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DATE

5/2/23

PATIENT

Chloe Torralbes

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Australian Shepherd

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

4/28/09

WEIGHT

32.9 Pounds

INTERPRETED BY

Eric Lindquist, DMV
DABVP, Cert. IVUSS

HOSPITAL NAME

Animal Emergency
Hospital

REFERRING VET

Dr. Ruby

INVOICE

47037

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

Diabetic for a year. Vetsulin 9units BID Yesterday after her night dose of insulin and her dinner she was wobbly. More wobbly this am. Not eating this am. Vomiting, lost her urine. RDVM on 27th, increased wax build up, owner cleaned her ears a couple of days ago.

Current Medications: Baytril, Cerenia, Humulin R, Ondansetron, Protonix, Entyce, Meclizine.

Lab Results: See attached.

Date of Previous IntraPet Ultrasound: No previous.

Sedation: Not required to complete full diagnostic ultrasound.

Stat Report: Not requested.

Imaging Performed By: Rachel Brillhart, RDMS.

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 **kidneys** were normal in size and contour; however, a minor hyperechoic ring was noted at the corticomedullary junction. This is consistent with diabetic nephropathy. This is likely from glucosuria. However, assessment for proteinuria is also warranted. This is an idiopathic finding, but an expected finding in diabetic patients. The right kidney measured 5.56 cm. The left kidney measured 5.64 cm. The right kidney measured 5.56 cm.

Adrenal Glands

The **left adrenal gland** revealed a hyperechoic expansive nodule measuring 0.80 cm x 0.69 cm at the cranial pole. The left adrenal gland was mildly enlarged at 2.4 cm x 0.95 cm at the cranial pole and 0.78 cm at the caudal pole.

The **right adrenal gland** was mildly enlarged, heterogeneous and mildly irregular, measuring 2.45 cm x 0.81 cm at the caudal pole and 0.88 cm at the cranial pole.

Spleen

The **spleen** was normal size and relatively normal contour with multifocal hyperechoic areas of mineralization. This is a benign change; however, can be related to Cushing's disease or other endocrinopathies.

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 heterogeneous, coalescing non-disruptive nodular changes. This is consistent with vacuolar hepatopathy and some level of remodeling and history of inflammatory component. There was no overt suspicion of neoplasia.

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 **pancreas** was enlarged and mildly irregular with undulating contour. The right limb measures 1.67 cm.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Bilateral adrenal hypertrophy with left adrenal nodule – potential underlying PDH.
- Nodular hyperplasia/vacuolar hepatopathy liver pattern
- Diabetic nephropathy
- Possible low-grade pancreatitis
- Splenic mineralization

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Workup for Cushing's warranted if USG is <1.020. Subxiphoid palpation is recommended to assess for pain or discomfort associated with the pancreas.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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).

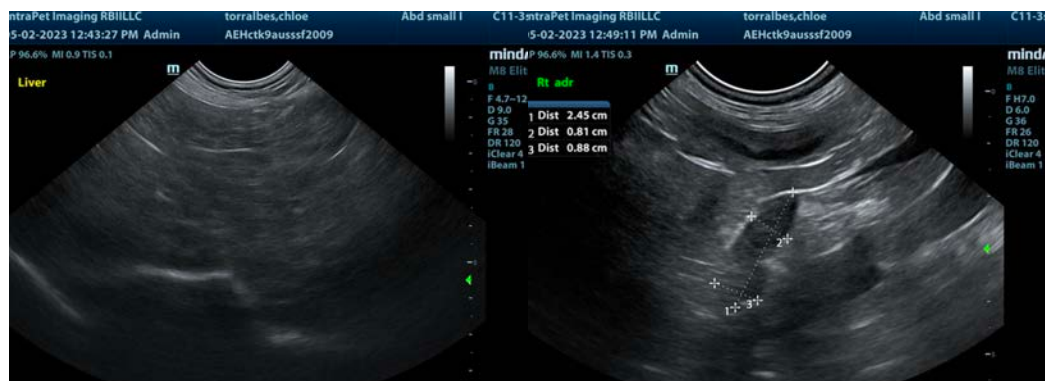
- 5) If **diabetic** then run both LDDST & ACTH stim.
 - 5) Run a **serial blood pressure** in a BP friendly non “white coat effect” atmosphere. Run at least 3 at different times over a few hours or when eating as the patient tends to be calm when eating or give Torbutrol when entering the facility.
 - 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:

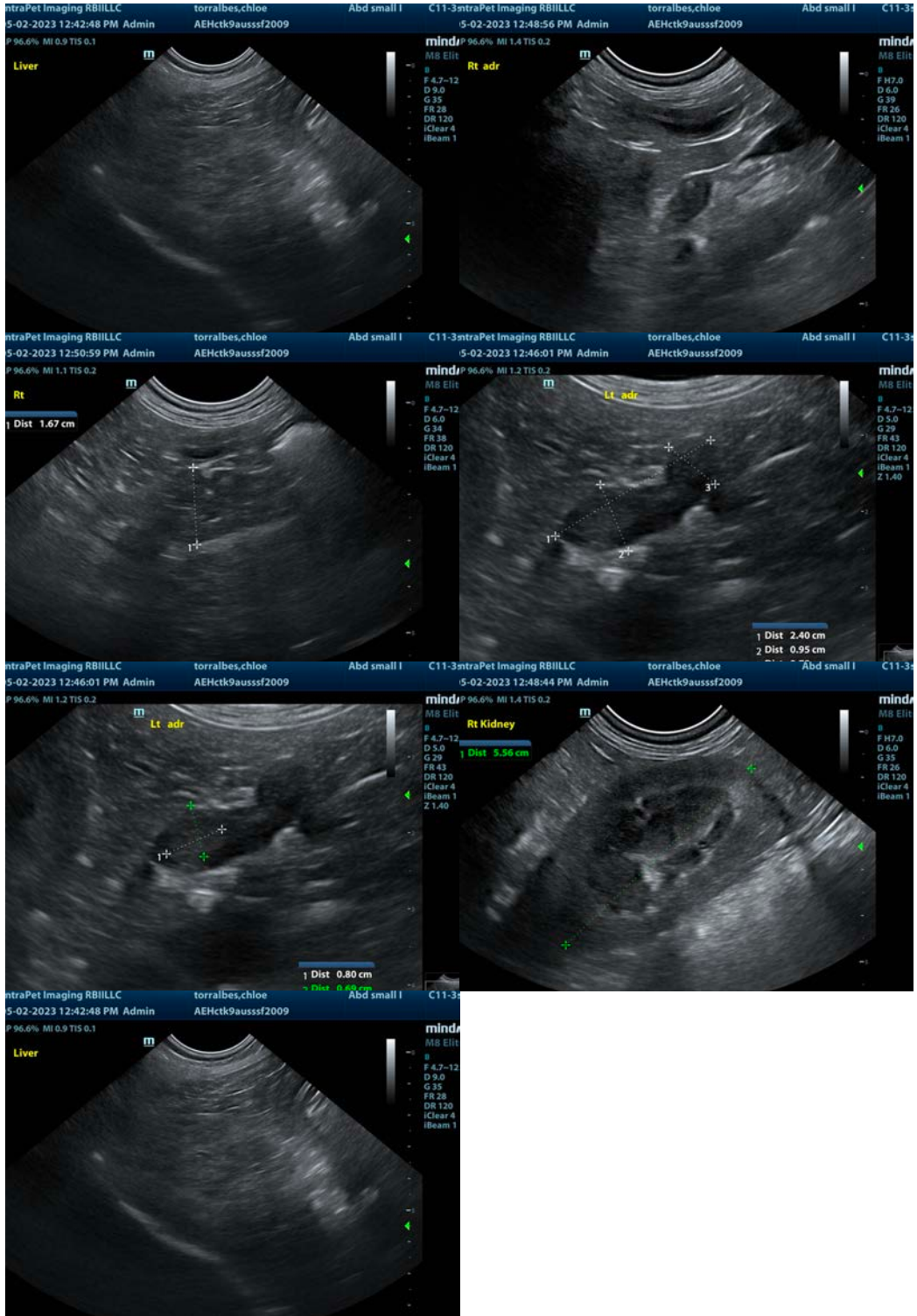
Behrend EN, Kooistra HS, Nelson R, et al. Diagnosis of Spontaneous Canine Hyperadrenocorticism: 2012 ACVIM Consensus Statement (Small Animal). J Vet Intern Med 2013;27:1292–1304 .

Potential Causes of Diabetic Dysregulation

This is a suggestive checkoff list when faced with an unregulated diabetic patient:

- UTI
- Dietary indiscretion/intolerance
- Pancreatitis
- Hyperthyroidism/hypothyroidism
- Exogenous steroids (including topical eye meds)
- Cushing’s
- Acromegaly
- Owner compliance
- Insulin quality issues
- Antibodies to insulin
- Underlying Neoplasia
- Diffuse liver disease





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.

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