



**PATIENT**

Hendrix Almeida

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

Great Dane

**SEX**

Neutered Male

**AGE**

6 Years

**WEIGHT**

163 lbs

**INTERPRETED BY**

Beth Johnson, DVM  
DACVIM

**IMAGING  
PERFORMED BY**

Pamela Harrigan,  
RDCS, Certified Vet  
Sonographer

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Chase Veterinary  
Clinic

**REFERRING VET**

Hallie Lipinski, DVM

**INVOICE**

75480

**DATE**

5/27/26

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History of suspected IBD/chronic soft stools. Has been treated with budesonide and tylenol powder for past 2 years and symptoms mainly controlled. Has become PU/PD and has had several UTIs. ALT 253, AST 58, ALP 3148, GGT 106, T4 0.7. E. Coli on urine culture. \*Sedated with torb/dexdomitor for study

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**Urinary System**

Urinary bladder is adequately distended. It has a normal uniform wall thickness. Contents include primarily anechoic fluid with a very large amount of echogenic non-shadowing debris, most consistent with exfoliated cells, mucous and/or small blood clots. Both sterile inflammation as well as urinary tract infection can present with echogenic debris. No masses or cystoliths are observed. The 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 (10.0 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 (10.3 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 small (flattened contour). Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal. The caudal pole of the right adrenal gland measures 0.33 cm. The cranial pole is difficult to fully visualize. The left adrenal gland measures 0.36 cm at the cranial pole and 0.34 cm at the caudal pole.

**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 moderately 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 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 visible stomach wall is normal in thickness and layering. The lumen of the stomach is mildly distended with a small to moderate amount of echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas



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consistent with normal ingesta. There is no evidence of obstruction, foreign material or infiltrative disease. Pyloric outflow tract appears patent.

The visible small intestine demonstrates areas of mildly thick muscularis layer relative to mucosa (disruption of the normal 1:3 muscularis:mucosa ratio). Small intestinal submucosa is slightly irregular, thick and hyperechoic, without evident loss of layering appreciated. The lumen is mildly distended with echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent with normal ingesta/chyme. There is 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 pancreas that is observed appears appropriately isoechoic to surrounding omental fat. Visible capsule is smooth and normal in contour. Visible pancreatic parenchyma is homogenous and unremarkable. There is no visible pancreatic duct dilation. There is no evidence of active peripancreatic inflammation.

***Free Abdomen***

There is no visible free peritoneal effusion noted in these images.

There is no apparent pathologic lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

- Mild inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) pattern – Thick muscularis has been reported with infiltrative bowel disease including both benign inflammatory disease as well as infiltrative neoplasia such as lymphoma. No loss of layering or distinct characteristics of malignancy are present. Therefore, differentials cannot be further ranked without tissue sampling.
- Moderately 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.
- Mild 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.
- The flat adrenal glands are consistent with patient's reported steroid therapy.
- Large amount of echogenic urinary bladder debris.

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Further evaluation/workup of potential contributing factors to patient's ongoing diarrhea is recommended to help determine whether alternative therapies such as diet, deworming, cobalamin, etc. could be considered to help reduce steroid use, which may be contributing to undesirable side effects. A



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routine fecal/giardia exam is recommended if not recently evaluated.

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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.

**BREED**

Great Dane

A fecal enteropathogen PCR panel to Texas A&M GI Laboratory could be considered for further evaluation of possible infectious disease. Contact lab for recommendations on how long to discontinue antibiotics (if indicated) prior to obtaining a stool sample for submission.

**SEX**

Neutered Male

In the meantime, supportive/symptomatic medical management of clinical signs is recommended, including a probiotic (such as visbiome or proviable), empirical deworming with a 5-day course of Panacur and, if tolerated, a transition in diet, based on trial-and-error response, beginning possibly with a gastrointestinal biome diet vs a hydrolyzed protein diet vs other. Some patients respond to one brand/version of a hydrolyzed protein diet better than another brand, so several brand attempts may be required.

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Additionally, fecal microbe transplant therapy could be considered.

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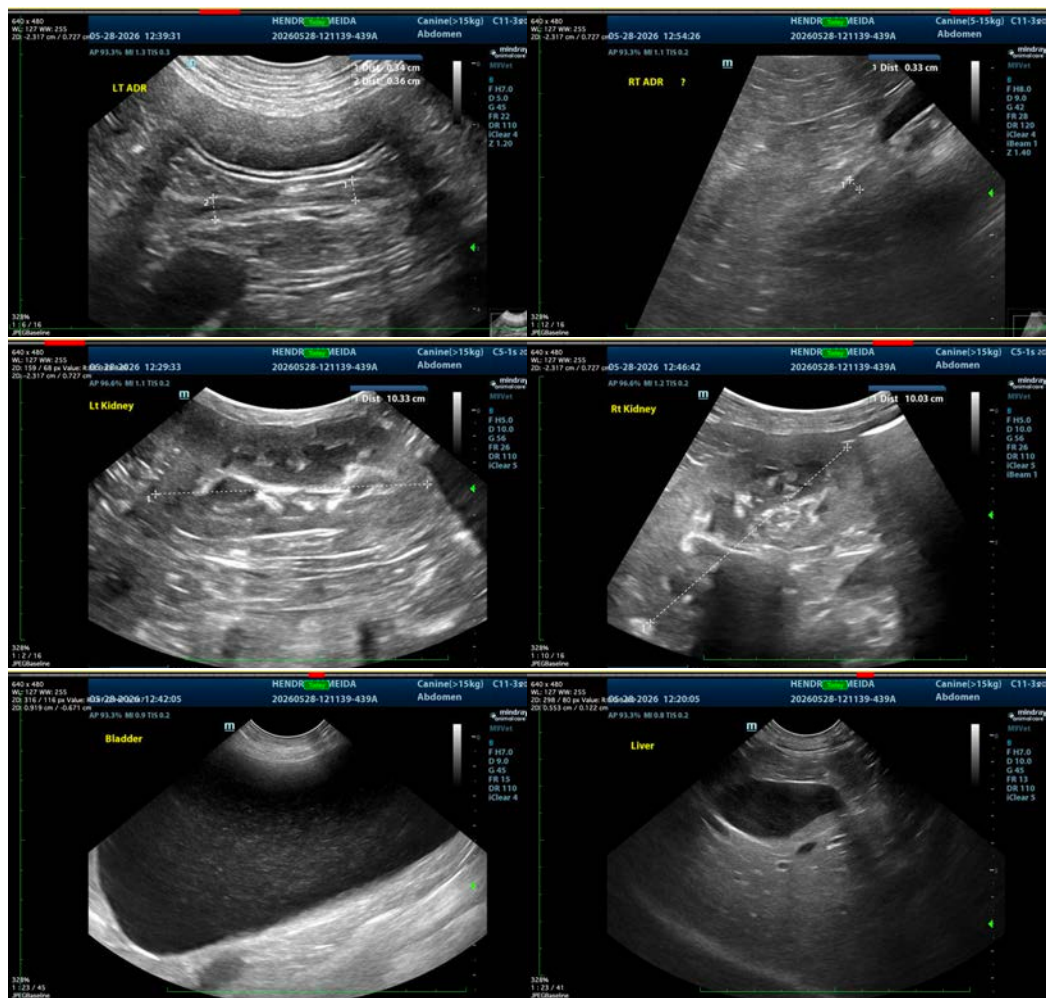
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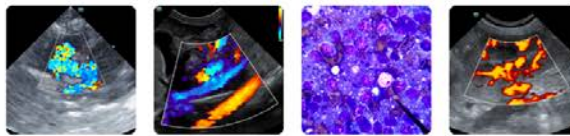
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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**  
info@sonopath.com