



PATIENT

Faith Hilsen

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Chihuahua X

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

13 Years

WEIGHT

19.62 Pounds

INTERPRETED BY

Eric Lindquist, DMV

DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Sarah Henson

HOSPITAL NAME

Pleasant Hill AH

REFERRING VET

Dr. Seyler

INVOICE

35019

DATE

1/21/22

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Musculoskeletal-morbid obesity Integument-symmetrical alopecia and skin hyperpigmentation along the flanks

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: BW: elevated ALP and dilute urine - concern for possible Cushings currently appears to have a lot of bacteria in the urine. just started an oral antibiotic due to severe oral infection hyperglobulinemia elevated BUN - r/o pre-renal vs renal also low TT4 - r/o euthyroid sick (see all the problems above) vs hypothyroid. Plan - check back on UA after antibiotic course. Recommend abd US due to the above many issues and concern for possible Cushings syndrome Current Medications amoxi drops 50mg/ml

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** presented a relatively uniform cortical hyperechogenicity when compared to the renal medulla, spleen and liver. No overt masses were noted. Corticomedullary definition was nebulous and the ratio favored the cortex slightly. The ureters were not visible and assumed to be normal. These changes are most consistent with chronic interstitial nephritis yet infiltrative disease could not be entirely ruled out without biopsy though neoplasia is not suspected. Corticomedullary mineralization noted in both kidneys. The left kidney measured 3.5 cm. Cortical degenerative cysts noted in both kidneys. Minor pyelectasia noted in the right kidney wit echogenic debris. Low-grade pyelonephritis suspected.

Adrenal Glands

Both **adrenal glands** were upper limits of normal to slightly enlarged with largely normal shape, position and acceptable echogenicity for this age group and breed. Some heterogeneity was noted within the adrenal parenchyma without concerning capsular distortion. These changes are likely age related but should be monitored by sonogram should the patient be suspected of having adrenal disease. The right adrenal gland measured 2.38 cm x 1.3 cm at the cranial pole and 1.06 cm at the caudal pole. The left adrenal gland measured 2.19 cm x 0.84 cm at the caudal pole and 0.67 cm at the cranial pole.

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. 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

Examination of the **gastrointestinal tract** revealed a stomach and intestine free of stasis, of normal wall thickness, acceptable curvilinear mural detail, and peristaltic activity. 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. Some parenchymal remodeling, however, with mild deviation from curvilinear normalcy was observed. Pancreatic duct and capsular irregularities were present consistent with age related changes. If pain upon imaging (+ Murphy sign) was present or if the patient is focally painful in subxyphoid palpation then low-grade smoldering chronic pancreatitis should be suspected.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Moderate chronic degenerative renal changes with secondary cortical cysts and pyelectasia – suspect right kidney being a source of recurrent infection/low-grade pyelonephritis.
- Benign hepatopathy
- Pancreatic remodeling
- Bilateral adrenal enlargement

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Urine culture and sensitivity recommended. 4-6 week antibiotic therapy warranted depending upon periodic evaluation of the urinalysis for inflammatory sediment and bacteria. If USG is persistently <1.020, then workup for PDH would be indicated. Both renal and adrenal disease is present in this patient. Blood pressure measurements recommended.

Chronic UTI Protocol

I recommend **Enrofloxacin** (5-10 mg/kg SID PO) (In patients > 1 year of age) in late pm after urination to maximize urinary concentrations overnight. This assumes that culture supports this use. Repeat **culture** at 3-4 weeks and continue treatment at least 7-10 days post negative urinary sediment and negative culture. *Note: Negative culture does not necessarily mean lack of UTI.* Other favorite antibiotics for chronic UTI include third generation Cefa (Ceftiafur or similar s.i.d. injectable) or Clavamox. If suspicion of occult urinary incontinence is present then **phenylpropanolamine (PPA)** (1-2 mg/kg BID) can be employed long term to enhance urethral tone.

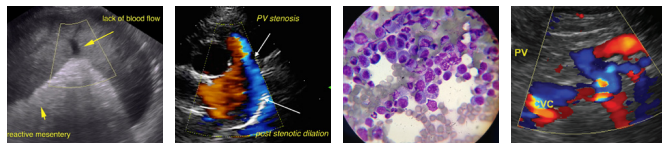
Efficient & Accurate Cushing's Work up-Lindquist

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.

SPECIES

Canine

Screen first, workup second

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.

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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).

OR

INTERPRETED BY

Eric Lindquist, DMV

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.

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Sarah Henson

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:

REFERRING VET

Dr. Seyler

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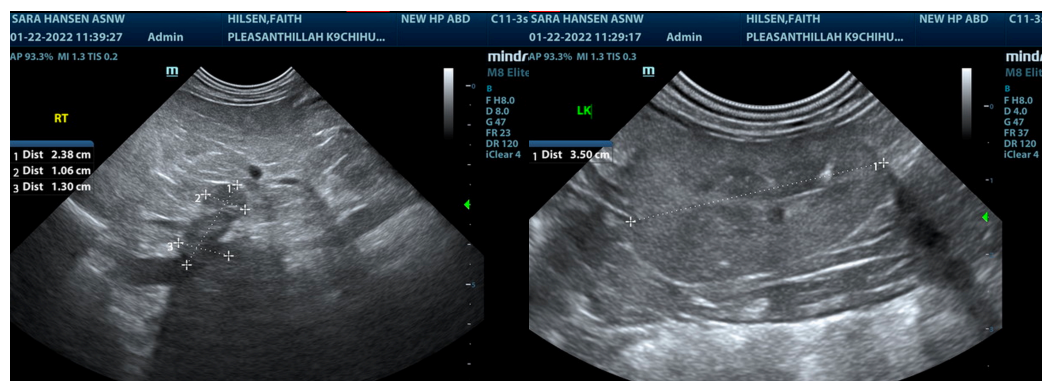
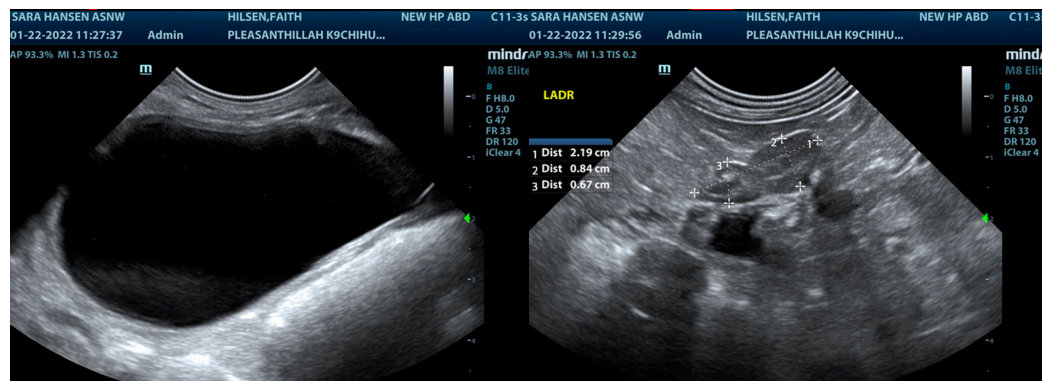
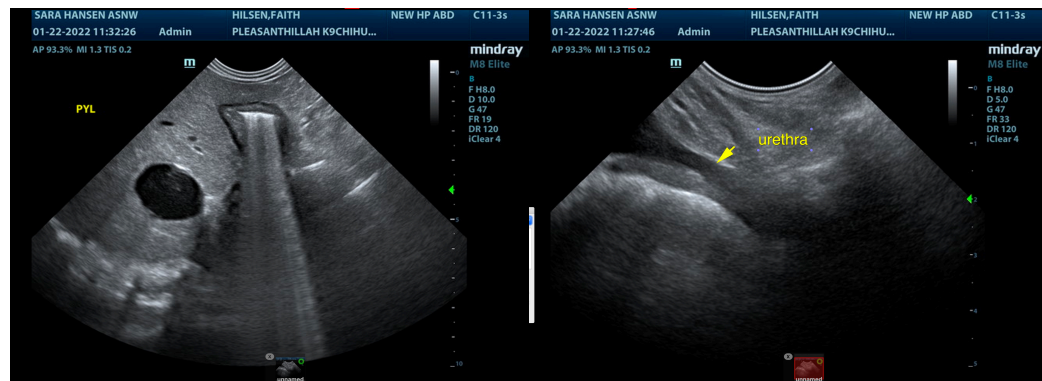
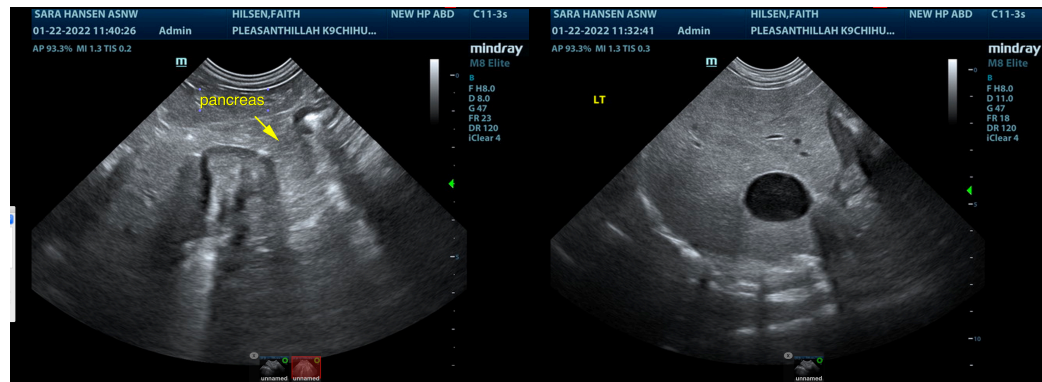
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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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, Cert. IVUSS, CEO of SonoPath.com

info@SonoPath.com

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