



PATIENT

Moxie Connolly

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Mini Schnauzer

SEX

FS

AGE

10 years

WEIGHT

15 lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Beth Johnson, DVM
DACVIM

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Julia Bakker

HOSPITAL NAME

Orange Blossom
Veterinary Imaging

REFERRING VET

Dr. Stephen Romero

INVOICE

11632

DATE

4/7/2026

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Patient has a history of diabetes and seizures (managed with phenobarbital). Recent extreme lethargy, inappetence, nausea. Labwork showed hypoalbuminemia and significant liver enzyme elevations

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Glu 162 BUN 32 Alb 2.1 ALT 471 ALP >2000 Chol 373
Pancreatic lipase/amylase/lipase all wnl.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

The urinary bladder is adequately 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.

Kidneys are overall normal in size and shape with smooth peripheral margination. A normal 1:3 cortex to medulla ratio is maintained. The medulla and cortices are uniform in texture with some mild increased cortical echogenicity and mild loss of corticomedullary distinction, expected in this age patient. There is no evidence of pyelectasia or infarcts observed. Non-obstructive linear multifocal hyperechoic diverticular foci with acoustic shadowing are noted bilaterally. Left kidney measures 5.26 cm, and the right kidney measures 5.96 cm.

Adrenal Glands

The right adrenal gland is normal in size (0.61 cm at cranial pole and 0.47 cm at caudal pole), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (0.55 cm at cranial pole and 0.73 cm at caudal pole), shape and overall architecture, echogenicity and echotexture. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

Spleen

The 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). No focal nodules or masses are observed. Splenic vasculature appears normal.

Liver

Liver is subjectively enlarged with mildly irregular margins. Parenchyma is mildly 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 mildly overdistended with a moderate amount of non-dependent, mildly aggregated/inspissated sludge. Hypo to anechoic cystic areas are noted between the gallbladder sludge and luminal wall. The wall is otherwise smooth without visible thickening. There is no evidence of cystic or CBD dilation. There is no evidence of effusion.

Gastrointestinal



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The visible stomach wall is normal in thickness and layering. The lumen of the stomach is mildly distended with echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent with normal ingesta. There is no evidence of obstruction or foreign material noted. Pyloric outflow tract appears patent.

Small intestine is diffusely mildly thick with a relatively thick mucosa compared to other layers. Normal wall layering is preserved; however, the mucosa is more echogenic than normal and contains hyperechoic striations perpendicular to the lumen. The lumen of the small intestine is mildly distended with echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent with normal ingesta. There is no evidence of obstruction or foreign material noted.

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

Pancreas

The observed pancreas is prominent (enlarged) in size, hypoechoic to surrounding tissue and irregular in shape with a swollen undulating contour. Enhanced hyperechoic ill-defined surrounding fat is noted.

Free Abdomen

There is a mild to moderate amount of free fluid noted in these images, primarily in the cranial abdomen, as well as markedly enhanced, edematous, almost clumped or nodular appearing fat and mesentery surrounding the pancreas in the cranial abdomen.

There is no apparent pathologic lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

- Lymphangiectasia – Small bowel findings are most consistent with lacteal dilation. These findings can be observed with protein-losing enteropathies caused by either primary lymphangiectasia or primary infiltrative inflammatory disease with secondary lymphangiectasia. Infiltrative neoplasia is possible but considered less likely. Histopathology is necessary to definitively determine underlying cause.
- The free fluid and clumped fat and mesentery are likely in part secondary to patients reported hypoalbuminemia and the suspected bowel disease. Although concurrent significant acute pancreatitis is suspected.
- Emerging mucocele – 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. The non-dependent nature of this sludge combined with the cystic areas are suggestive, however, of possible emerging cystic mucosal hyperplasia or early gallbladder mucocele.
- Mildly 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.

SECONDARY FINDINGS



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- Mild to moderate age-related kidney changes with non-obstructive dystrophic mineralization bilaterally.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

It's difficult to determine whether patient's clinical signs and laboratory changes are primarily gastrointestinal disease/suspect lymphangiectasia, and/or primarily acute pancreatitis or a combination of both. Further diagnostic recommendations are largely dependent on working up the hypoalbuminemia and assessing the gastrointestinal tract.

Therefore, urinalysis and, if indicated based on urinalysis results, urine culture is recommended. If protein is present in an otherwise quiet sediment, protein quantification with a urine protein to creatinine ration is recommended.

A gastrointestinal malabsorption panel (including cobalamin, folate, TLI and PLI) to Texas A&M GI Laboratory is recommended for further evaluation of GI and pancreatic function.

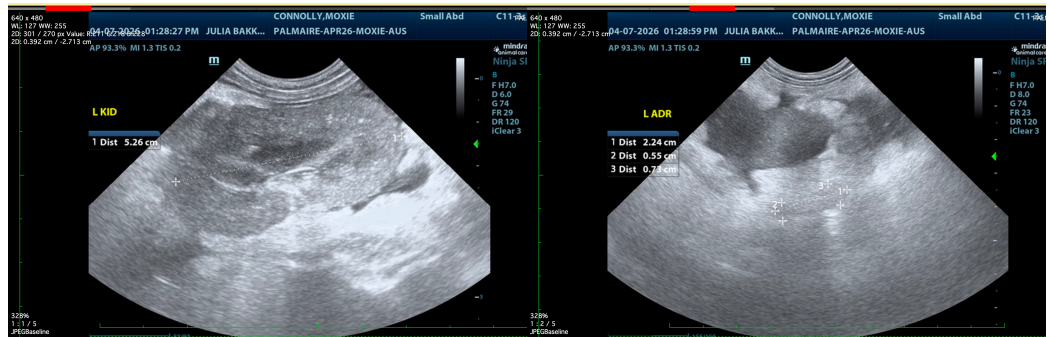
A baseline cortisol is recommended. If baseline cortisol is less than 2, a full ACTH stimulation test is recommended to rule out hypoadrenocorticism.

Ultimately, however, pending diagnostic results, more aggressive intervention, up to and including possible biopsies of the GI tract as well as potentially further assessment of the emerging gallbladder mucocele in the form of an exploratory laparotomy, maybe indicated.

In the meantime, if biopsies cannot be obtained safely due to low albumin or patient stability, etc., empirical therapies could include diet change to an ultra-low-fat diet, empirical deworming with a 5-day course of Panacur, cobalamin supplementation (unless cobalamin level is evaluated and supplementation is not warranted) a probiotic and prednisolone (if not contraindicated based on patient contraindications, co-morbidities, etc.).

Calcium monitoring, and supplementation, if necessary, is also recommended.

Additionally, if patient's coagulation status is otherwise appropriate, anti-thrombotics such as clopidogrel or low dose aspirin may also be warranted.





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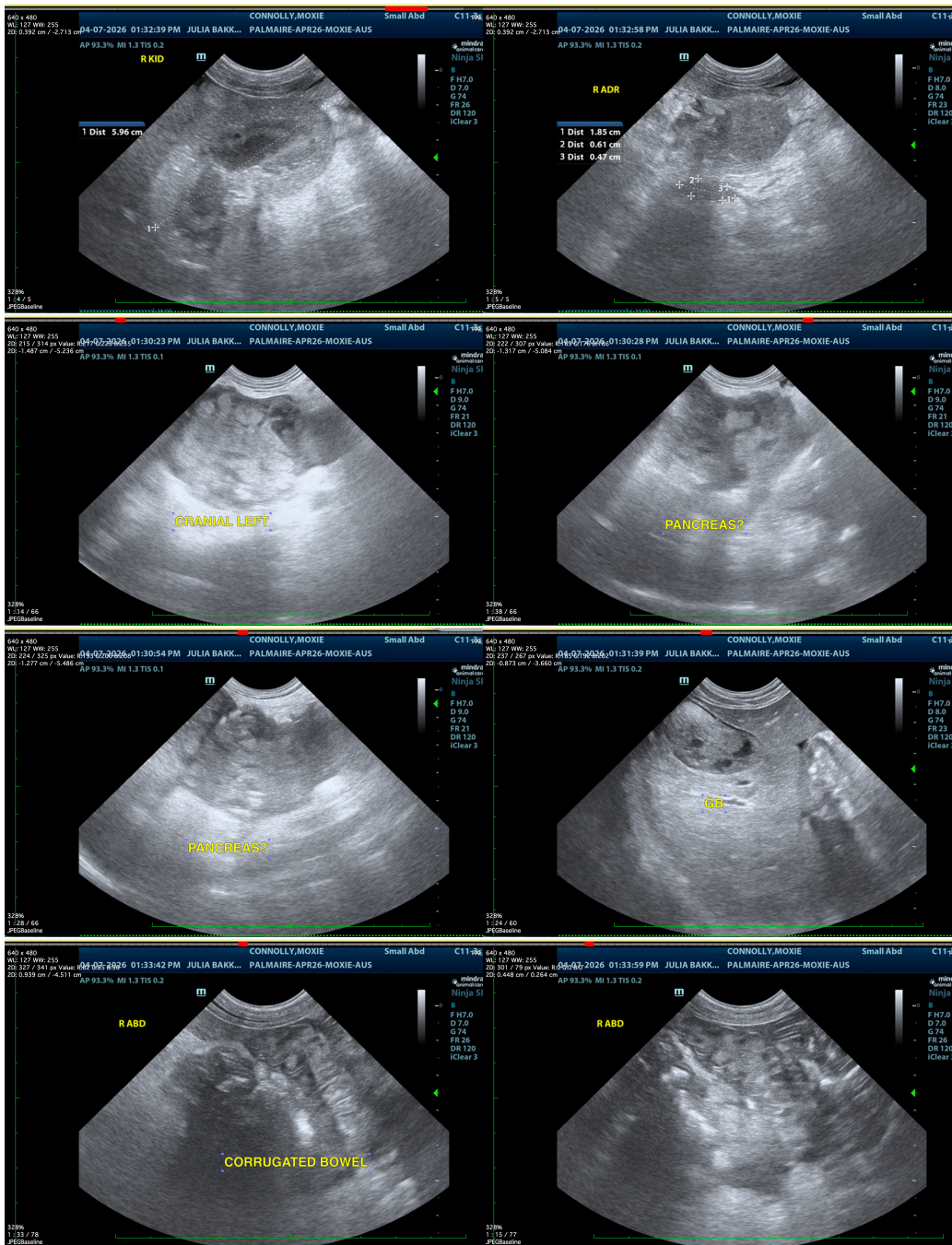
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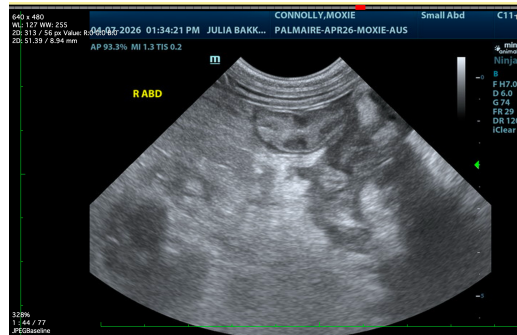
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

Beth Johnson, DVM, DACVIM
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