



**PATIENT**

Jazzy Giddings

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: Vomiting undigested food.  
Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Abdominal radiographs show suspicion of enlarged spleen, no significant findings on blood work

**SPECIES**

Canine

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**BREED**

Akita

**Urinary System**

The urinary bladder is contracted. The wall is of appropriate thickness for the level of repletion. Luminal contents are anechoic. No cystic calculi are observed. The region of the trigone and the visible portion of the proximal urethra are normal.

**SEX**

Female, spayed

The left kidney is normal size (6.35 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 hydroureter.

**AGE**

4 Yrs.

The right kidney is normal size (7.66 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 hydroureter.

**WEIGHT**

95 lbs.

**Adrenal Glands**

The left adrenal gland is normal size (0.68 cm at cranial pole) (0.60 cm at caudal pole) (2.92 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.

**INTERPRETED BY**

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

The caudal pole of the right adrenal gland is visualized and is normal size (0.57 cm in width); normal shape; glandular echogenicity and detail. The phrenicoabdominal vein and surrounding vasculature are normal.

**Spleen**

The spleen is normal to prominent in size (3.56 cm in width at the level of the hilus) with normal peripheral margins. There is appropriate echogenicity and echotexture. No focal lesions are observed. Splenic vasculature is normal.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Amy Mayhew LVT

**Liver**

The liver is subjectively small in size with normal curvilinear peripheral contours. The parenchyma is hypoechoic relative to the spleen and homogeneous in appearance. No focal lesions are observed. Hepatic vasculature and intrahepatic biliary tracts are of normal volume with no evidence of congestion. Vascular and biliary tracts are of normal volume with no evidence of congestion. No pathological hepatic lymphadenopathy observed. 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**

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

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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.

**Pancreas**

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The region of the pancreas is isoechoic relative to surrounding omental fat. No obvious parenchymal abnormalities are observed. There is no evidence of regional inflammation or effusion.

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Akita

**Free Abdomen**

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

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**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

**AGE**

4 Yrs.

- The splenic parenchyma changes are most consistent with a benign process such as lymphoid hyperplasia, extramedullary hematopoiesis or splenitis with a low possibility of infiltrative neoplasia (i.e., lymphoma, mast cell neoplasia).
- Possible microhepatica. Hepatic size can be difficult to determine sonographically. Radiographs are more useful in this regard.

**WEIGHT**

95 lbs.

\*An obvious cause for the patient's clinical signs is not identified in this study. Considerations include microscopic gastrointestinal disease (i.e., food allergy/intolerance, inflammatory bowel disease, intestinal dysbiosis), mild pancreatitis, underlying metabolic issue, other.

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(*Small Animal Internal  
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**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**IMAGING  
PERFORMED BY**

Amy Mayhew LVT

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- Three-view thoracic radiographs are recommended to assess for occult esophageal disease. Other diagnostic considerations include the following:
  1. Abdominal radiographs to better assess hepatic size.
  2. Baseline labwork including a CBC chemistry panel, urinalysis and T4 +/- pre- and post-prandial serum bile acids (depending on liver values and hepatic size radiographically).
  3. GI panels (sent to Texas A&M).
  4. A fecal evaluation for ova/Giardia.
  5. A resting cortisol level to screen for hypoadrenocorticism. If resting cortisol level is < 2.0 mcg/dL, an ACTH stimulation test is recommended
  6. 6-week hypoallergenic diet trial.
  7. Depending on the above diagnostics, GI biopsies (i.e., endoscopic or surgical) may be necessary to get a definitive diagnosis.
- Also consider a fine needle aspirate of the spleen to help rule out round cell neoplasia.



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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring



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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.

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Andrea.nicastro@sonopath.com

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