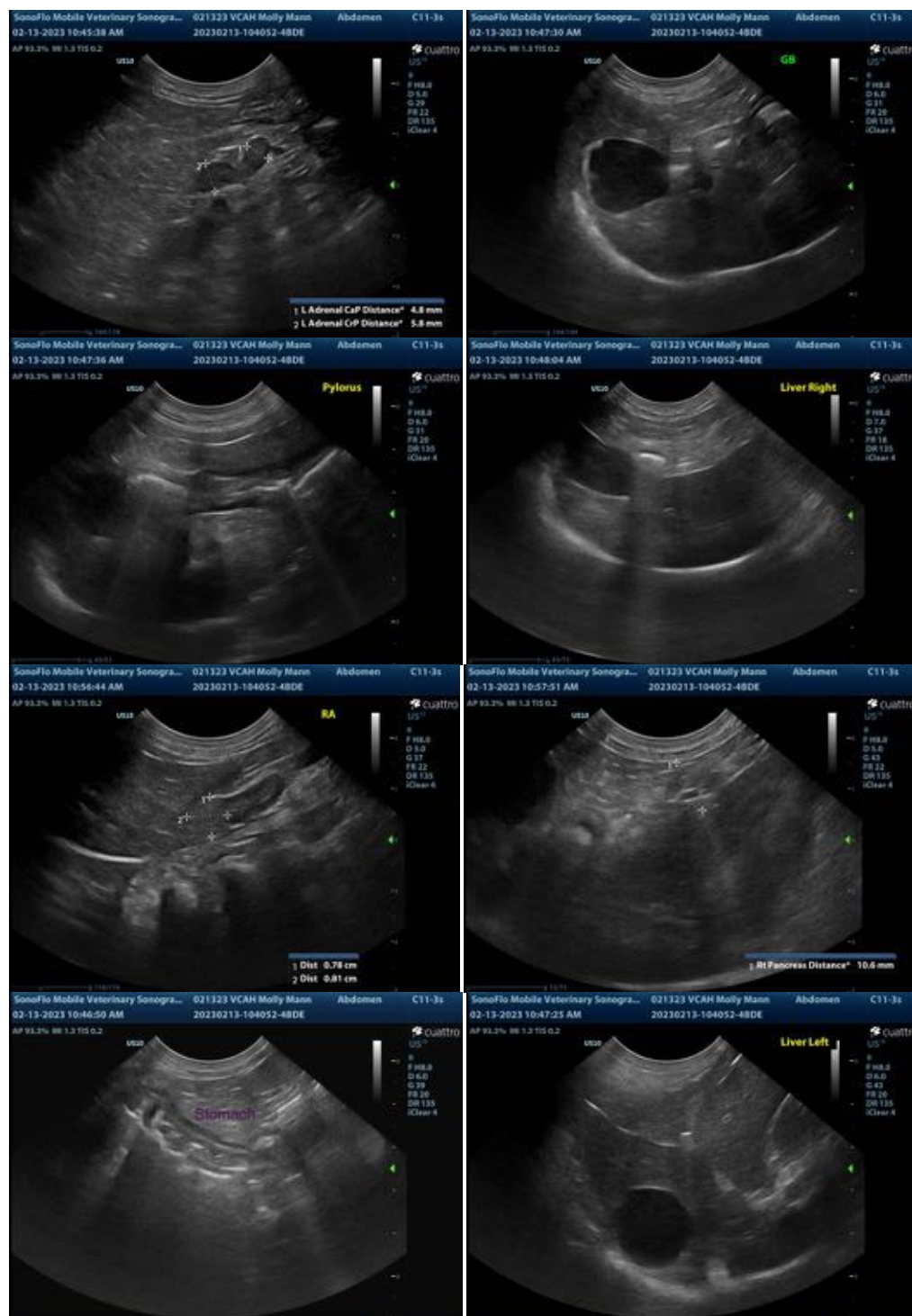
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Molly Mann

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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. 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, MPH, DVM, Diplomate DACVIM (Small Animal Internal Medicine)  
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