

**PATIENT**

Jaack Ryno

**SPECIES**

Canine

**BREED**

French Bulldog

**SEX**

Neutered male

**AGE**

11 years

**WEIGHT**

13.3 lbs

**INTERPRETED BY**

Eric Lindquist, DMV  
DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Kelly Vazquez, CVT

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Westwood Regional  
VH

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Murphy

**INVOICE**

92250

**DATE**

10/8/21

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: Distended abdomen - ascites 1 week duration. Otherwise normal at home. Concern for neoplasia. Current meds: none.  
Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Blood work: unremarkable.

**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 was noted. Ureteral papillae were normal.

The **kidneys** revealed normal size and structure, corticomedullary definition and ratio for this age. The cortices presented largely uniform texture with normal echogenic relationship to liver and spleen. Medullary structure differed distinctly from the cortex and no evidence of pelvic dilation was present. The capsules were acceptably uniform without significant irregularities.

**Adrenal Glands**

Both **adrenal glands** were visualized and recognized as having normal shape, size, position and echogenicity for this breed. The phrenic vasculature, glandular echogenicity and detail were unremarkable. Capsule, cortex, and medullary definition were normal for this age patient.

**Spleen**

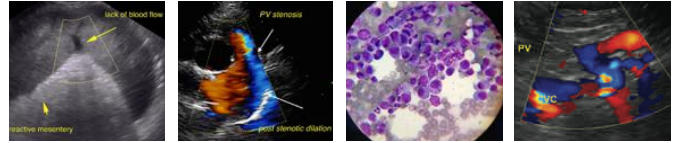
The **spleen** was slightly irregular and nodular.

**Liver**

The **liver** images submitted revealed subjectively normal liver size, contour, and structure. Parenchymal echogenicity was naturally coarse and hypoechoic to the spleen. The hepatic veins were dilated. Passive congestion pattern was noted. The gallbladder and common bile duct were unremarkable.

**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.



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**Pancreas**

Jaack Ryno

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.

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**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE HEART**

**BREED**

French Bulldog

The echocardiogram in this patient revealed a 4.7 x 3.07 cm heart base mass with mitral insufficiency. The mass superimposed the left atrium and appeared to be obstructing the right atrial inflow. Concurrent mitral insufficiency was noted. No pleural effusion was noted. However, slight pericardial effusion was noted.

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CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	MR VMAX (m/s)	TR VMAX (m/s)	LA/AO (Boon method)	LA/AO (Heart Base; Swe)	FS (%)	EF (%)	EPSS (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	4.5-5.5	<2.7	1.3	<1.6	28-40	40-100	<0.6
PATIENT	6.0		NM	1.8	40	90	0.23
CANINE CARDIAC PARAMETERS	HR (BPM)	AV VMAX (m/s)	PV MAX (m/s)	BODY WEIGHT	LA 2D short axis Base view (cm)	LVIDd Avg; 2D and m- mode short axis (cm)	LVIDs Avg; 2D and m-mode short axis (cm)
NORMAL PARAMETER	50-100	0.7-1.7	0.7-1.6				
PATIENT		1.33	0.91	13.3 lbs		3.6	

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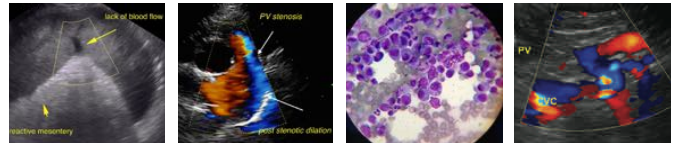
**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

Mitral and tricuspid insufficiency with a heart base mass.

Slight pericardial effusion was noted.

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

. Obstruction of the vena cava inflow was noted causing the passive congestion liver pattern and secondary ascites from right-sided failure. Palliative therapy with Lasix +/- ace inhibitor can be considered. EKG is warranted. The prognosis long term is poor. FNA of the spleen can be considered as there is a possibility that the splenic pathology may be related to the heart base mass. However, this presentation is most consistent with chemodectoma/aortic body tumor.



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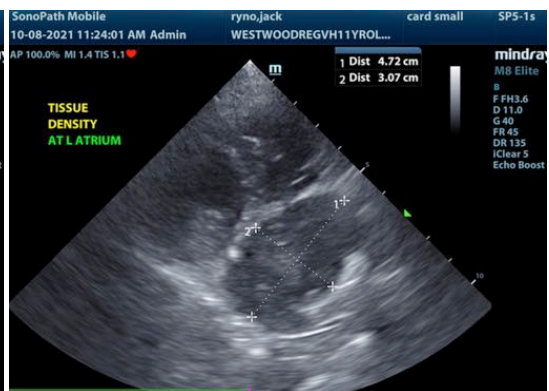
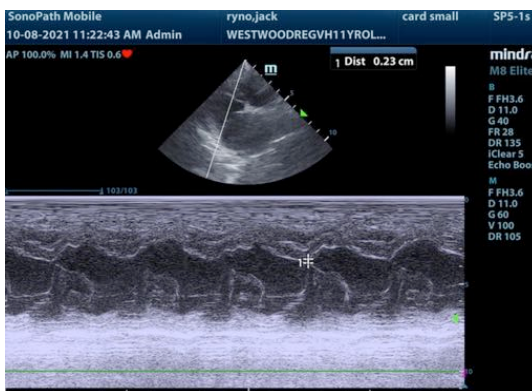
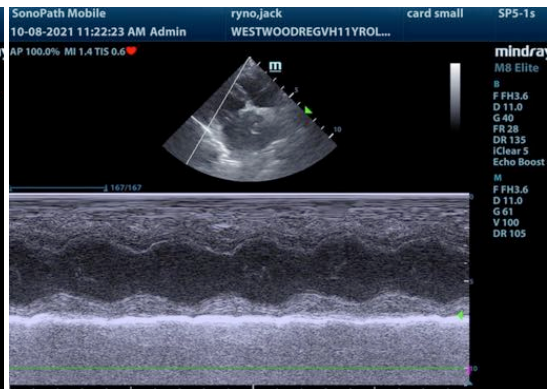
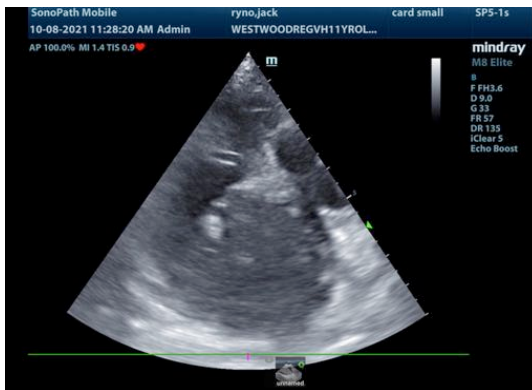
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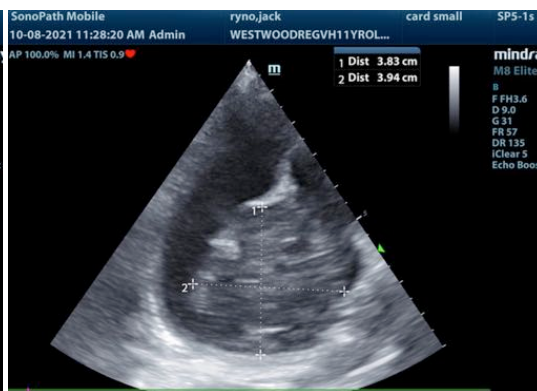
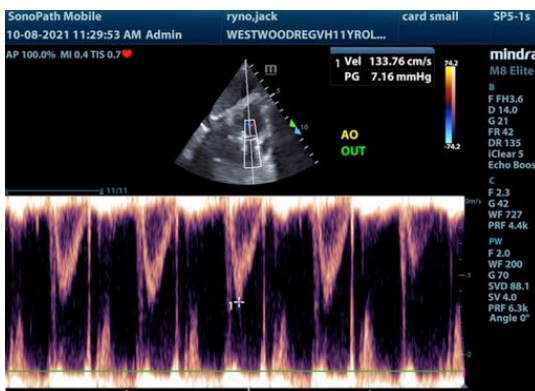
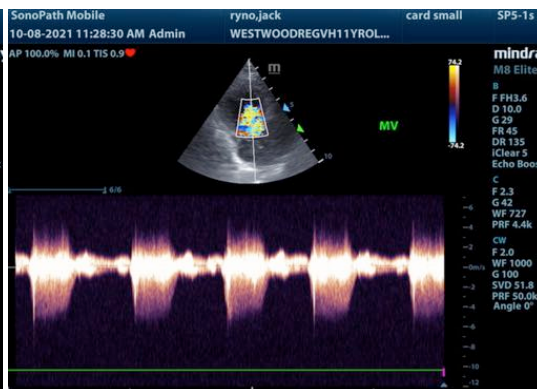
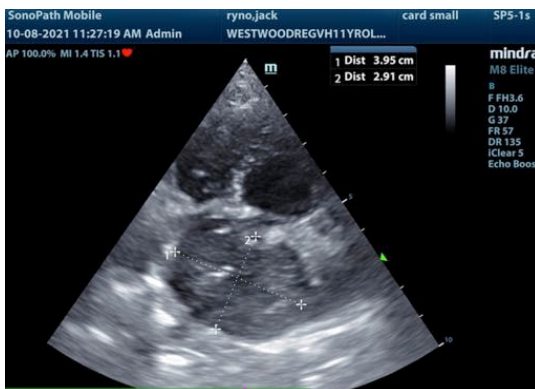
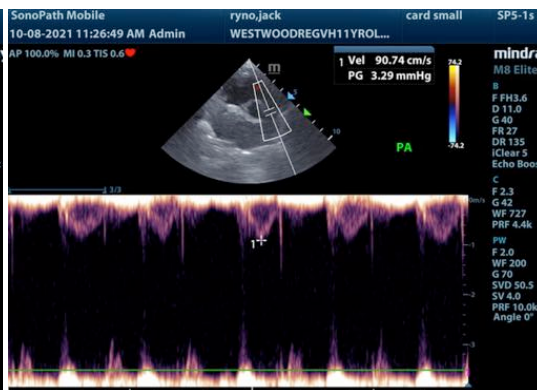
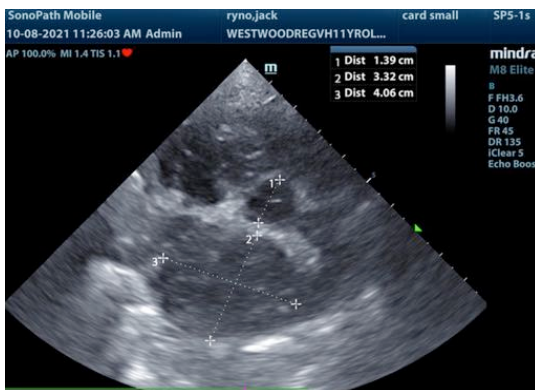
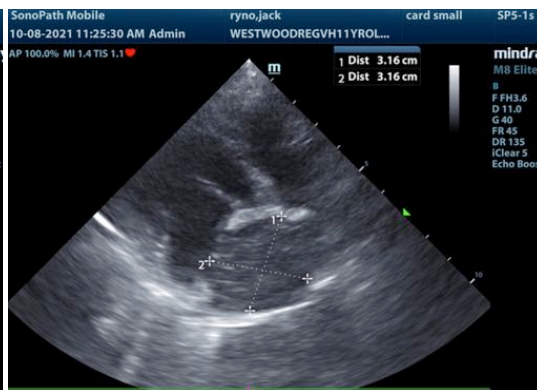
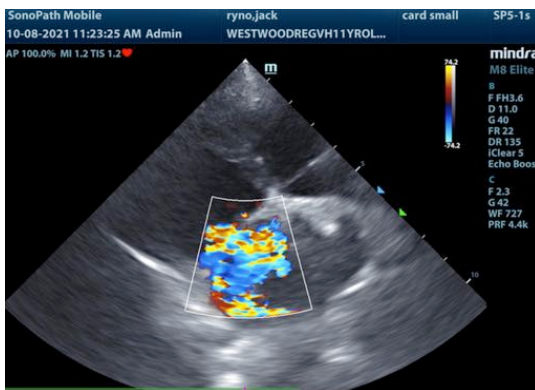
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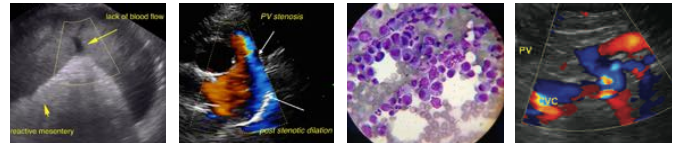
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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, Cert. IVUSS, CEO of SonoPath.com  
info@SonoPath.com

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<http://www.sonopath.com/CardiacNeoplasiaEffusion>

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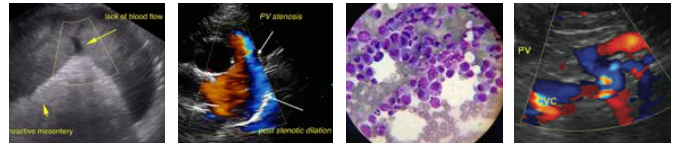
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**Pericardial Effusion and Cardiac Neoplasia**

**Description:** The pericardium is a fibrous sac that encloses the heart and the great vessels—aorta, pulmonary artery, proximal pulmonary veins, and vena cava—located at the heart’s base. It is attached caudally to the diaphragm and under normal circumstances contains 1-15 mL of fluid. The latter is comprised of phospholipids that lubricate the heart and allow it to expand and contract without generating friction. The pericardium also fixes the heart, prevents excess motion, and links the diastolic distensibility of the ventricles, thus limiting the degree to which either the left or the right ventricle will distend during diastole. When there are acute changes in venous return (i.e., during exercise), the pericardium plays a critical role in limiting ventricular filling. In cases of chronic cardiac enlargement, the pericardium also becomes distended, and its ability to limit ventricular filling, especially when the heart is at rest, becomes compromised. Pericardial tamponade occurs when there is a rapid accumulation of fluid and the pressure inside the pericardium increases significantly. With tamponade, ventricular filling is restricted and cardiac output is decreased. The right atrium and ventricle are the most vulnerable to this condition as these compartments have thinner walls and a lower pressure.

**Etiology:** Causes of pericardial effusion include:



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- Neoplasia
  - Right atrial (RA) hemangiosarcoma
  - Heart base (aortic body) tumors
  - Mesothelioma
  - Rhabdomyosarcoma
  - Ectopic thyroid carcinoma
  - Metastatic neoplasia
- Idiopathic
- Congestive heart failure
- Peritoneal-pericardial diaphragmatic hernia
- Pericardial cyst
- Hypoalbuminemia
- Infectious pericarditis (bacterial, *Coccidioides immitus*)
- Feline infectious peritonitis
- Left atrial tear secondary to valvular disease
- Coagulopathy

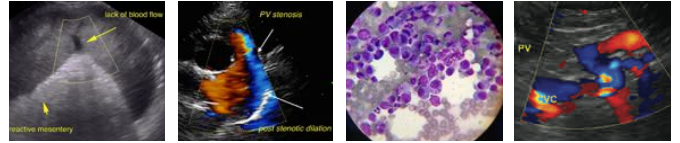
The majority of neoplastic masses consist of hemangiosarcoma and heart-based tumors (chemodectomas or ectopic thyroid adenocarcinoma). Idiopathic pericardial effusion is a diagnosis of exclusion; the effusion is typically hemorrhagic. Approximately 50% of dogs will be cured with a single pericardiocentesis, while some dogs will require multiple pericardiocenteses as well as surgery. A peritoneal-pericardial diaphragmatic hernia is a congenital hernia seen in dogs and cats in which the abdominal contents (i.e., liver, small intestine, spleen, stomach) herniate into the pericardial sac. Constrictive pericarditis is an uncommon condition in which a non-distensible, thickened, fibrotic pericardium develops over time.

**Clinical Signs:** One will observe the following clinical signs, which often present in combination: ascites, lethargy, exercise intolerance, pale mucous membranes, weak pulses, *pulsus paradoxus*, and respiratory distress.

**Diagnostics:** Survey radiographs will reveal hepatomegaly, cardiomegaly (generalized or sectorial globoid), and small pulmonary vessels. Pulmonary edema is typically not found, although one may discover concurrent pulmonary metastatic disease. An ECG will show electrical alternans or small complexes, but often the changes are very subtle and difficult to detect.

Echocardiography is usually considered the gold standard for diagnosing pericardial effusion. Findings include:

- Anechoic space between the heart and the pericardium.
- Abnormal side-to-side cardiac motion.
- Decreased chamber size (right ventricle [RV] and left ventricle [LV]).
- Presence of a pericardial or cardiac mass.



**PATIENT**

- Tamponade with early diastolic RA and RV collapse.

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Cytology is helpful in the diagnosis of lymphoma, septic pericarditis, and idiopathic effusion, but not in cases of neoplasia.

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According to a study that found troponin I levels to be higher in dogs with neoplastic pericardial effusion, the cardiac troponin I assay can be helpful in the diagnosis hemangiosarcoma.

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**Prognosis:**

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Neutered male

- Cardiac hemangiosarcoma: < 8 months with surgical debulking and chemotherapy.
- Chemodectoma (aortic derived): MST 730 days post pericardectomy.
- Idiopathic: 50% complete resolution post cardiocentesis; curative with pericardectomy, which can be done via thoracotomy, or thoracoscopy, or using a balloon to tear the pericardium.
- Mesothelioma: Poor.
- Restrictive pericarditis: Poor, especially when the pericardium has not been surgical stripped.

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**References:**

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Eric Lindquist, DMV  
DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

Cagle LA, Epstein SE, Owens SD, et al. Diagnostic yield of cytology analysis of pericardial effusion in dogs. *J Vet Int Med* 2014;28:66-71.

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Kelly Vazquez, CVT

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Dr. Murphy

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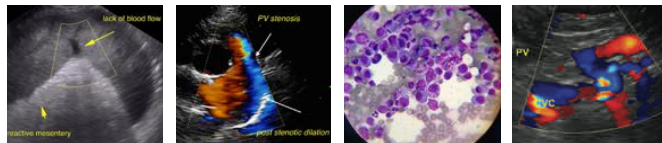
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**SPECIES**

Rajagopalan V, Jesty SA, Craig LE, et al. Comparison of presumptive echocardiographic and definitive diagnoses of cardiac tumors in dogs. *J Vet Int Med* 2013;27:1092-96.

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Shaw SP, Rozanski EA, Ruhs JE. Cardiac troponins I and T in dogs with pericardial effusion. *J Vet Int Med* 2004;18:322-24.

French Bulldog

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Sidley JA, Atkins CE, Keene BW, et al. Percutaneous balloon pericardiectomy as a treatment for recurrent pericardial effusion in 6 dogs. *J Vet Intern Med* 2002;16:541.

Neutered male

**AGE**

Sisson D, Thomas WP. Pericardial disease and cardiac tumors. In: Fox PR, Sisson D, Moise NS, eds. *Textbook of Canine and Feline Cardiology, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Philadelphia, PA: WB Saunders; 1999:679-701.

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Sisson D, Thomas WP, Reed J, et al. Intrapericardial cysts in the dog. *J Vet Int Med* 1993;7:364-69.

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