

**DATE PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

2/23/23 Liver enzymes significantly elevated on routine labs: ALT 481, ALP 6241. P nonclinical. Grade 2-3/6 systolic heart murmur

PATIENT

Max Gessner Current Medications: None.
Lab Results: ALT 481, ALP 6241
Date of Previous IntraPet Ultrasound: No previous.
Sedation: Not required to complete full diagnostic ultrasound.
Stat Report: Not requested.
Imaging Performed By: Stephanie Warga RDCS, RVT.

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Pomeranian

SEX

Neutered Male

AGE

4/15/09

WEIGHT

14.4 Pounds

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM
DACVIM

HOSPITAL NAME

Everhart Vet Hospital

REFERRING VET

Dr. DeFavero

INVOICE

45477

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**Urinary System**

The urinary bladder is moderately distended with anechoic contents. No masses, inflammatory changes, echogenic sediment or cystoliths are observed. The urinary bladder, trigone and visible pelvic urethra are normal in thickness with a smooth mucosal surface.

Prostate is normal in size, echotexture and echogenicity for a neutered male.

The right kidney is normal in size (3.74 cm), shape and echogenicity. It has smooth peripheral margination. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with appropriate corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

The left kidney is normal in size (3.77 cm), shape and echogenicity. It has smooth peripheral margination. There is a normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio with appropriate corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

Adrenal Glands

Adrenal glands are plump/swollen in size. Normal shape and contour are maintained without evidence of capsular invasion. Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal. The right adrenal gland measures 1.24 cm long x 0.55 cm at the caudal pole and 0.46 cm at the caudal pole. The left adrenal gland measures 1.68 cm long x 0.40 cm at the cranial pole and 0.44 cm at the caudal pole.

Spleen

Spleen is subjectively normal in size with a normal smooth capsular contour. Parenchyma is appropriately finely textured and homogenous with normal echogenicity relative to surrounding tissue (hyperechoic to liver). Multifocal well-demarcated hyperechoic homogenous nodules are noted. Splenic vasculature appears normal.

Liver

Liver is subjectively enlarged with mildly irregular margins. Parenchyma is heterogenous characterized by multiple poorly defined hypoechoic nodules within otherwise hyperechoic liver parenchyma. Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion.

Gallbladder is moderately distended with anechoic bile as well as moderate suspended and gravity dependent echogenic debris. The wall is smooth without visible thickening. There is no evidence of cystic or CBD dilation. There is no evidence of effusion or inflammation.

Gastrointestinal

The stomach wall is normal in thickness (canine < 0.5 cm and feline < 0.4 cm) and layering. The lumen of the stomach is empty with no evidence of obstruction, foreign material or infiltrative disease. Pyloric outflow tract appears patent.

The visible small intestines are normal in wall thickness and layering (canine duodenum < 0.5 cm and feline duodenum < 0.4 cm; other < 0.3 cm). Small intestinal motility appears adequate (1-3 contractions per min). The lumen of the small intestine is empty with no evidence of obstruction, foreign material or infiltrative disease.

The visible colon is normal in wall thickness (< 0.2 cm) and layering. Contents are consistent with normal formed feces and gas.

Pancreas

The pancreatic parenchyma is appropriately isoechoic to surrounding tissue. Visible capsule is smooth and normal in contour. There is no visible pancreatic duct dilation. There is no evidence of active peripancreatic inflammation.

Free Abdomen

There is no evidence of free peritoneal effusion noted in these images.

There is no apparent lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

- **Bilateral adrenomegaly** – consistent with adrenal hyperplasia secondary to pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism vs stress or normal variant. Interpret in combination with clinical signs of hyperadrenocorticism.
- **Heterogenous Liver** – These changes are most consistent with benign processes such as nodular hyperplasia, steroid (vacuolar) hepatopathy, extramedullary hematopoiesis or possibly chronic inflammatory disease and less commonly infiltrative round cell or metastatic neoplasia.
- **Moderate gallbladder debris** - Cholecystic debris is of unknown clinical significance. It can be seen with biliary stasis from fasting or illness. Cholecystic debris is not necessarily related to hepatobiliary disease. Echogenic bile is most commonly an incidental finding in dogs and should be interpreted in combination with clinical signs such as nausea, inappetence, cranial abdominal discomfort and/or laboratory changes such as increased ALP and/or increased Tbili.

SECONDARY FINDINGS

- **Hyperechoic splenic nodules** – most consistent with benign myelolipomas. Other differentials such as fibrosis or calcification caused by old hematomas or infarcts, chronic inflammation, granulomatous disease or metastatic disease cannot be ruled out, but are considered less likely.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

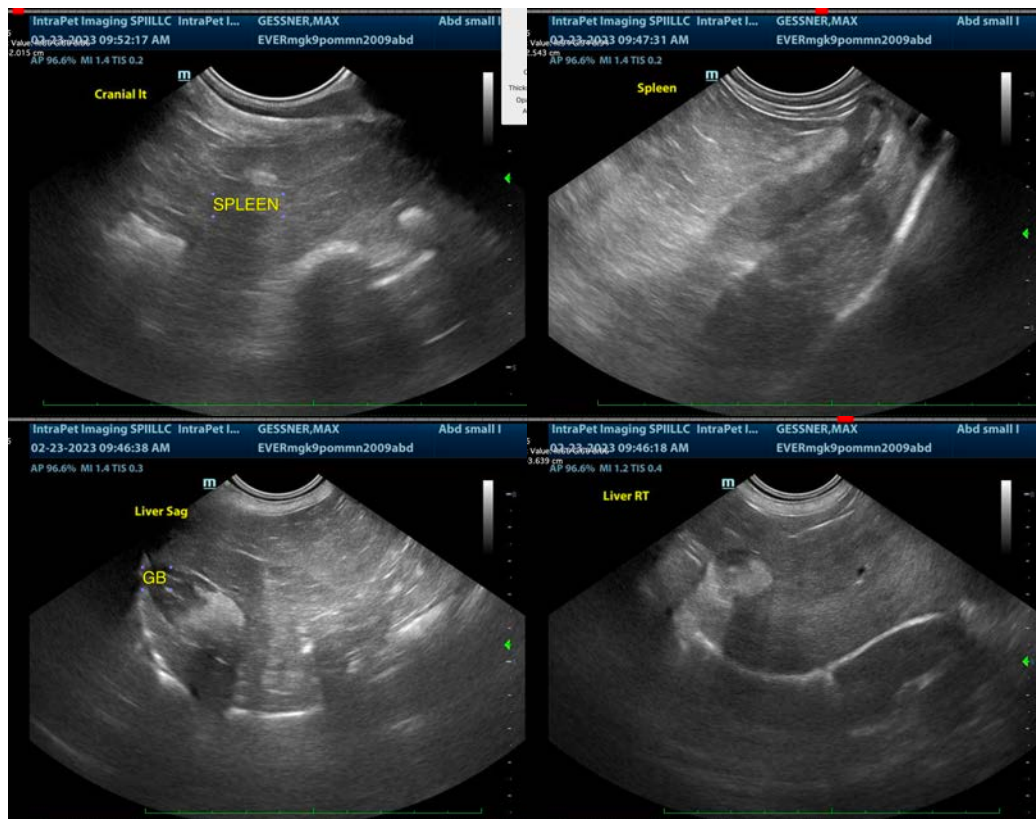
The described adrenal gland, liver, and gallbladder changes can all occur with or be suggestive of hyperadrenocorticism. If clinical signs of hyperadrenocorticism such as polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia, etc. are present, testing with a low-dose Dexamethasone suppression test is indicated, as hyperadrenocorticism could also be the primary cause of the reported increased liver enzymes. However, testing is not indicated without supporting clinical signs.

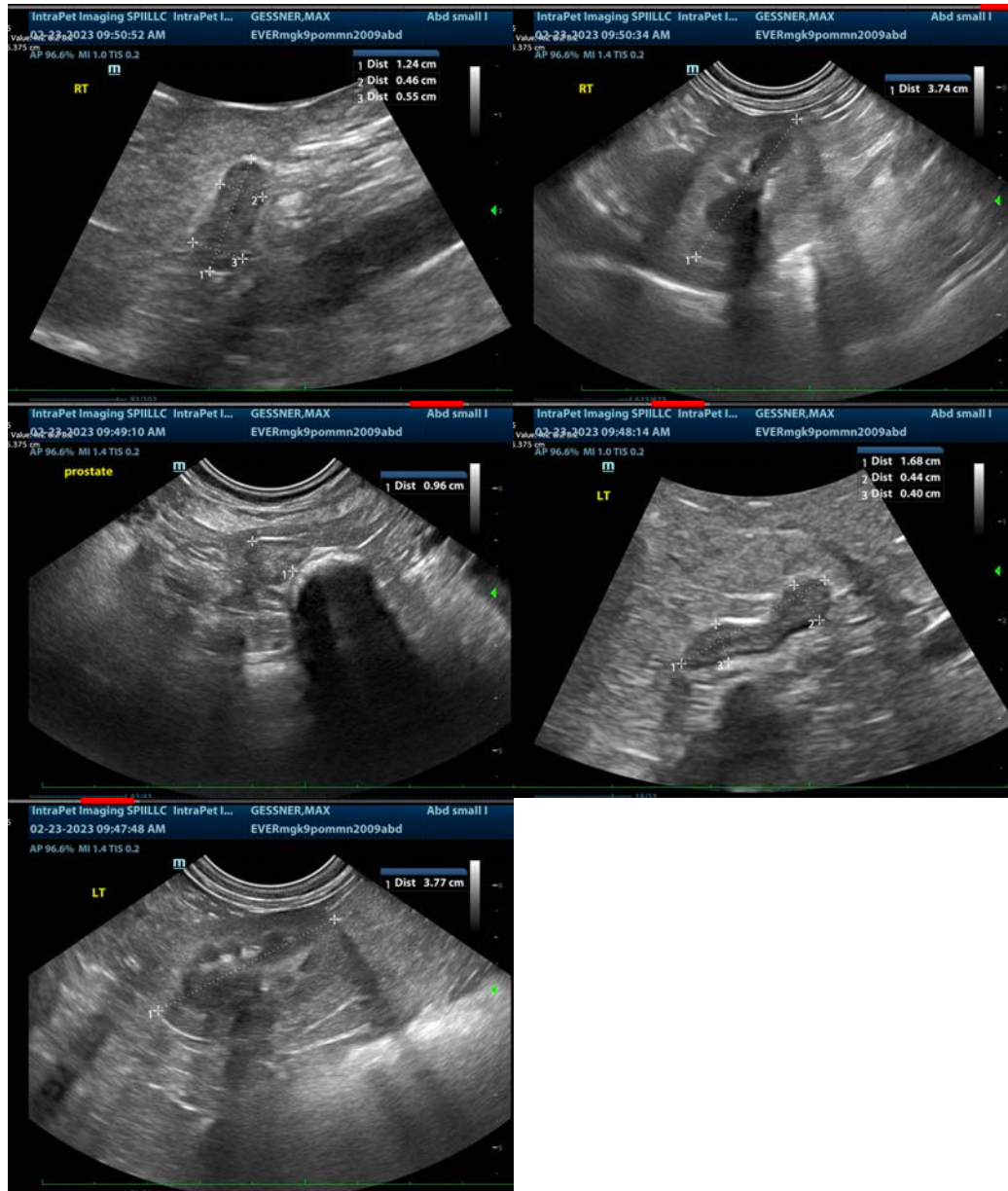
Therefore, without clinical signs, testing should only be pursued only when and if they develop, except for, if not recently evaluated, a urinalysis and, if indicated based on urinalysis results, urine culture are recommended. If protein is present in an otherwise quiet sediment, protein quantification with a urine protein to creatinine ration is recommended.

Blood pressure is also recommended.

Additionally, further evaluation of other causes for the increased liver enzymes could be considered, beginning with testing for Leptospirosis if not already evaluated, as well as a fine needle aspirate of the liver if patient's coagulation status is appropriate.

In the meantime, empirical management with hepatic nutraceuticals including Ursodiol +/- broad-spectrum antibiotics could be considered with monitoring of enzymes for improvement. Recheck enzymes are recommended in 2-3 weeks, and if they are improving, antibiotics should be continued until they have plateaued or normalized. Without improvement, antibiotics should not be continued long-term.





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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