



**PATIENT**

Georgia Mulvaney

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

Canine under therapy for DJD. Hx of Lyme disease  
Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: DJD Elbows, shoulders, Alkp 745 U/L CBC WNL UPC 0.3

**SPECIES**

Canine

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**Urinary System**

Urinary bladder is moderately distended. It has a normal uniform wall thickness (<0.2 cm). Contents include primarily anechoic fluid combined with both gravity dependent and suspended echogenic non-shadowing debris within the fluid. A 0.7 x 0.8 cm irregular echogenic non-shadowing density is noted along the dorsal wall. The trigone and visible pelvic urethra are normal in thickness with a smooth mucosal surface.

**BREED**

Lab Retriever

**SEX**

Spayed Female

The right kidney is normal in size (8.58 cm) 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 echogenicity and mild loss of corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

**AGE**

11 Years

The left kidney is normal in size (7.7 cm) 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 echogenicity and mild loss of corticomedullary distinction. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, mineral or infarcts observed.

**WEIGHT**

93 Pounds

**Adrenal Glands**

The right adrenal gland is normal in size (2.74 cm long x 0.72 cm at the cranial pole and 0.71 cm at the caudal pole), shape and contour. Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

**INTERPRETED BY**

Beth Johnson, DVM  
DACVIM

The left adrenal gland is normal in size (2.89 cm long x 0.87 cm at the cranial pole and 0.85 cm at the caudal pole), shape and contour. Corticomedullary structure is unremarkable. Visible surrounding vasculature appears normal.

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Dr. John Ammeraal

**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.

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Sova Animal Hospital

**Liver**

Liver is subjectively enlarged. Margins are smooth but round. It has a normal homogenous echotexture. Parenchyma is diffusely hyperechoic characterized by less prominent than normal portal vein walls and increased echogenicity relative to the spleen. No focal lesions are observed. Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion.

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Dr. John Ammeraal

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The gallbladder is non-distended in size. The wall is smooth without visible thickening. Luminal contents are primarily anechoic. There is no evidence of cystic or common bile duct dilation.

**Gastrointestinal**

**DATE**

6/20/22

The stomach wall is normal in thickness (canine < 0.5 cm and feline < 0.4 cm) and layering. The lumen of the stomach is mildly distended with echogenic non-shadowing luminal contents and gas consistent



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

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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.

**BREED**

Lab Retriever

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

**Pancreas**

**SEX**

Spayed Female

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**

**AGE**

11 Years

There is no evidence of peritoneal effusion. There is no apparent lymphadenopathy.

**PRIMARY FINDINGS**

- Hyperechoic hepatomegaly – most consistent with benign steroid (endocrine or vacuolar) hepatopathy or reactive or idiopathic hepatopathy. Infiltrative neoplasia such as round cell neoplasia is also possible, but considered less likely.
- Urinary bladder sediment – Urine changes are most consistent with cellular debris or crystalluria. The density that appears adhered to the dorsal wall could be organized mucus, a blood clot, emerging inflammatory polyp or less likely early emerging infiltrative neoplasia.

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**SECONDARY FINDINGS**

- Age related kidney change – This finding is expected/consistent with age-related mild degenerative disease and should be interpreted clinically in combination with laboratory changes.

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**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Recommendations include:

- 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. Pending results, other considerations could include submission of urine to look for BRAF gene mutation, which is associated with urinary bladder cancer, however, cancer is considered unlikely. Therefore a more conservative approach would be to re-image the area in 2-3 weeks with power doppler to help determine tissue vs debris (being aware that twinkle artifact can make debris look like it has flow).

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- **ALP** – Differentials are vast and non-specific. Differentials include, but are not limited to, benign nodular hyperplasia which occurs in 70% of older dogs and often does not result in an abnormal ultrasound, reactive or idiopathic/vacuolar hepatopathy, cholestasis and/or hyperadrenocorticism as well as many chronic non-hepatobiliary diseases such as chronic infections/inflammation from dental disease, IBD, neoplasia, hyperlipidemia, hypothyroidism, chronic pancreatitis, chronic stress, etc.



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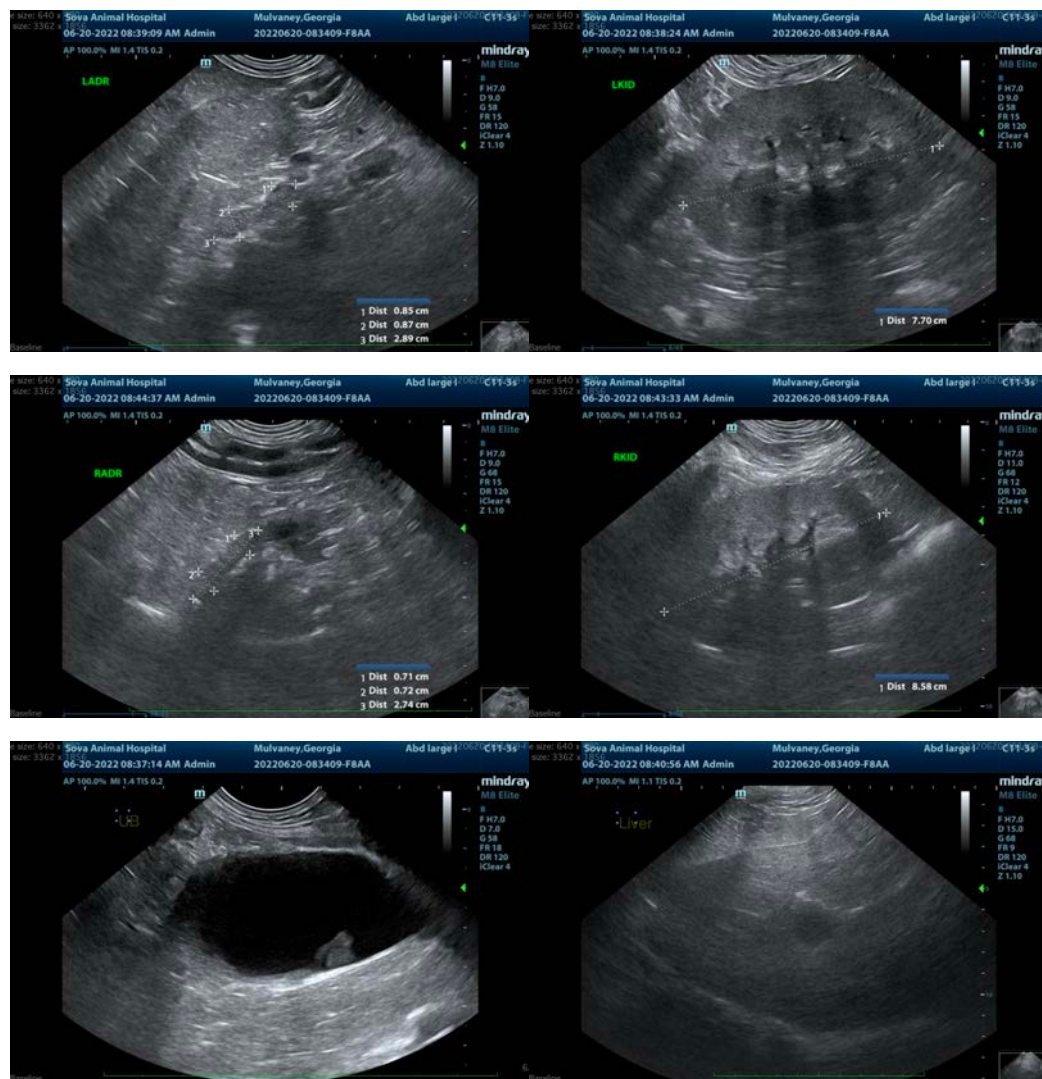
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There is no ultrasonographic evidence of cholestasis. Adrenocortical testing such as a low dose dexamethasone suppression test could be considered if clinical signs of hyperadrenocorticism are present. Ursodiol could be considered if gallbladder sludge is noted. A fine needle aspirate of the liver could be considered if patient's coagulation status is appropriate. Otherwise, recommendations include addressing any other concurrent disease and monitoring. If values are progressive, recheck imaging is recommended.

- Specifically in this patient, given the lack of biliary changes, the lack of reported clinical signs for hyperadrenocorticism, the top differential is benign nodular hyperplasia or other benign cause of the increased ALP. There is no evidence of infiltrative neoplasia, and monitoring is recommended at this time.





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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.

**SPECIES**

Canine

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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