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DATE PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

10/26/22 Hx of elevated ALT first noted on pre-op bloodwork 4/13/20. Has remained moderately elevated on serial rechecks, despite tx with Amoxicillin and Denamarin when initially noted. Recently O has noted P is not eating her full meal every time/has a decreased appetite. Weight loss 4/6/22- 53lb, 10/18/22- 47lbs.

PATIENT

Penny Wilt Current Medications: None.
Lab Results: 10/18/22 ALT 497, ALP 227. 7/28/20 ALT 589. 6/9/20 ALT 470. 5/4/20 ALT 423. 4/13/20 ALT 475.

SPECIES

Canine Date of Previous IntraPet Ultrasound: No previous.
Sedation: Torbugesic IV.
Stat Report: Not requested.

BREED

Labrador X

SEX

Spayed Female

AGE

5/31/10

WEIGHT

47.5 Pounds

INTERPRETED BY

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

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Stephanie Warga
RDMS, RVT

HOSPITAL NAME

Northwind AH

REFERRING VET

Dr. Repsher

INVOICE

42361

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

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.

The left kidney has a normal shape and size (6.1 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 hydronephrosis. Renal vasculature is normal.

The right kidney has a normal shape and size (5.96 cm) with non-obstructive nephroliths, the largest of which measures 0.69 cm. Another measures 0.41 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, infarcts or hydronephrosis. Renal vasculature is normal.

Adrenal Glands

The left adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.50 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.

The right adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.65 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.

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.

Liver

The liver is subjectively normal in size, and echogenicity with smooth peripheral margins. The parenchyma is 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.

The gallbladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall of the gall bladder is not thickened and has a smooth mucosal surface. Luminal contents are mild and primarily anechoic. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal/not visible.

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.

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. Duodenum wall measures 0.41 cm. Jejunum wall measures 0.37 cm. Visualized peristalsis appears appropriate. There were no focal lesions consistent with obstruction or a mass effect observed.

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

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

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

- 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.
- Non-obstructive nephroliths in the right kidney – This is likely an incidental finding at this time. Recommend continued monitoring.

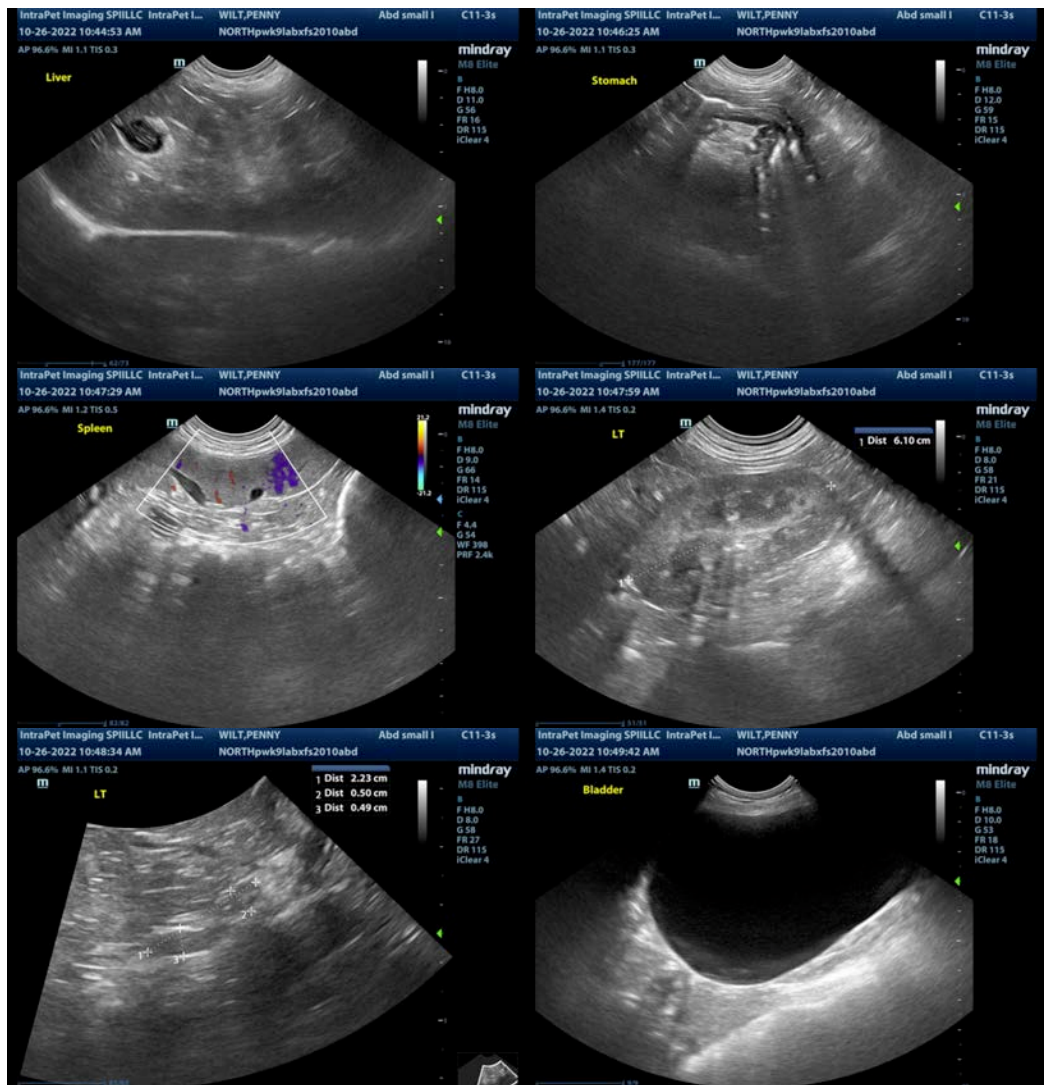
INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

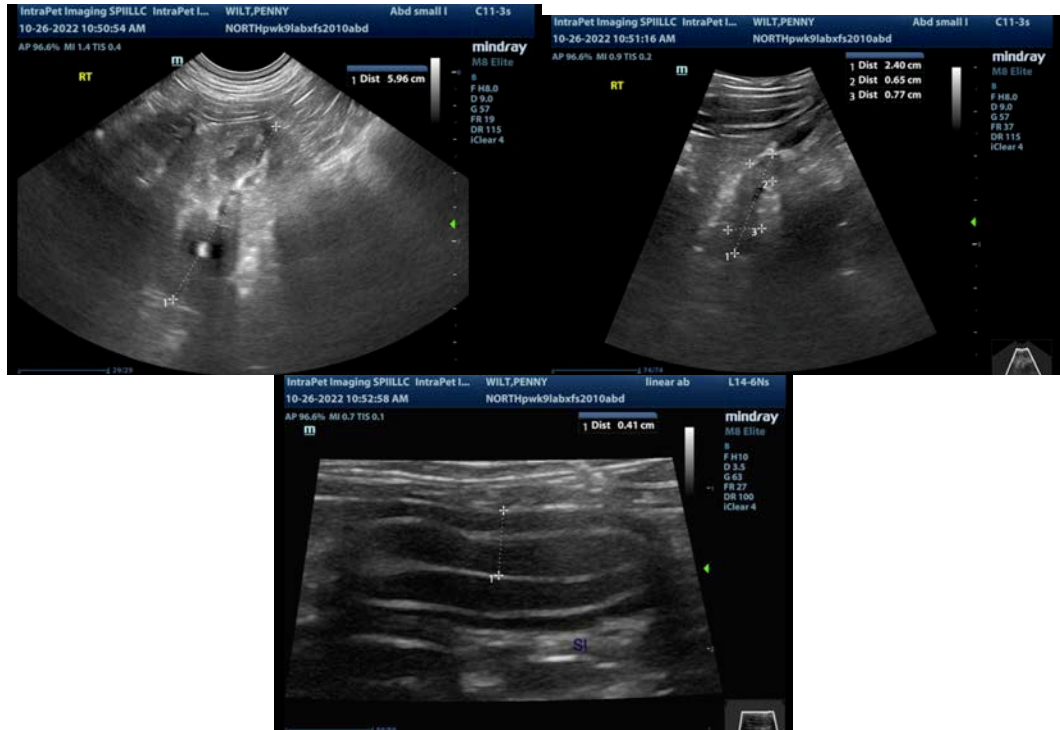
There has been a significant chronic ALT elevation present. No focal lesions are visualized to explain this, and the gallbladder appears relatively normal. This is most consistent with a chronic hepatopathy. Consider the following:

- Consider close evaluation of history for possible toxic changes examine medications, diet, dietary indiscretion etc...
- Consider PCR on urine/serum for leptospirosis (if not on antibiotics)/serology if recent antibiotic history
- If not already done, consider pre and post prandial bile acids to evaluate liver function
- If the ALP is significantly elevated relative to the ALT and symptoms consistent with Cushing's are present, consider adrenal function testing (ACTH stim)

- Consider Fine needle aspirate if round cell neoplasia is on your differential list (25 g needle, normal coags)
- If no response to supportive care (Denamarin, fluids, antibiotics, +/- ursodiol etc.) Consider liver biopsy with samples obtained for histopathology, culture, and copper levels.

The chronic ALT elevation can be concerning, particularly in female Labradors (I understand this is a mix), who get chronic active hepatitis, which can progress to liver failure, but if caught early can be treated. This typically would need to be diagnosed based on a biopsy of the liver. I would strongly consider a liver biopsy in this individual, particularly if liver function is abnormal.





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.

Kathleen Sennello DVM,MS, Diplomate ACVIM (Small animal Internal Medicine)
kathleen.sennello@sonopath.com