



PATIENT PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

JJ Hearn

Pet has had some recent lethargy and coughing. Owner has concerns that meds were effecting liver/kidneys.

SPECIES

Canine

Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: ALB 4.4 CRE 1.9 K 6.5 GLOB 2.3 RBC 9.4 HGB 21.6 HCT 56.7 PLT 139

BREED

Jack Russell X

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.

SEX

Female

The left kidney is normal in size (4.7 cm), but very irregular, with non-obstructive nephroliths and cortical cysts. Overall echogenicity is slightly hyperechoic with poor 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 hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

AGE

14 Years

The right kidney is normal in size (4.5 cm), but very irregular, with non-obstructive nephroliths and cortical cysts. Overall echogenicity is slightly hyperechoic with poor 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 hydroureter. Renal vasculature is normal.

WEIGHT

22.2 Pounds

Adrenal Glands

The left adrenal gland is large measuring 1.2 cm at the cranial pole, 1.9 cm at the caudal pole, and 3.6 cm in length. It is observed in its normal position cranial to the left renal artery. It is abnormal in appearance in that it is very large with an enlarged, heterogeneous caudal pole. This mass lesion impinges on the local vasculature, but not direct invasion is visualized.

The right adrenal gland is normal in size measuring 0.58 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.

INTERPRETED BY

Kathleen Sennello DVM,
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IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Dr. James Hornbuckle

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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Golden Isles AH

Liver

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. A small, hyperechoic nodule is visualized within the liver parenchyma.

REFERRING VET

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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.

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Gastrointestinal

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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.

SPECIES

Canine

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 measured 0.40 cm. Jejunum wall measured 0.32 cm. Visualized peristalsis appears appropriate. There were no focal lesions consistent with obstruction or a mass effect observed.

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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.

SEX

Female

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.

AGE

14 Years

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.

WEIGHT

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ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

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- Large, irregular, heterogeneous adrenal mass – Left/right adrenomegaly could be consistent with neoplasia (e.g., adenoma, carcinoma, pheochromocytoma), hyperplasia, inflammation, other.
- Irregular cystic kidneys with decreased corticomedullary distinction and small, non-obstructive nephroliths – Mild loss of corticomedullary distinction in both kidneys could be consistent with chronic degenerative disease or interstitial nephrosis. Hyperechoic foci are visualized in the kidney most consistent with nephroliths. There is no current evidence of obstructive disease. Correlate findings with abdominal radiographs, urinalysis, and culture. Continued monitoring is warranted for progression/obstruction.
- Large, heterogeneous liver with small hyperechoic nodule – 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 appearance of the hyperechoic nodule trends to a benign lesion.
- Moderate gallbladder debris – 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

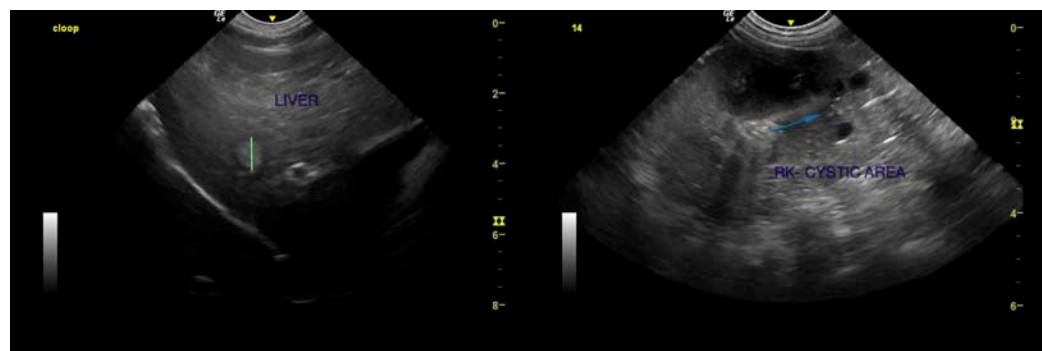
There is mass present involving the adrenal gland. This mass is irregular and relatively large. I do not see evidence of clear vascular invasion, but this is still possible. These masses can be benign or malignant and can secrete hormones or be non-active. Based on the irregular appearance of this mass a cancerous process is considered more likely. Options 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 and/or consider surgical removal (recommend referral to a board certified veterinary surgeon and possible pre op CT)-This can be a challenging surgery with significant risk for complication
- Recommend blood pressure evaluation-if hypertensive consider testing catecholamine levels for a possible pheochromocytoma.
- Due to the invasive nature of these masses a CT scan is recommended to evaluate for metastasis and vascular invasion.
- If no symptoms of cushings are present, consider either referral for surgery or if surgery is not an option consultation with a veterinary oncologist regarding chemotherapeutic options and continued monitoring with ultrasound (in 4-6 weeks) can be considered.
- Some aggressive adrenal tumors can grow quickly and there is risk for acute hemorrhage from vascular invasion.

It is unclear if the mass effect is causing this patient to not feel well. There could be vascular invasion, which I'm not appreciating on the ultrasound today, or distant metastasis. Recommend 3-view thoracic radiographs to further evaluate the cough.

Both kidneys are irregular with cysts and mineralizations. Findings are consistent with chronic renal disease. Recommend a blood pressure evaluation, urinalysis and culture.

The changes observed in the liver are non-specific and could be consistent with a vacuolar hepatopathy if the adrenal mass lesion is secreting hormone(?). Alternately, these could be consistent with age related remodeling, etc.





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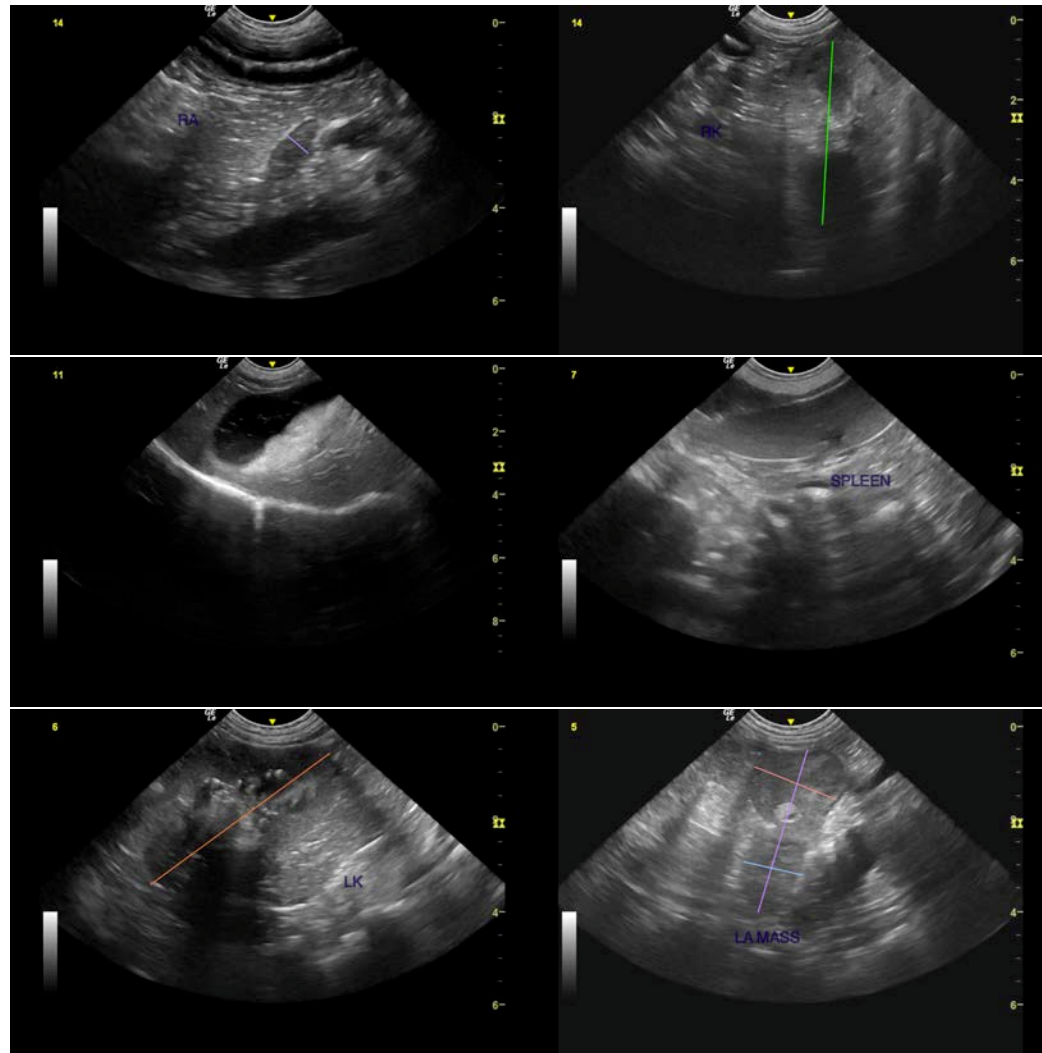
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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

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

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