

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

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Clinical Sonography & Telecytology

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**DATE PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

4/5/22 Chronic LE elevation- poss. Cushing's.

**PATIENT Current Medications: None listed.**

Buster Senker Date of Previous IntraPet Ultrasound: No previous.  
Sedation: Not required to complete full diagnostic ultrasound.  
Stat Report: Not requested.

**SPECIES ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

Canine

**Urinary System**

**BREED**

Bichon X

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.

**SEX**

Neutered Male

The prostate is normal in size (0.64 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.

**AGE**

8/12/13

The left kidney has a normal shape and size (4.62 cm). Overall echogenicity is normal with adequate corticomedullary distinction and a typical 1:3 cortex:medulla ratio. There is no evidence of perinephric inflammation or effusion. There is no evidence of pyelectasia, nephroliths, infarcts or hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

**WEIGHT**

20 Pounds

The right kidney has a normal shape and size (3.98 cm) with a 0.2 cm non-obstructive nephrolith. Overall echogenicity is normal with adequate corticomedullary distinction and a typical 1:3 cortex:medulla ratio. There is no evidence of 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)

**Adrenal Glands**

The left adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.65 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.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Rachel Brilhart RDMS

The right adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.66 cm at the caudal pole, 0.56 cm at the caudal pole, and 1.96 cm in length. It is observed in its normal position between the cranial aspect of the right kidney and the caudal vena cava. It is somewhat irregular in appearance in that there is an ill-defined, hyperechoic region in the mid body of the adrenal gland measuring 0.81 cm x 0.63 cm. This lesion does not appear to deform the shape of the adrenal gland, and there are no vascular abnormalities noted.

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Hickory Vet Hospital

**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.

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Snyder

**Liver**

**INVOICE**

36715

The liver is large in size, and normal in 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. The liver is severely heterogeneous. Additionally, there are numerous ill-defined, subtle hypoechoic nodules within the hepatic parenchyma. These nodules do not deform the hepatic margins.

The gallbladder lumen is moderately distended. The wall of the gall bladder is not thickened and has a smooth mucosal surface. Luminal contents are 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. The duodenum measured as normal (between 0.3-0.5cm in wall thickness) and the jejunum measured as normal (between 0.2-0.47cm.) 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 prominent and mottled compared to the surrounding isoechoic 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.

## **PRIMARY FINDINGS**

- Large, heterogeneous liver with ill-defined, hypoechoic nodules – 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 nodules are very subtle and most consistent with a benign process.
- Ill-defined, hyperechoic focus in the right adrenal gland – This is a subtle lesion and could be consistent with an area of hyperplasia, remodeling, etc. It could also be consistent with an ill-defined benign or neoplastic mass effect.

## **SECONDARY FINDINGS**

- Prominent, mottled pancreas – The pancreatic changes are most consistent with age-related parenchymal remodeling, potentially secondary to a prior inflammatory episode, early fibrosis or chronic pancreatitis.

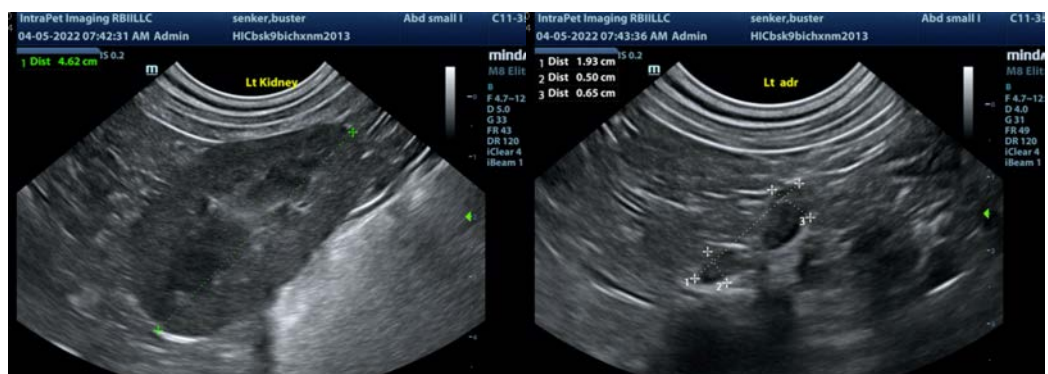
## **INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

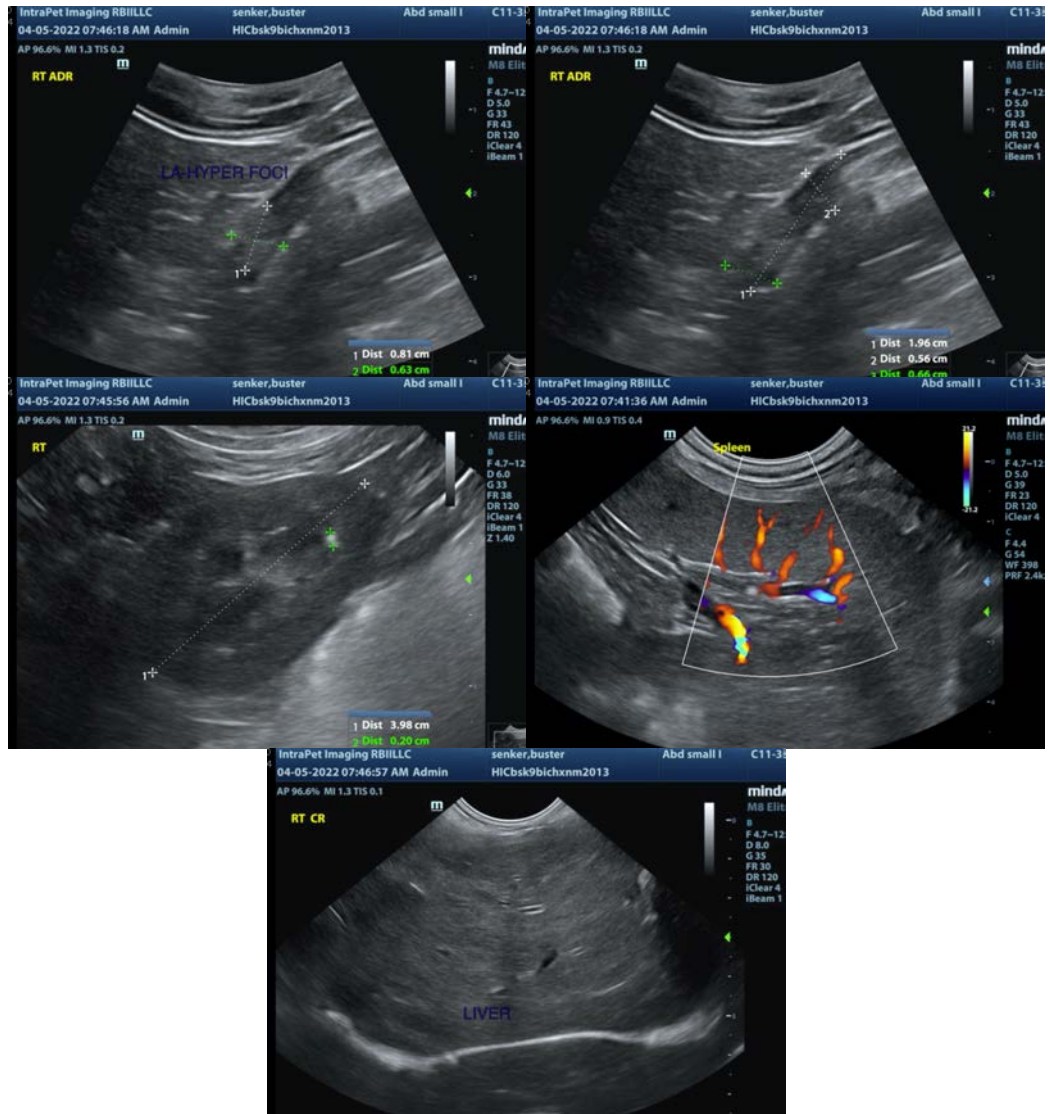
The liver is large and heterogeneous. There are some ill-defined nodules, but these are relatively benign appearing lesions. Additionally, the gallbladder appears relatively normal, so findings are consistent with a primary hepatopathy. Depending on the degree of liver enzyme elevation and the specific enzymes elevated, possible differentials could be prioritized, but in general my recommendations would include:

- 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 cushings are present, consider adrenal function testing (ACTH stim)
- Consider Fine needle aspirate if round cell neoplasia is on your differentia list (25 g needle, normal coags)
- If no response to medical care (denamarin, antibiotics,+/- ursodiol etc...) Consider liver biopsy with samples obtained for histopathology, culture, and copper levels.

Additionally, there is a hyperechoic region visualized in the right adrenal gland. This area is relatively small and is not deforming the adrenal significantly. It doesn't appear to have any impact on local vasculature. These types of lesions could be benign or malignant, and could secrete hormones or be non-active. Based on the appearance of this lesion, I would lean towards a benign/incidental finding, but possible options to consider moving forward include:

- If signs of cushings are present, consider adrenal function testing. I prefer an ACTH stimulation test combined with an adrenal panel to the University of Tennessee's endocrine lab to look for atypical adrenal hormones as well as cortisol. (other testing can suffice)
- If adrenal dependent cushings is suspected and supported by adrenal function testing consider medical therapy with lysodren or trilostane or consider surgical removal (recommend referral to a board certified veterinary surgeon and possible pre op CT)
- Recommend blood pressure evaluation-if hypertensive consider testing catecholamine levels for a possible pheochromocytoma
- If no symptoms of cushings are present, consider either referral for surgery or continued monitoring with ultrasound (in 3-4 months).
- Many of these nodules can be benign and incidental in nature, unfortunately that is difficult to determine with a single ultrasound.





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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