



PATIENT

Vino Paolini

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History of chronic progressive elevated ALP 3 years since became a P here. Has been asymptomatic but slightly lethargic and mild decreased appetite since Sunday. Normal PE. Bloodwork is always fasted.

SPECIES

Canine

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: 9/14/22 CBC: WNL CHEM: ALP 699 UA: 1.059, pH 5.0
3/21/22 CBC: WNL CHEM: ALP 497 T4: WNL U/A: 1.056, clear sediment 9/17/21 CBC: WNL CHEM:
ALP 477 T4: WNL U/A: 1.054, Ca Ox 21-50 3/18/21 CBC: WNL CHEM: ALP 249 UA: 1.055, clear
sediment 9/2/20 CBC: WNL CHEM: ALP 239, PSL 153 T4: WNL U/A: 1.051, bili 1+, >50 CaOx, >50
urate 3/2/20 CBC: WNL CHEM: ALP 145 T4: WNL

BREED

Mixed

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

SEX

Neutered Male

Urinary System

The urinary bladder is moderately distended with anechoic urine. The Bladder wall, trigone, ureteral papillae and visible urethra (to a depth of 2cm) appear normal with no evidence of wall thickening, mucosal irregularities, masses or cystic calculi.

AGE

11 Years

The prostate is normal in size (1.0 cm) and shape for this neutered male dog. The parenchyma is homogenous and the external margins are smooth. The prostatic urethra appears normal with no evidence of irregularity, invasion, mass effect or calculi.

WEIGHT

44 Pounds

The left kidney has a normal shape and size (5.7 cm). Overall echogenicity is normal with adequate corticomedullary distinction and a typical 1:3 cortex:medulla ratio. There is no evidence of focal perinephric inflammation or effusion. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

INTERPRETED BY

Kathleen Sennello DVM,
MS, Diplomate ACVIM
(Small Animal Internal
Medicine)

The right kidney has a normal shape and size (5.5 cm). Overall echogenicity is normal with adequate corticomedullary distinction and a typical 1:3 cortex:medulla ratio. There is no evidence of focal perinephric inflammation or effusion. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Megan Cassels-
Conway

Adrenal Glands

The left adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.39 cm at the caudal pole. It is observed in its normal position cranial to the left renal artery. It is normal in appearance (uniformly hypoechoic) and shape with no evidence of a mass effect.

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The right adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.63 cm at the caudal pole. It is observed in its normal position between the cranial aspect of the right kidney and the caudal vena cava. It is normal in appearance (uniformly hypoechoic) and shape with no evidence of a mass effect.

REFERRING VET

Dr. Megan Cassels-
Conway

Spleen

The spleen is subjectively normal in size, echotexture is homogenous, and the splenic capsule is smooth with no irregularities. The blood flow through the hilus and splenic parenchyma appears normal. No focal parenchymal abnormalities are visualized.

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Liver

The liver is subjectively normal in size, and echogenicity with smooth peripheral margins. The parenchyma is mildly heterogenous in echotexture with subtle, indistinct focal mottling. The visible portions of the vasculature and biliary tract appear normal. No focal nodules or cystic lesions are observed.

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The gall bladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall of the gall bladder is not thickened and has a smooth mucosal surface. There is a moderate amount of non-organized echogenic debris. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal/not visible.

SPECIES

Canine

Gastrointestinal

The stomach contains minimal luminal contents. It measures at a normal thickness of <0.7cm with some variability due to the presence of rugal folds. The distinction of the gastric wall layers is adequate and there is no impression of reduced peristaltic activity. No masses or focal lesions were observed.

BREED

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The visualized areas of duodenum, jejunum and ileum have a relatively uniform diameter with minimal fluid distension. Wall thickness is normal. Bowel loops follow a curvilinear path with distinct wall layering maintaining the typical 1:3 muscularis:mucosa layer ratio. The duodenum measured as normal (between 0.3-0.5cm in wall thickness) and the jejunum measured as normal (between 0.2-0.47cm.)

SEX

Neutered Male

Visualized peristalsis appears appropriate. There were no focal lesions consistent with obstruction or a mass effect observed.

AGE

11 Years

The ileocecal junction was visualized and exhibited normal intact wall layering and is subjectively of normal thickness. Sections of colon are visualized with formed fecal material and gas shadowing distally. There is no observed focal or generalized colon wall thickening or loss of layering.

Pancreas

WEIGHT

44 Pounds

The pancreas is normal and isoechoic to surrounding mesentery. There is no evidence of nodules or cystic lesions. There is no evidence of regional mesenteric inflammation or fluid.

Free Abdomen

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Evaluation of the peritoneal cavity did not reveal any evidence of effusion, or subjective lymphadenomegaly. The Medial iliac nodes appear normal and there was no evidence of a caudal aortic thrombus at the bifurcation. The omentum is of normal uniform echogenicity.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. Megan Cassels-Conway

- Mildly heterogeneous liver – The diffuse hepatic changes are non-specific and could be consistent with vacuolar hepatopathy, nodular hyperplasia, inflammatory/immune-mediated disease, fibrosis, extramedullary hematopoiesis, toxic hepatopathy (e.g., copper), infiltrative neoplasia (less likely) or other hepatopathy.
- The significance of the aggregated gallbladder debris is unclear. This could represent an early mucocele, cholestasis, or may be secondary to fasting but seems unlikely to be causing a current issue. Recommend continued monitoring.

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INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

REFERRING VET

Dr. Megan Cassels-Conway

The lesions observed on today's scan were very mild. No focal lesions were visualized associated with the liver, and the changes in the gallbladder are likely incidental at this time. I am not sure if the current clinical signs are associated with the chronically elevated ALP, or if this is a different issue. These are my recommendations for patients with a primary ALP elevation:

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- Induction phenomena are the most common cause for an elevation in ALP. These are systemic illnesses that 'turn on' the liver enzyme. Causes of this include Cushing's disease, dental disease, arthritis, and numerous others. In many cases the exact cause is unclear but as long as ultrasound and bile acids tests are normal most patients do not have progressive changes in their liver. While liver biopsy is not routinely performed, vacuolar hepatopathy, is noted on most biopsies. This is often non-progressive but in rare cases can be more severe and lead to liver failure.

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- If signs of cushings disease are present recommend endocrine function testing to evaluate for cushings disease.

SPECIES

Canine

- Consider fine needle aspirate to rule out round cell neoplasia -if this is a concern.
- If a cause for the ALP elevation is not identified: I recommend recheck general blood work every 6 months, ultrasound once per year, and bile acids test every 1-2 years based on other results. If the ALP continues to climb a biopsy could be considered.

BREED

Mixed

- Consider long term use of denamarin, and monitoring for the signs of cushings developing.

SEX

Neutered Male

- A primary vacuolar hepatopathy can be breed related and is seen in Scottish Terriers, Schnauzers, Cocker spaniels etc..

AGE

11 Years

Consider generic supportive care with an appetite stimulant, anti-nausea medication, etc. Consider a PLI level despite a relatively normal looking pancreas on today's exam. Additionally, palpate for any areas of pain or discomfort. if symptoms persist or progress, consider reevaluation/further evaluation.

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Recommend three view thoracic radiographs to evaluate for possible concurrent thoracic disease/involvement.

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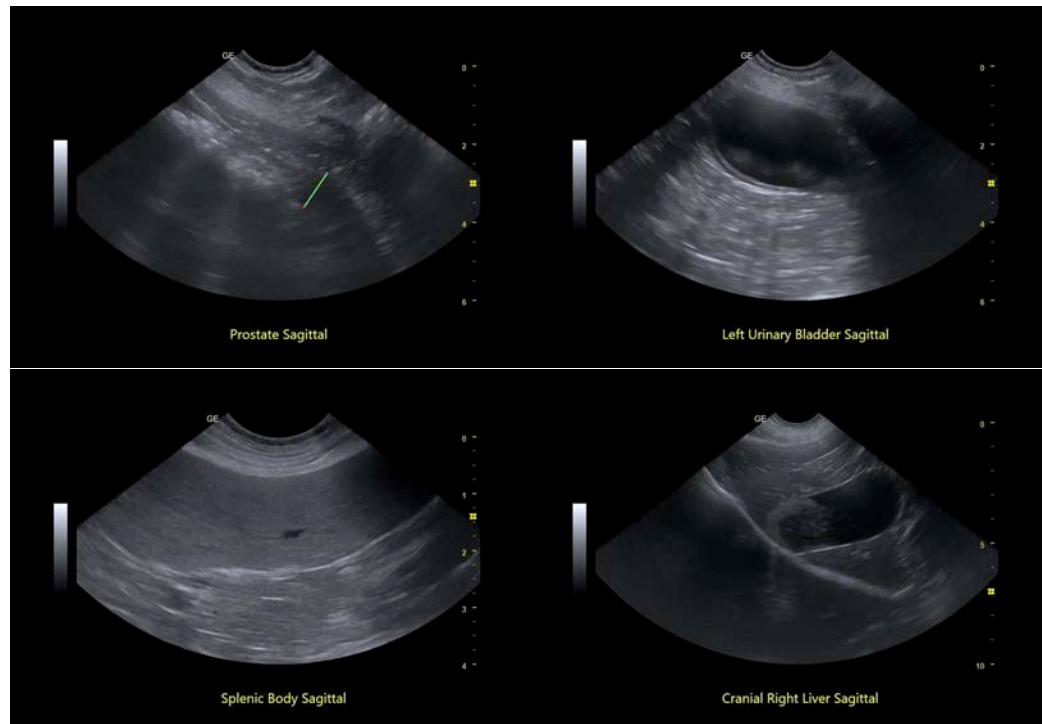
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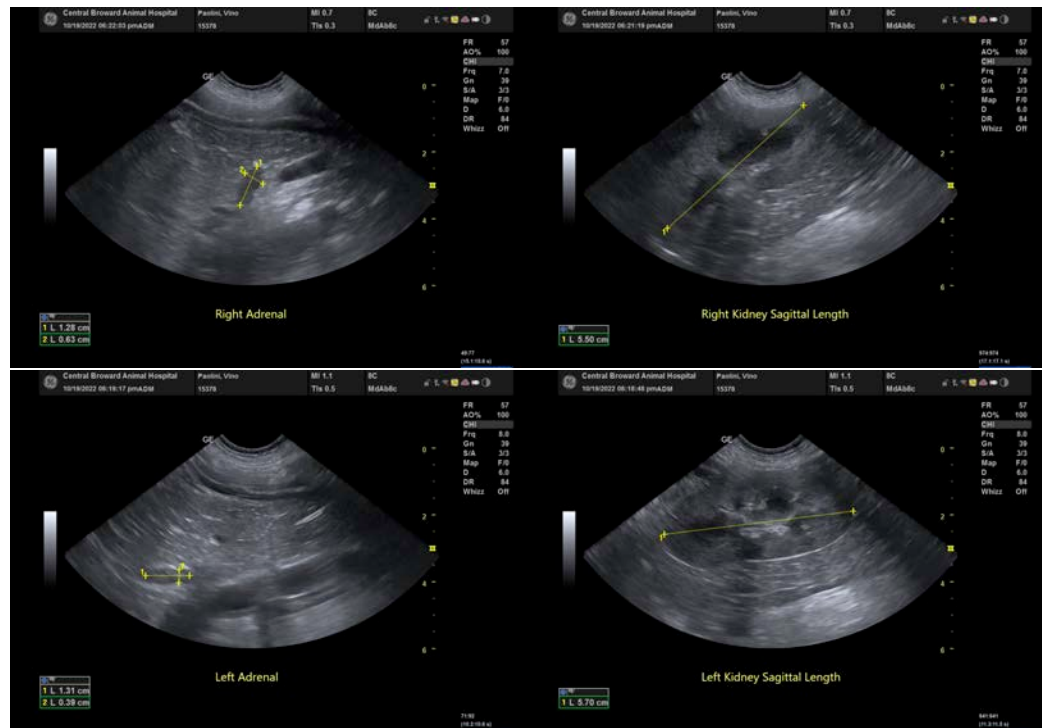
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

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