



PATIENT PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Maddie Smiles
SPECIES History: P started Vetoryl for suspect Cushing's Disease in Sept 2025, but P had dark tarry stool from the medication. Historic pot-belly appearance. O reports that P choked on food twice this past month and had a collapsing episode. Hx of patella luxation of bilateral hindlimbs (L>R) and bowlegged appearance of forelimbs. P currently on Denamarin

Canine

BREED

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: See attached labs: ALT 373 U/L (10-125) ALKP 425 U/L (23-212) GGT 49 U/L (0-11) CHOL 376 mg/dL (110-320) Post ACTH Cortisol 27.52 ug/dL (concern of hypercortisolism/hyperadrenocorticism) BP readings: 144, 152, 164, 156, 162

Yorkshire Terrier

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

SEX

Urinary System

Spayed Female

The urinary bladder wall is normal in thickness. The mucosal surface is smooth. The bladder is moderately distended. A small amount of suspended echogenic- to mineralized debris is observed within the lumen. No cystic calculi are observed. The region of the trigone and visible portion of the proximal urethra are normal.

AGE

8

The left kidney is normal in size (5.07 cm in length) with a normal shape, smooth peripheral margins, and normal internal architecture. There is mild-to-moderate loss of corticomedullary distinction. The cortex is hyperechoic relative to the spleen. Several hyperechoic shadowing diverticular foci are observed. Trace pyelectasia is present. There is no evidence of infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

WEIGHT

13 lbs

The right kidney is normal in size (5.75 cm in length) with a normal shape, smooth peripheral margins, and normal internal architecture. There is mild loss of corticomedullary distinction. The cortex is hyperechoic relative to the spleen. Several hyperechoic shadowing diverticular foci are observed. Trace pyelectasia is present. There is no evidence of infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

INTERPRETED BY

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

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Jasmine Palacios

Adrenal Glands

The left adrenal gland is mildly enlarged (0.79 cm at cranial pole) (0.73 cm at caudal pole) with swollen peripheral contours. The glandular echogenicity and detail are unremarkable. Capsule, cortex, and medullary definition are normal. The phrenicoabdominal vein and surrounding vasculature are normal.

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The right adrenal gland is enlarged (1.21 cm at cranial pole) (1.08 cm at caudal pole) with swollen peripheral contours. A 2.12 x 1.11 cm hyperechoic- to heterogenous nodule is occupying the majority of the gland. Surrounding vasculature appears normal with no obvious evidence of invasion.

Spleen

The spleen is normal in size (0.66 cm in width at the level of the hilus) with a normal capsular contour. There is appropriate echogenicity and echotexture. No focal lesions are observed. Splenic vasculature is normal.

REFERRING VET

Dr. Dana Tsuchida

Liver

The liver is subjectively enlarged with slightly swollen peripheral contours. The parenchyma is isoechoic 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.

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The gallbladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall is thin and smooth. A moderate amount of mostly gravity-dependent, echogenic debris is observed within the lumen. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal/not seen.

DATE

2-25-26



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Gastrointestinal

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 is normal in thickness with a normal layering pattern. There is evidence of mucosal speckling in some segments. Discreet masses are not identified. The colonic wall is normal. There is no obvious evidence of an obstructive pattern.

Pancreas

The right limb of the pancreas is visible with normal curvilinear peripheral contours. The parenchyma is slightly hyperechoic 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.

Lymph Nodes

The abdominal lymph nodes are normal/not visible.

Free Abdomen

The peritoneal cavity is normal. There is no evidence of inflammation or effusion.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

Primary Findings

- The hepatic changes are nonspecific and could be secondary to inflammatory disease (i.e., cholangiohepatitis, chronic hepatitis), Leptospirosis, hepatotoxicosis, infiltrative neoplasia (i.e., lymphoma), vacuolar hepatopathy, regenerative nodular hyperplasia, other hepatopathy, or some combination thereof.
- Bilateral adrenomegaly. The right adrenal nodule could be consistent with focal nodular hyperplasia, adenoma, emerging adenocarcinoma, pheochromocytoma, other.
- The small intestinal wall changes are suggestive of an inflammatory enteropathy (i.e., enteritis). However, correlation with the patient's clinical history is recommended.

Secondary Findings

- Bilateral nonspecific age-related renal changes with dystrophic mineralization and trace pyelectasia
- The pancreatic changes are most consistent with age-related parenchymal remodeling, potentially secondary to a prior inflammatory episode, early fibrosis or chronic pancreatitis.
- Gallbladder debris, non-mucocele

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider Leptospirosis testing (i.e., blood and urine PCR, serology) particularly if clinical suspicion for disease is high.
- Cytologic evaluation of the liver should be considered in this patient if clotting status is appropriate. A fine needle aspirate using a 25-gauge needle is recommended. If cytologic evaluation is inconclusive, consider a surgical liver biopsy with aerobic and anaerobic bile cultures and acquisition of additional hepatic tissue samples for copper quantitation.



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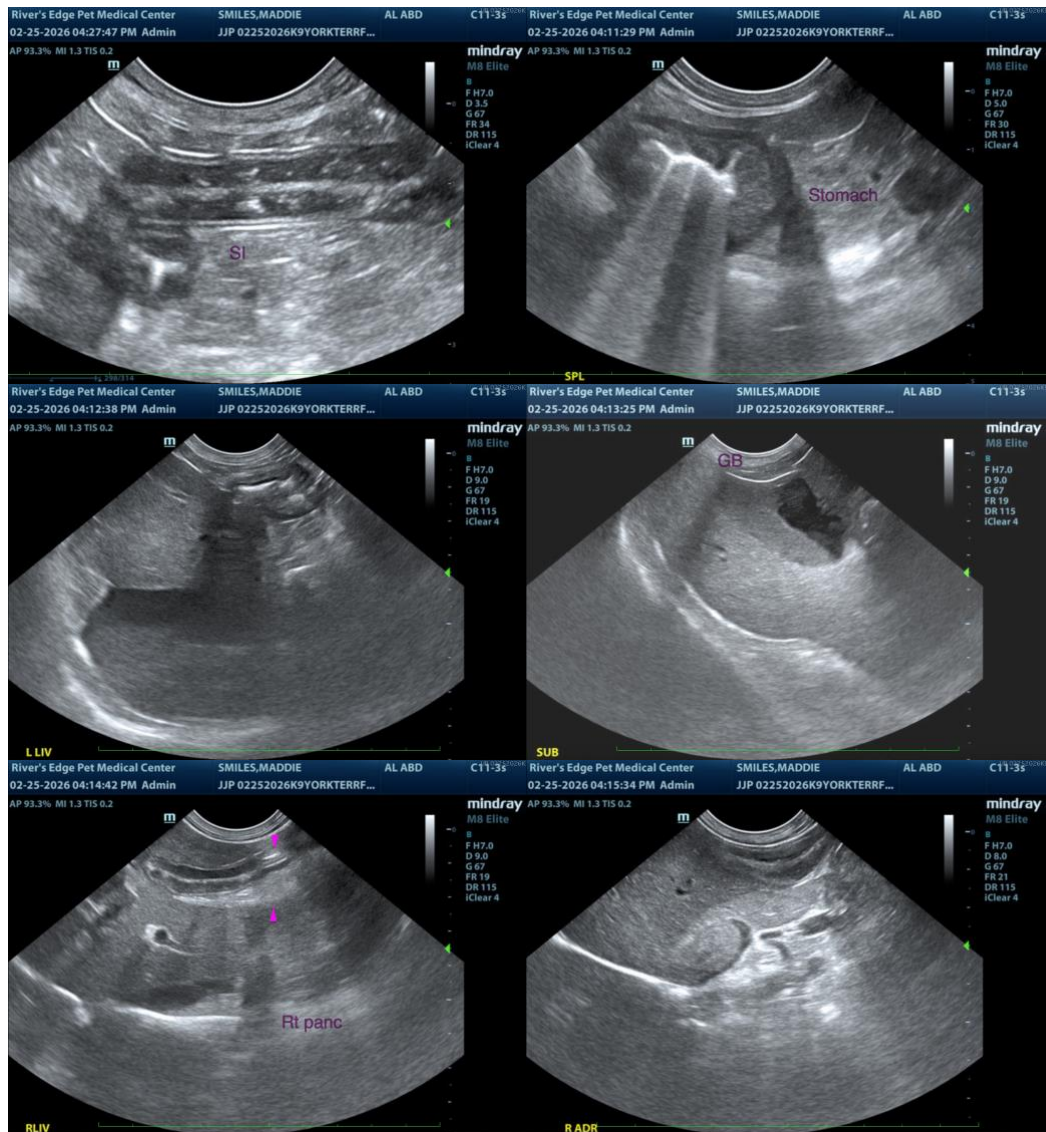
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- If a conservative approach is desired, consider empirical treatment for bacterial cholangiohepatitis, (amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, Denamarin). If no improvement in the liver values is seen within 7-10 days of initiating therapy, antibiotics should be discontinued, and hepatic tissue sampling reconsidered. If liver values improve, continue therapy for at least 4-6 weeks and 1 week beyond normalization of the liver values.



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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.

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