

**PATIENT PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

**Judge Kiley**  
Recent but consistent ataxic episodes especially after stimulation (eg: startled by a squirrel). Anisocoria noted on exam Otherwise fairly unremarkable exam. Current Medications 12.5mg carprofen q24h  
**SPECIES**  
Primary Question/Differential to Be Answered in This Exam Any reason for intermittent ataxia? I really want to rule-out adrenal gland disease (HAC, pheochromocytoma) and interrogate the liver

Canine

**BREED**

Maltese

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Thrombocytopenia (historical) - PLT @ 696; otherwise unremarkable hemogram ALP increasing (currently 828; was 339 1/25/23) otherwise unremarkable chem panel Urine cortisol:creatinine is elevated @ 98

**SEX**

Neutered Male

**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.

**AGE**

16 Years

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

**WEIGHT**

17.5 Pounds

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, mineral or infarcts observed. The right kidney measures 4.53 cm. The left kidney measures 4.7 cm.

**INTERPRETED BY**

Beth Johnson, DVM  
DACVIM

**Adrenal Glands**

Adrenal glands are mildly 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 left adrenal gland measures 0.64 cm at the cranial pole and 0.68 cm at the caudal pole. The right adrenal gland measures 1.4 cm at the cranial pole and 0.66 cm at the caudal pole.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Jenna Walsh, CVT

**Spleen**

**HOSPITAL NAME**

BetterVet Eugene

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.

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Rensema

**Liver**

Liver is subjectively enlarged with mildly irregular margins. Parenchyma is mottled by multifocal discrete hypoechoic nodules of varying sizes "moth-eaten". Visible vasculature and biliary tree appear normal without distension or congestion.

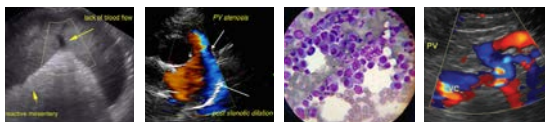
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**DATE**

8/23/23

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.



**PATIENT** *Gastrointestinal*

Judge Kiley 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.

**SPECIES**

Canine 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**

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

**SEX**

Neutered Male

**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.

**AGE**

16 Years

**Free Abdomen**

**WEIGHT**

17.5 Pounds

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

There is no apparent lymphadenopathy noted in these images.

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DACVIM

**PRIMARY FINDINGS**

- The nodular liver could represent a benign process such as nodular hyperplasia, steroid or vacuolar hepatopathy, extramedullary hematopoiesis, etc. However, given the marked degree of nodular change, infiltrative round cell or even metastatic neoplasia must also be considered and should be further investigated to rule out.
- **Bilateral adrenomegaly** – consistent with adrenal hyperplasia secondary to pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism vs stress or normal variant. Interpret in combination with clinical signs of hyperadrenocorticism.
- **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.

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**SECONDARY FINDINGS**

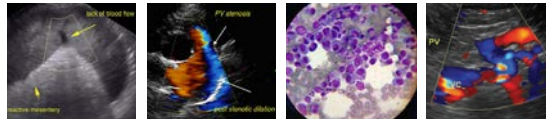
- Age related kidney changes
- **Hyperechoic splenic nodules** – most consistent with benign myelolipomas. Other differentials such as fibrosis or calcification caused by old hematomas or infarcts, chronic inflammation, granulomatous disease or metastatic disease cannot be ruled out, but are considered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

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**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

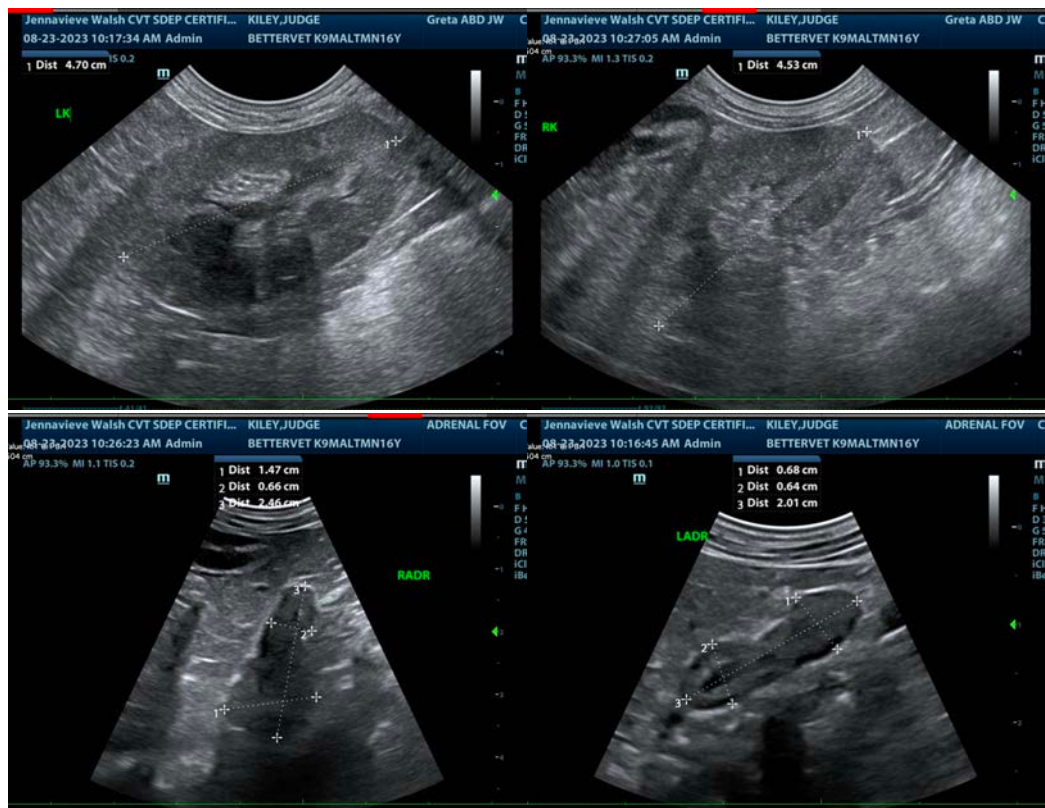
Three view thoracic radiographs are recommended for further assessment of cardio-pulmonary status as well as to further evaluate for any evidence of metastatic disease, if not recently evaluated.

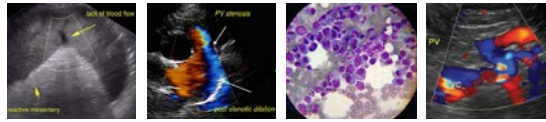
A fine needle aspirate of the liver is recommended if patient's coagulation status is appropriate.

Given this patient's reported neurologic signs, looking for evidence of underlying predisposing condition to stroke-like activity is recommended, including:

- 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.
- A blood pressure if not recently evaluated.

Finally, pending results of above, this patient's laboratory changes as well as some of the ultrasound pathology described above could all be suggestive of pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism. If other disease is ruled out and clinical signs support hyperadrenocorticism, further testing could be considered, beginning with a low-dose Dexamethasone suppression test. Testing is not recommended, however, without supporting clinical signs and/or in the face of concurrent, more severe illness.





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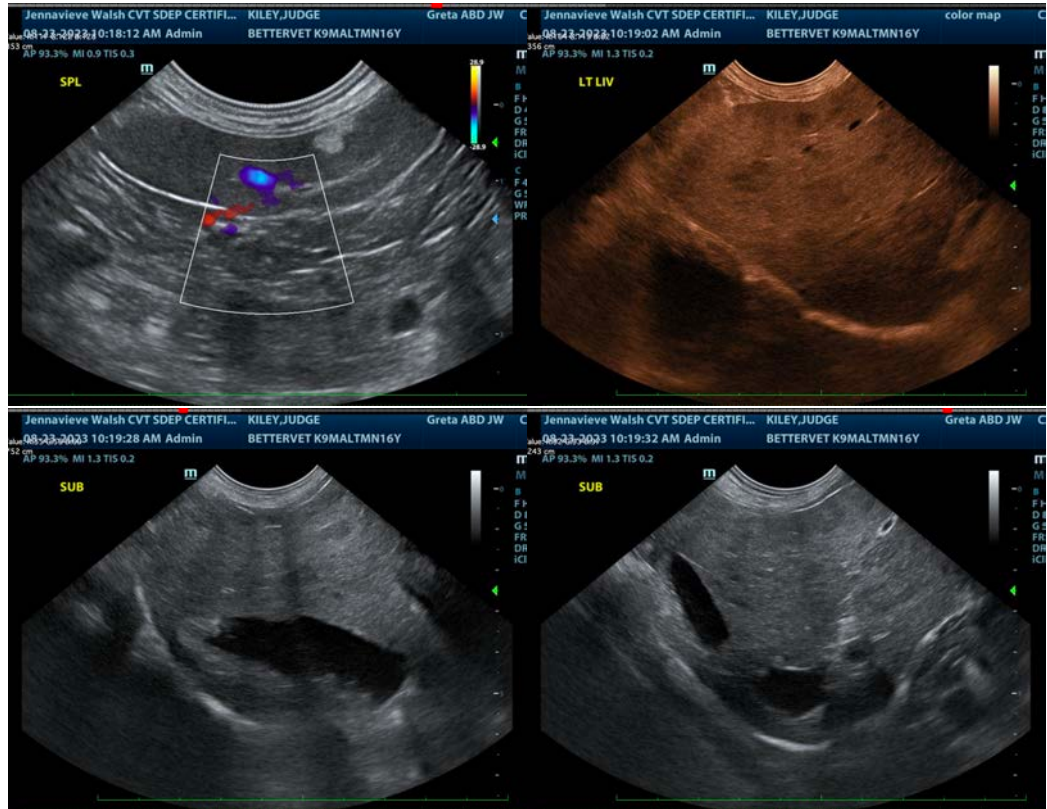
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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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