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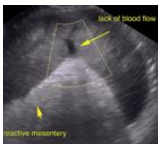

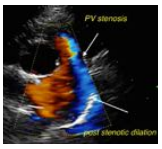

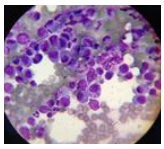
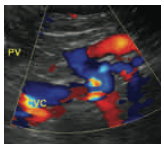

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1-800-838-4268 info@sonopath.com

PATIENT
Sal Bedford

SPECIES
Canine

BREED
Chihuahua

SEX
Neutered male

AGE
12 years

WEIGHT
13 lbs

INTERPRETED BY
Eric Lindquist, DMV DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

IMAGING PERFORMED BY
Dr. Rivera

HOSPITAL NAME
DPC VH

REFERRING VET
Dr. Rivera

INVOICE
98150

DATE
4/8/22

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: Recheck AUS on the progress of the adrenomegaly, splenic nodule, hepatomegaly and urolith.

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. A bladder concretion was noted, yet was ill-defined and non-shadowing. The concretion measured approximately 0.4 cm. No evidence of inflammatory or neoplastic changes was noted. Ureteral papillae were normal.

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 this age patient. Medullary structure differed distinctly from that of the cortex. Trace pyelectasia was noted in the left kidney. The left kidney measured 4.6 cm. The right kidney measured 5.0 cm.

Adrenal Glands

The **left adrenal gland** was 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. The left adrenal gland measured 0.4 cm. The **right adrenal gland** has progressed into complete mass formation. Regional inflammatory pattern was noted. The right adrenal mass measured 2.3 x 3.2 cm. Capsular expansion was noted. There was no overt caval invasion was present based on the image set provided.

Spleen

The **splenic** nodule was persistent and expansive and has now developed into a mass measuring approximately 2.0 cm. There was no evidence of rupture. However, some reactive mesentery was noted around the mass.

Liver

Exam of the cranial abdomen demonstrated excessive **liver** size and swollen contour. Mild, coarse architecture was noted with increased portal markings and minor parenchymal remodeling is suggestive of an inflammatory component. Minor excessive GB debris was noted with the presence gall bladder dilation and precipitate without the overt formation of mucocele. This is consistent with immature mucocele and has progressed from the prior sonogram.

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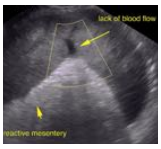
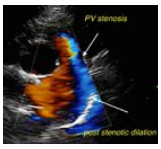
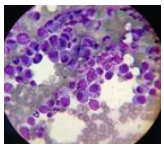
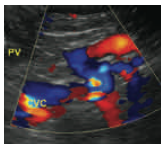

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Gastrointestinal

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. 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

Splenic mass.

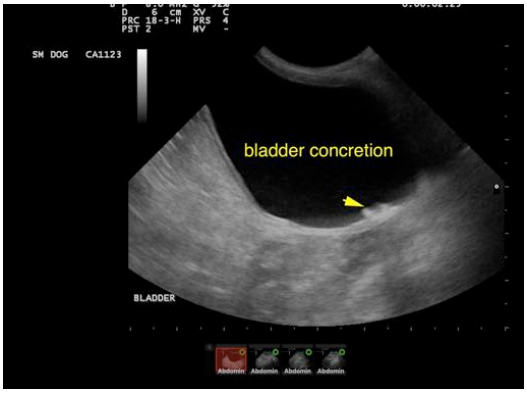
Right adrenal mass.

Immature gallbladder mucocele.

Small bladder concretions, appears to be dissolving compared to the prior sonogram.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Serial blood pressure measurements +/- work-up for Cushing's is recommended if the patient appears Cushingoid. Right adrenalectomy, splenectomy and manual expression of the gallbladder or cholecystectomy is indicated. I strongly suggest surgical intervention in this patient.



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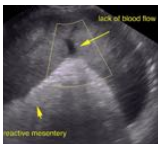
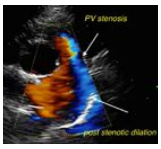
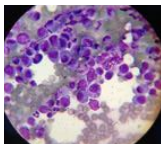
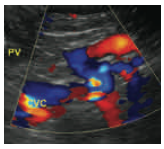

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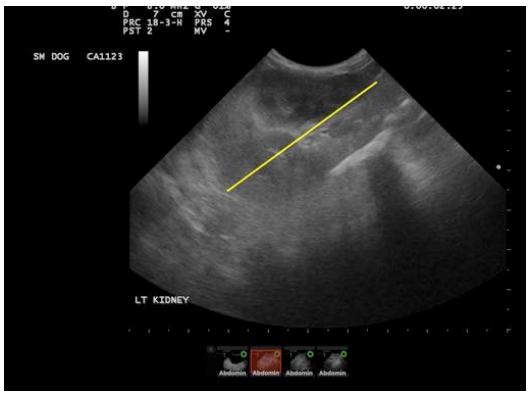

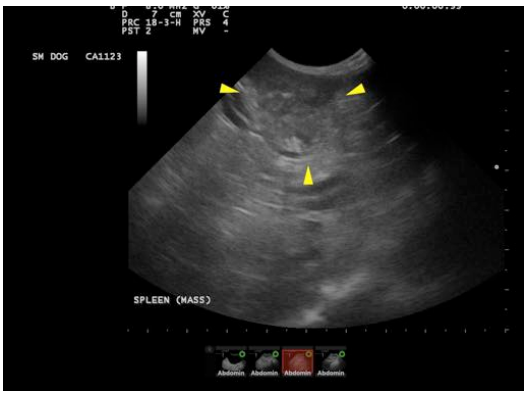

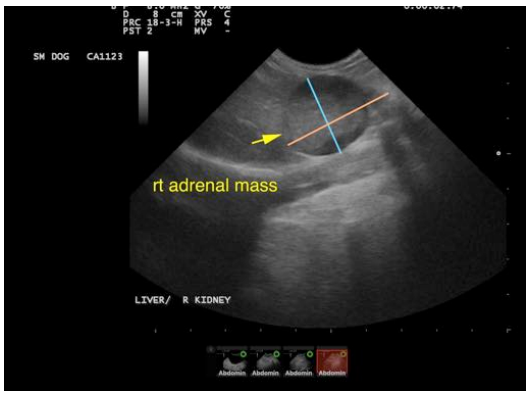

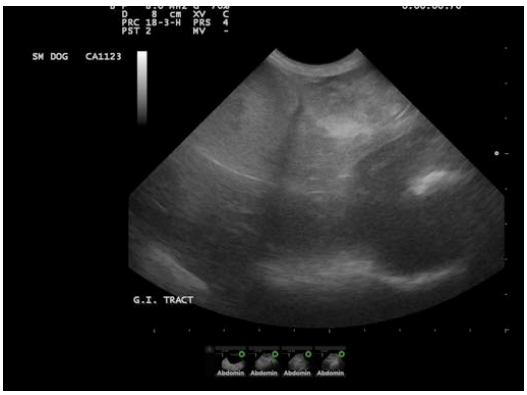

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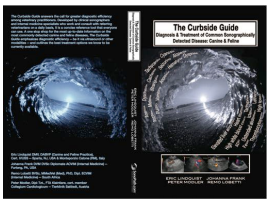
The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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



The following is an applicable excerpt from the *Curbside Guide to Diagnosis & Treatment of Sonographic Disease* offered by SonoPath.com Lindquist, Frank, Lobetti, and Modler.

An essential quick guide for every general practitioner and sonographer.

https://sonopath.com/products/curbside-guide-editing-due-release-12012015

Adrenal Tumors

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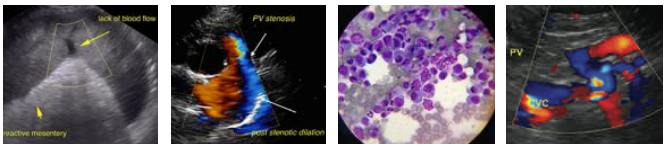

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http://www.sonopath.com/AdrenalTumor

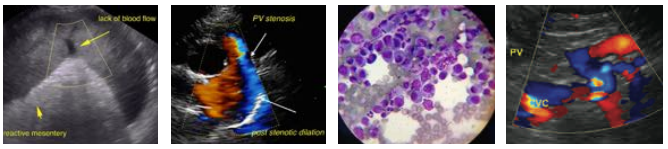
Long axis of the left adrenal gland using a right lateral approach in a dog with an adrenal adenocarcinoma (larger arrow) and caudal vena cava thrombosis. There is a complex mass lesion within the caudal pole of the adrenal gland and hyperechoic thrombus material (either tumor or mounted thrombus) within the caudal vena cava (between arrows). Note the displacement of the power Doppler signal within the caudal vena cava by the thrombus material.

Description: An adrenal mass is suspected when the maximum width of the adrenal gland exceeds 1.5 cm, there is loss of normal architecture or shape, or the shape or size between the affected adrenal gland and the contralateral gland is asymmetrical. The latter comprise the initial criteria for diagnosis; however, a bulbous enlargement of the cranial or caudal pole of the adrenal gland is common in dogs with no adrenal pathology and can be misinterpreted as an adrenal mass. If the suspected mass is not precipitating obvious signs (i.e., aggressive behavior), then an abdominal ultrasound should be repeated to confirm that the mass is a consistent finding before pursuing further diagnostics or surgery. Large breeds (Poodles, German Shepherds, Retrievers, and Terriers) and females appear to be overrepresented in the clinical reviews of adrenal tumors. Adrenal tumors in cats are rare with minimal information to characterize the disease. However, adrenal carcinoma and aldosterone producing tumors are the more common adrenal masses in our archived feline population. More specific information regarding this pathology may be found in the Feline Hyperaldosterone chapter.

Incidental adrenal lesions should be investigated clinically if discovered on ultrasound. Non-neoplastic adrenal lesions, such as cysts or granulomas, are very rare in dogs and cats, and the high incidence of metastatic lesions justifies a thorough hormonal screening as well as evaluation for non-adrenal neoplasms. Although incidental adrenal masses may appear to be nonfunctional at the time of diagnosis, it seems more likely that they are in fact subclinically functional. The diagnosis of functional adrenal tumors is discussed below; however, the identification of a nonfunctional, incidental adrenal mass creates a management dilemma.

Clinical Signs: Clinical signs attributable to adrenal tumors are dependent on hormone secretion type. Please see below.

Diagnostics: Cortical adrenal tumors, such as adenomas and adenocarcinomas, are responsible for 15-20% of hyperadrenocortical cases—what are commonly referred to as adrenal-dependent hyperadrenocortism (ADH)—in dogs. The remaining tumors are the result of pituitary-dependent secretions, which give rise to pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism (PDH). PDH cases tend to demonstrate bilateral hypertrophy with excessive adrenal length and, probably more importantly, width. These enlarged adrenal glands do not invade surrounding vascular structures and are defined by overstimulation resulting from excessive ACTH secretion from the pituitary gland. Yet, ADH cases are usually unilateral (bilateral in 10-20% of cases), may invade the aorta on the left or the vena cava on the right, and metastasize to the liver and lungs most frequently. Practitioners must differentiate ADH masses from hyperplastic, non-functional, benign adrenal tumors, as well as pheochromocytomas. Thus, dynamic function tests (ex. LDDS, HDDS, ACTH stimulation, ACTH baseline, urine cortisol-creatinine



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ratio) are essential, as is conducting routine biochemistry (ALP is elevated in more than 90% of cases) and urinalysis (true polyuria/polydipsia [PU/PD] with USG < 1.020) to determine adequately the need for surgical intervention or aggressive medical therapy. It is important to assess the following: blood pressure for hypertension; oscillating hyper- and hypotensive episodes in cases of pheochromocytomas; urine protein-creatinine ratios; and serum antithrombin III to determine the risk for thromboembolism. Moreover, it is essential to evaluate the entire clinical picture and objective probabilities of possessing a true hyperadrenocorticism case. This further entails ruling out other sources of PU/PD, such as primary polydipsia, renal disease, electrolyte abnormalities, infections, and diabetes insipidus or mellitus.

Malignant or Benign, Functional or Non-Functional: How to Decide?

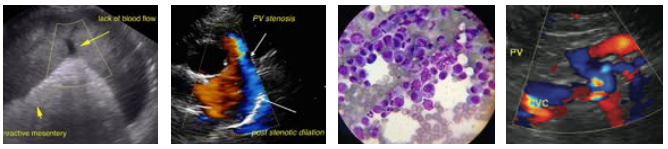
In some cases, it may be difficult to determine whether the mass is malignant or benign, functional or nonfunctional, prior to surgical removal and histopathological examination. A thorough review of the clinical signs, physical examination findings, routine blood work, urine tests, and appropriate hormonal tests should be conducted to determine the functional status of an incidental adrenal mass.

Malignancy is more often associated with larger masses. The larger the mass, the more likely metastasis has already occurred, in spite of a lack of detectable lesions on ultrasound and thoracic radiographs. Invasion of the mass into surrounding organs or blood vessels also supports malignancy, as does the detection of additional mass lesions with abdominal ultrasound and thoracic radiographs. Use of imaging modalities, such as CT and MRI, will likely provide additional data on the characteristics of specific adrenal lesions for use in diagnosis and treatment planning.

Ultrasonography is the primary instrument for assessing tumor size, aggressiveness, non-capsulated versus capsulated appearance, vascular invasion, and hepatic or other metastasis. Ideally, the patient will have fasted prior to the ultrasound; one may choose to administer an enema to enhance visibility around the ascending and descending colon. Ultrasound-guided biopsy or fine needle aspiration (FNA) may be possible on the larger masses, especially on the left side; however, adjacent vascular structures often prevent the feasibility of this procedure.

Diagnosis of the Functional Adrenal Mass:

- Cortisol-Secreting: It is very rare that a patient with hyperadrenocorticism will have a repeatable urine specific gravity greater than 1.020, so it must be determined whether the patient is truly PU/PD. If yes, then dynamic function testing is appropriate. If the patient is not truly PU/PD, then a false positive result must be considered before treatment is initiated, as the resulting hypoadrenocorticism can be life threatening. Other causes of dysuria, such as occult urinary tract infection, must then be considered. The most common functional adrenal tumor identified in dogs and cats results in hyperadrenocorticism. Approximately 15% of hyperadrenocortism cases will be caused by a functional adrenal tumor, of which 50% of these will be malignant.
    - Clinical signs can include: PU/PD; polyphagia; abdominal distention; bilaterally symmetrical truncal alopecia; delayed fur regrowth; hyperpigmentation; comedones; calcinosis cutis; excessive bruising; poor wound healing; ectopic calcification of kidneys and blood vessel walls; pyodermas; muscle weakness; exercise intolerance; hypertension; and panting.
    - Ultrasound usually reveals a small or atrophied contralateral adrenal gland as a result of suppressed pituitary ACTH secretion. Ten to twenty percent of cases have bilateral disease. Adenomas of the adrenal gland are generally less than 2 cm in diameter, and carcinomas can be any size (often they are > 2 cm). Calcification does not appear to be predictive for either adenoma or carcinoma.
    - Specific biochemical tests: Urine cortisol-creatinine ratio, ACTH stimulation test, and LDDS test.
- Catecholamine-Producing: Pheochromocytoma is a tumor derived from the chromaffin cells of the adrenal medulla; it is relatively common in dogs, but quite rare in cats. These cases should



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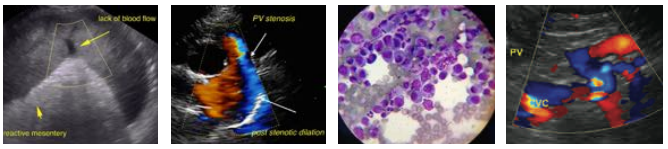
be considered malignant until proven otherwise. Invasion/entrapment/compression of the caudal vena cava is common. Mural invasion or luminal narrowing of the aorta, renal vessels, adrenal vessels, and hepatic veins may also occur.

- Clinical signs associated with this type of tumor are usually related to the invasion of local structures, metastases, or the secretion of catecholamines. The most common clinical signs of excess catecholamines include generalized weakness, episodic collapse, tachypnea, panting, tachycardia, and cardiac arrhythmias. Catecholamine release and hypertension tends to be episodic; thus, failure to document systemic hypertension does not rule out pheochromocytoma.
- Ultrasound: The contralateral adrenal gland is usually normal in size and shape. Pheochromocytomas do not typically calcify.
- Tests: Many of the clinical signs and blood pressure alterations are similar for pheochromocytoma and ADH. It is therefore important to rule out ADH before focusing on pheochromocytoma. The diagnosis prior to surgery is primarily one of exclusion. Specific hormonal tests, such as those that measure urinary catecholamine concentrations or their metabolites, are not routinely performed.

- Aldosterone-Secreting (rare in dogs and cats):
  - Clinical signs (Conn's Syndrome) are related to excessive secretion of aldosterone, which causes sodium retention and potassium depletion. The resulting symptoms include lethargy, weakness, mild hypernatremia, severe hypokalemia (usually < 3.0 mEq/L), and systemic hypertension.
  - Ultrasound usually reveals a normal contralateral adrenal gland.
  - Tests: Documenting increased plasma aldosterone concentrations before and after ACTH administration is a means of confirming the diagnosis. If weakness and severe hypokalemia are present, plasma aldosterone concentrations can be measured along with plasma cortisol concentrations during the ACTH stimulation test.
- Progesterone-Secreting: Although a functional tumor arising from the zona reticularis of the adrenal cortex could secrete excessive amounts of estrogen, progesterone, or testosterone, to date only progesterone-secreting adrenocortical tumors in cats have been documented.
  - Clinical signs include: diabetes mellitus and feline fragile skin syndrome, which is characterized by progressively worsening dermal and epidermal atrophy, patchy endocrine alopecia, and easily torn skin.
  - Ultrasound usually reveals a normal contralateral adrenal gland.
  - Tests: Diagnosis requires documenting an increased plasma progesterone concentration. The clinical features mimic feline hyperadrenocorticism, which is the primary differential diagnosis. Pituitary-adrenocortical axis test results are normal to suppressed in cats with progesterone-secreting adrenal tumors.
- Deoxycorticosterone-Secreting (rare):
  - Clinical signs are related to mineralocorticoid activity and include weakness, marked hypokalemia, and systemic hypertension.
  - Tests: Increased plasma deoxycorticosterone and non-detectable plasma aldosterone concentrations have been documented in dogs.
- 17-OH-progesterone-Secreting (rare):
  - Clinical signs are similar to hyperadrenocorticism.
  - Tests: Pre- and post-ACTH stimulation plasma 17-OH-progesterone concentrations will be increased.

Treatment: If hormonal tests for ADH and serum electrolytes are normal and clinical signs suggestive of pheochromocytoma are present, one can assume the adrenal mass is a pheochromocytoma and begin treatment with an alpha-adrenergic antagonist (ex. phenoxybenzamine at 0.25 mg/kg PO BID initially) for at least 2 weeks to prevent severe clinical manifestations of hypertension and promote a smooth anesthetic induction if adrenalectomy is planned. Adjustments to the dose are based on clinical response; an increase in the dose should be considered if clinical signs do not improve after 2 weeks of treatment. If hormonal tests for ADH and serum electrolyte concentrations are normal, clinical signs



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suggestive of pheochromocytoma are not present, but an adrenalectomy is nevertheless planned, one should still assume the adrenal mass is a pheochromocytoma and begin phenoxybenzamine treatment prior to adrenalectomy.

When a cortisol-producing adrenal tumor has been documented, medical therapy with trilostane (5-20mg/kg PO Q24hr) or mitotane (25-50 mg/kg PO Q24hr for 10 days, then every 4-7 days) should be considered.

The biggest dilemma is whether to perform an adrenalectomy if hormonal tests for hyperadrenocorticism and serum electrolyte concentrations are normal, and clinical signs and systemic hypertension suggestive of pheochromocytoma are not present.

An aggressive approach—adrenalectomy—is based on the assumption that the mass is malignant until proven otherwise and should be removed before metastasis has occurred. In theory, this approach would offer the best chance for long-term survival; however, the age of the patient, the size of the mass, the presence of concurrent diseases, the level of invasion into other organs, and the probability that metastases already exist should factor into the decision. Poor surgical candidates generally include: dogs compromised from the effects of hypercortisolis; older animals; animals with concurrent disease; those for whom invasion has been aggressive and surgical or post-surgical complications are likely; animals with very large masses that have likely already metastasized; and those with documented potential metastatic disease. In addition, adrenalectomy may not be indicated when the mass is small (< 3 cm diameter) and nonfunctional, and the patient is healthy. Reports suggest that there is an approximate 45% success rate of surgical resection of adrenal masses, with a positive prognosis inversely proportionate to tumor size.

In cases of concurrent hepatic nodular changes, liver biopsy samples can be obtained at surgery in cases of suspicious lesions visualized by ultrasound. Hyperadrenocorticism often causes benign nodular hyperplasia of the liver and should not be automatically interpreted as a sign of hepatic metastasis during ultrasonographic examination. Rather, suspect lesions should be confirmed and biopsied either at surgery or via ultrasound-guided FNA or core biopsy. Post-operative complications include delayed wound healing due to excessive corticoid circulation and wasting, hemorrhage, sepsis, and thromboembolism.

When surgery is a risk and a functional adrenal tumor has been documented, medical therapy, as outlined above, should be considered. Medical therapy will not impede metastatic events. An alternative approach in these cases is to determine the rate of growth of the mass by repeating abdominal ultrasounds initially at 2, 4, and 6 months. If the adrenal mass does not change in size, the time between ultrasound evaluations can be increased to every 4-6 months; however, if the adrenal mass is increasing in size, adrenalectomy should be considered.

Conclusion: Any incidentally discovered adrenal tumor warrants investigation into functionality and metastasis. The course of treatment for each case depends largely on which hormones are secreted by the adrenal tumor. Each case should be carefully evaluated on an individual basis before adrenalectomy is considered for aggressive tumors.

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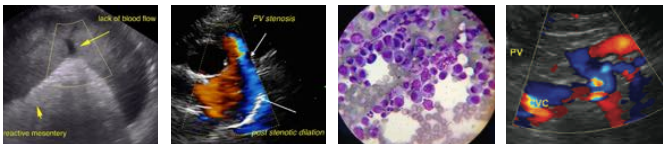

SonoPath.com
1-800-838-4268 info@sonopath.com

PATIENT

Sal Bedford

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Chihuahua

SEX

Neutered male

AGE

12 years

WEIGHT

13 lbs

INTERPRETED BY

Eric Lindquist, DMV
DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Rivera

HOSPITAL NAME

DPC VH

REFERRING VET

Dr. Rivera

INVOICE

98150

DATE

4/8/22

Long axis of the caudal vena cava using a right lateral approach of the same dog as in the title image. Note the cranial extension of the hyperechoic thrombus material within the caudal vena cava. The liver is seen in the near field. The measurement line represents the distance from the tumor thrombus invasion to the diaphragmatic inlet

Long axis of the right adrenal gland using a right lateral approach in a dog with a surgically resectable pheochromocytoma incidentally identified during a sonogram investigating proteinuria. The adrenal gland is enlarged, rounded and hypoechoic. Note the lack of parenchymal detail with no visible corticomedullary junction as well as the echogenic capsular expansion (arrow). The patient was found to have systemic hypertension after detecting the enlarged adrenal gland sonographically.

Long axis view of the caudal vena cava (CVC) in the prior invasive adrenal mass image. Landmarks are assessed cranial to the right adrenal gland (SDEP scanning position 13 & 14), such as the aorta, in order to identify the invasive adrenal mass occupying the CVC since a normal CVC cannot be found. Color Doppler assessment of the area shows the minor caval blood flow around the invading mass. Invasive adrenal tumors, by definition, are either pheochromocytoma or adenocarcinoma and can become very large and invasive over time, but can sometimes be medically managed to maintain quality of life. A lesion such as this had likely been growing for some time but clinical signs were relatively recent prior to the sonogram.

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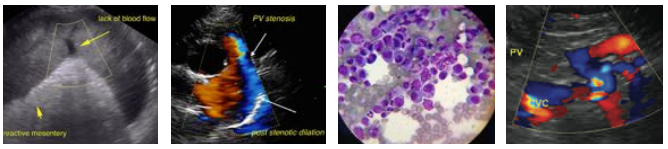

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Geriatric Boxer dog presented with vague clinical signs and systemic hypertension. A large cranial abdominal mass is present when imaging the region of the vena cava and right adrenal area. A normal right adrenal could not be found. After scrupulous interrogation of the region and assessment of the regional structures, such as the aorta, the clinical sonographer can discover that the mass is likely of adrenal origin given the ominous vena caval invasion. US-guided 25 g FNA: Pheochromocytoma

References:

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Heorauf A, Reusch C. Ultrasonographic characteristics of both adrenal glands in 15 dogs with functional adrenocortical tumors. *J Am Anim Hosp Assoc* 1999;35(3):193-99.

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