

PATIENT

Cha Cha Shannon

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Dachshund

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

10 Years

WEIGHT

~20 lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Eric Lindquist, DMV,
DABVP (CFM), Cert.
IVUSS

**IMAGING
PERFORMED BY**

Greg Shaffer

HOSPITAL NAME

Meadowlawn (Myrtle
Beach)

REFERRING VET

Dr. Gale

INVOICE

72209

DATE

1/14/26

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Belly has gotten bloated in the last month. pendulous abdomen, soft and benign, palpable prominent liver. Elevated liver enzymes. Hypertension. DDX: cushings, hepatitis, cholestasis

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: non regenerative Anemia -Neutrophilia -Monocytosis - Hyperkalemia -elevated ALP and ALT -Hyperphosphatemia -aFast - No free fluid noted, GB appears hypo echoic and small, bladder thickened and small

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

The **urinary bladder**, trigone, and pelvic urethra presented normal thicknesses and normal tone. The ureters were not visible which is normal. No uroliths or sediment were visualized and anechoic urine was present. No evidence of inflammatory or neoplastic changes were noted. Ureteral papillae were normal. The pelvic urethra was imaged 2.0 cm beyond the cystourethral junction.

The **kidneys** revealed largely normal size and structure, corticomedullary definition and ratio (cortex 1/3 of medulla) were essentially maintained with some age-related loss of curvilinear patterns regarding the capsule and C/M junction. The cortices presented largely uniform texture with some increased echogenicity expected for his age patient. Medullary structure differed distinctly from that of the cortex. Right kidney measured 6.34 cm. Left kidney measured 5.46 cm with slight pyelectasia noted.

Adrenal Glands

The **right adrenal gland** was mildly enlarged, hypoechoic and slightly irregular, measuring 2.02 cm x 0.95 cm at the cranial pole and 0.89 cm at the caudal pole. An overt nodule was noted measuring 1.7 cm.

The **left adrenal gland** was also enlarged, nodular and irregular, measuring 2.1 cm x 0.77 cm at the cranial pole and 0.76 cm at the caudal pole. Phrenic vein occupation appeared to be present.

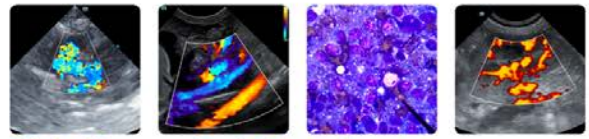
The vena cava was patent. No evidence of vascular invasion from either adrenal gland.

Spleen

The **spleen** presented a smooth homogeneous parenchyma hyperechoic to liver and renal cortical parenchyma. The capsule was smooth without noticeable expansion or deviation from within the spleen or adjacent pathology. The splenic vasculature demonstrated normal volume without signs of congestion or thrombosis. No sonographic evidence of acute or chronic inflammatory, neoplastic, or infarctual changes were noted.

Liver

The **liver** was uniformly swollen with minor, excessive gallbladder debris and over distension with dependent and suspended bile without evidence of overt mucocele formation. However, excessive sludge was present, and minor striating bile. Minor polypoid changes also noted. The liver presented coarse architecture with mildly increased portal markings and subtle, mixed echogenic changes. This is consistent with vacuolar hepatopathy and some level of remodeling and history of inflammatory component. There was no overt suspicion of neoplasia.



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Gastrointestinal

A minor amount of non-shadowing, non-obstructive ingesta was noted in the **stomach**. The pylorus was clearly visualized despite the luminal material. Transit of chyme into the small intestine was normal. Curvilinear patterns were maintained throughout the GI tract. No evidence of pathology. Small and large intestine demonstrated normal luminal chyme and stool consistency respectively. No obstructive or overt infiltrative disease was noted. No associated abnormal lymphatic activity was noted.

Pancreas

The base and limbs of the **pancreas** were observed to be largely isoechoic to surrounding omental fat. Pancreatic duct and capsular contour were acceptably normal and parenchyma respected normal curvilinear patterns. No overt evidence of active inflammatory or neoplastic disease was noted.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Enlarged, nodular adrenal glands – hyperplasia versus unilateral or even bilateral carcinoma or pheochromocytoma possible.
- Emerging gallbladder mucocele.
- Subjectively benign metabolic hepatopathy with remodeling.
- Age related renal changes.
- Gastric ingesta.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The adrenal glands should be monitored carefully in this patient, especially the left adrenal, which appeared to have phrenic vein occupation. The phrenic vein occupation may be thrombosis or emerging carcinoma, pheochromocytoma possible. Recheck sonogram in 3-4 weeks to assess any progression of the adrenal glands. Ursodiol therapy could be justified, given the excessive gallbladder debris and emerging mucocele formation.

Serial blood pressure measurements are recommended in this patient. If hypertension is an issue metanephrine level is recommended. If the patient appears Cushingoid and urine specific gravity is less than 1.020 then work-up for adrenal dependent Cushing's is indicated. Recheck is recommended in 2-3 weeks to assess for any progression of the adrenal gland.

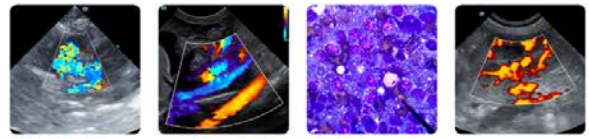
Efficient & Accurate Cushing's Work up-Lindquist

Notes regarding Cushing's Clinical Presentations:

Nearly all Cushing's dogs have SAP elevations and true PU/PD (USG < 1.025) and most are polyphagic. Cushing's dogs are > 6 years and usually > 9 years old, usually have poor skin coats, body scores > 3/5, and are usually sedentary animals.

Its important to remember that Cushing's dogs usually look and play the part and other diseases cause false + stress related cortisol spikes. On rare occasion a Cushing's dog will not follow the rules but this is truly an exception.

Potential Cushing's patient workups can be costly and frustrating if not definitive and, in my experience, the non-definitive patient usually has something else going on that may be contributing to some of the clinical signs a Cushing's dog will have, especially SAP elevations or PU/PD. Based on this prelude of information I came up with the following algorithm in the spirit of diagnostic efficiency.



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The following suggested protocol is based on current available literature on Cushing's disease and extensive clinical-sonographic experience evaluation + Cushing's and False + LDDST & ACTH stim. cases in order to maximize the efficiency of a Cushing's workup in practice.

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Screen first, workup second

BREED

Dachshund

1) **UA:** Repeatable (2-3 urine samples) Urine specific gravity & urine cortisol/creatinine ratio (UCCR): If **repeatable USG < 10.20 and + UCCR** move to next step 2.

Note: UA is inexpensive and easy to obtain and if UA criteria is not met for Cushing's then resources can be spent into other more pertinent diagnostics or left on hold until the UA criteria is met in emerging Cushing's cases.

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2) **Sonogram:** Does the patient **have concurrent disease** clinically or sonographically as non-Cushing's illness will influence the potential false + LDDST or even ACTH stim. The sonogram gives a global perspective of the internal health of the patient to be considered in the Cushing's workup as an assessment of concurrent disease. Is there a concurrent neoplastic process, UTI pancreatitis, mucocele....? Are the adrenals enlarged (Cushing's-PDH, stress, age related or breed variant), or atrophied (iatrogenic Cushing's or adrenal burnout), have asymmetric enlargement (Adrenal tumor, hyperplasia, adenoma, age related variant), or is there vascular invasion (Invasive pheo with false + UA criteria or adenocarcinoma or phrenic thrombosis)? The sonogram answers these questions proactively.

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3) **LDDST** (0.01 D-Sodium phosphate mg/kg IV) (Better screening test but plagued with false +) Use if there is potential early Cushing's or if adrenal asymmetry present on sonogram suspecting tumor. Use LDDST in cats at a higher dose (0.1 mg/kg IV).

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OR

4) **ACTH stim.** (Better confirming test but can have false +) Use if the patient "looks" Cushingoid or if bilateral adrenal enlargement is present, or high normal width on sonogram, or if iatrogenic Cushing's suspected (Cortisone Tx in past).

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5) If **diabetic** then run both LDDST & ACTH stim.

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5) Run a **serial blood pressure** in a BP friendly non "white coat effect" atmosphere. Run at least 3 at different times over a few hours or when eating as the patient tends to be calm when eating or give Torbutrol when entering the facility.

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6) **Perform CT** of the pituitary to identify macro adenoma expansion if any lethargy or dullness or other central clinical CNS signs are minimally present.

Suggested reading:

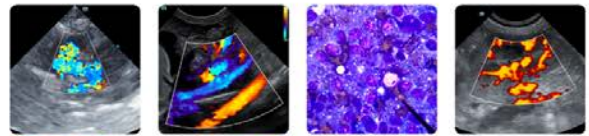
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Behrend EN, Kooistra HS, Nelson R, et al. Diagnosis of Spontaneous Canine Hyperadrenocorticism: 2012 ACVIM Consensus Statement (Small Animal). J Vet Intern Med 2013;27:1292-1304.

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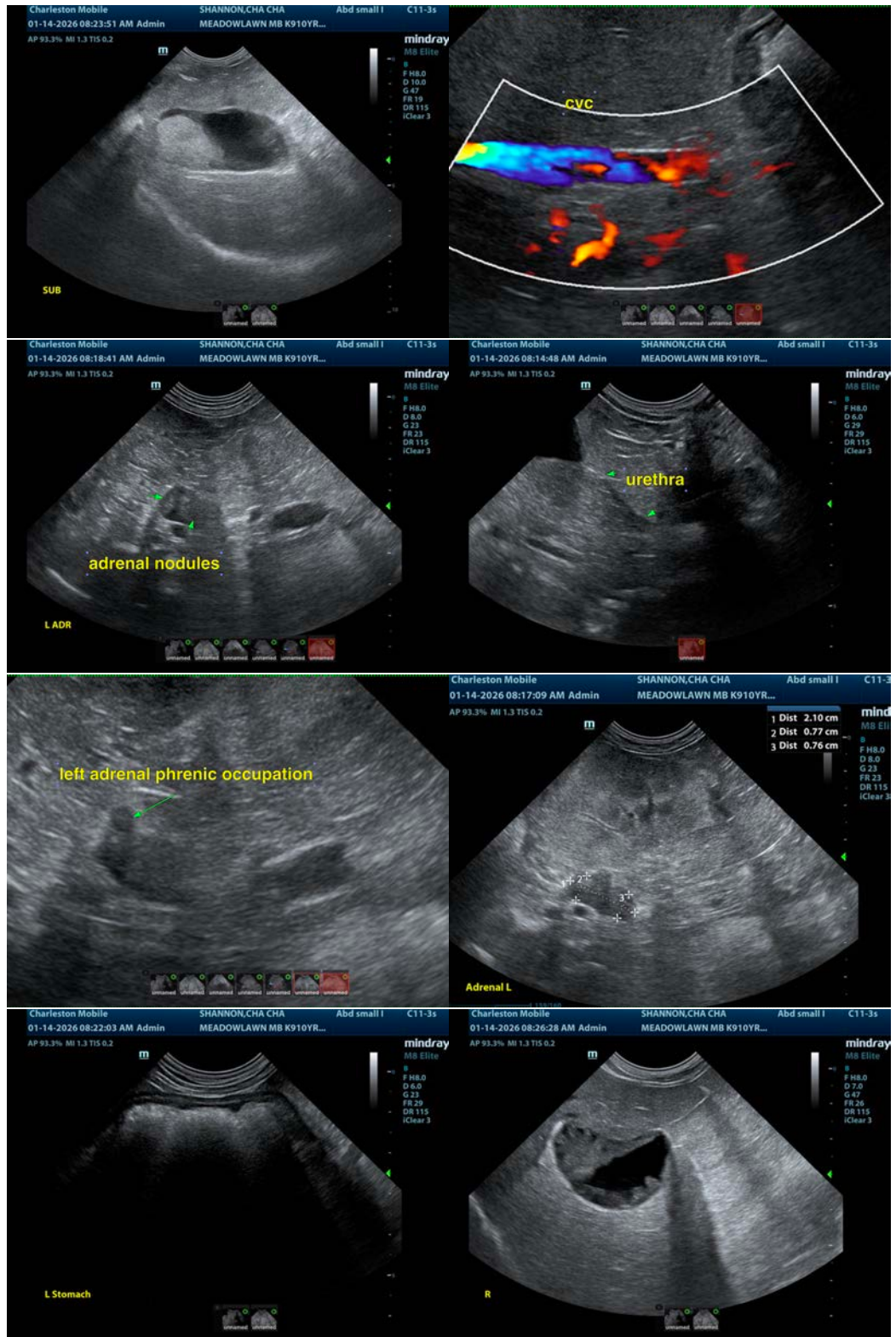
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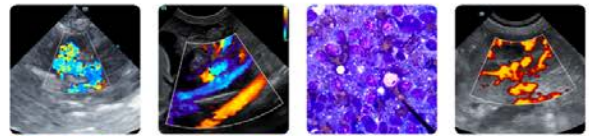
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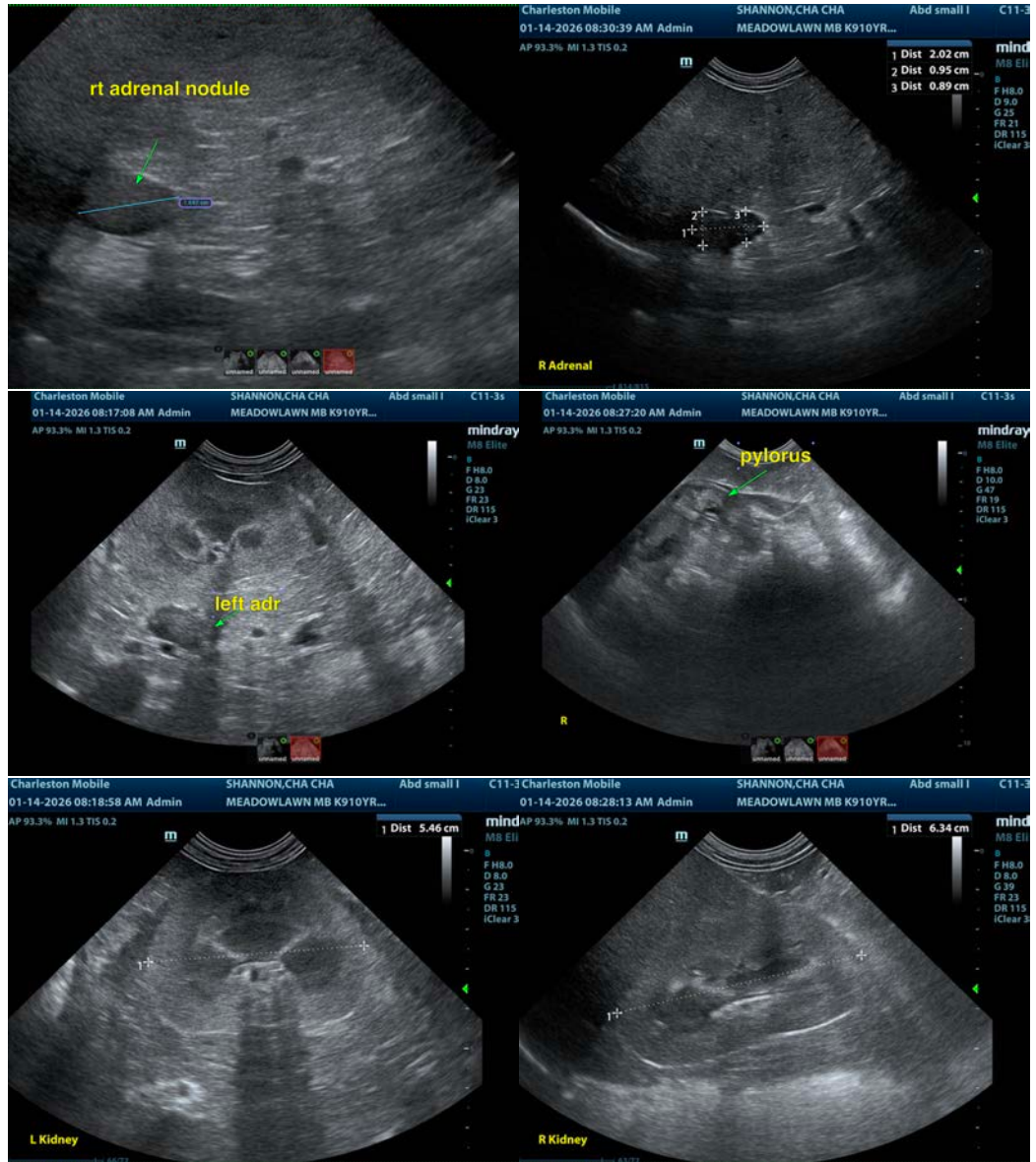
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

Eric Lindquist, DMV, DABVP(CFM), Cert. IVUSS,
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