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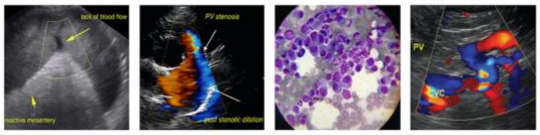

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PATIENT

Tucker Davies

SPECIES

Canine

BREED

Mix

SEX

Neutered Male

AGE

11 years

WEIGHT

55 Pounds

INTERPRETED BY

R. McKenzie Daniel, DVM, DABVP (Canine and Feline)

IMAGING PERFORMED BY

Rebekah Jakum, CVT ARDMS/RVT

HOSPITAL NAME

Conrad Weiser AH

REFERRING VET

Dr. Comalli

INVOICE

12259

DATE

11.15.2021

PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS

History: PU/PD

Medication: Ursodial, Denamarin, k/d

Lab work: Unremarkable CBC, Chemistry panel ALP 7430, ALT 122, Potassium 5.6, precision PSL 309, T4 1.2

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN

Urinary System

The urinary bladder, trigone, cystourethral junction, and visible pelvic urethra to a depth of 2.0 cm exhibited normal thickness and tone. Anechoic urine was present in the lumen with no uroliths or sediment. The ureteral papillae were normal. The ureters were not visible which is normal. No evidence of inflammatory or neoplastic changes were noted.

No evidence of pathology in the areas of the residual prostate (1.0 cm diameter).

Normal size and margination were present in the kidneys. A normal 1:3 cortex / medulla ratio and normal corticomedullary definition were maintained. The echogenicity of the cortex was similar to or slightly less than normal liver parenchyma while the medulla echogenicity was hypoechoic to the cortex with no evidence of pelvic dilation. The left kidney measured 6.8 cm in length. The right kidney measured 7.3 cm in length.

Adrenal Glands

Mild bilateral symmetrical adrenal gland enlargement with uniformly hypoechoic parenchyma was present. The left adrenal gland measured 3.5 in length x 0.86 cm width at the caudal pole. The right adrenal gland measured 2.9 cm in length x 0.81 cm width at the caudal pole.

Spleen

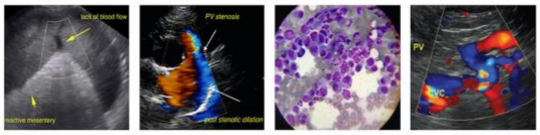
The spleen exhibited primarily finely textured parenchyma which was hyperechoic to the liver and renal cortical parenchyma. Mild generalized parenchyma heterogeneity was present without evidence of nodular changes. The capsule was smooth and regular without apparent expansion. The splenic vasculature at the hilus was normal in volume with no evidence of congestion or thrombosis. The parenchymal heterogeneity is likely consistent with benign changes such as extramedullary hematopoiesis or age-related remodeling with minor potential for inflammatory or neoplastic disease.

Liver

The liver exhibited generalized enlargement with rounded to swollen hepatic contour with non-uniform increased hepatic parenchyma echogenicity with moderate coarse echotexture and evidence of parenchymal remodeling and multifocal variably sized yet non-expansive hypoechoic nodules. An example of a nodule measured 1.5 cm in diameter.

The gallbladder was non distended in size with echogenic, nonmineralized, non-dependent biliary sludge. The biliary sludge was non organized with a hypoechoic to anechoic, irregular to interrupted rim visible between the nondependent sludge and inner wall. No signs of peripheral inflammation.

Gastrointestinal



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The stomach presented intact wall layering with a normal wall layer ratio. The lumen of the stomach was empty with no signs of ileus, obstruction or foreign material.

The small intestine presented intact wall layering with 1:3 muscularis/mucosa ratio. The lumen of the small intestine was empty with no signs of ileus, obstruction or foreign material.

Normal visible colon wall layers were present with apparent formed feces in lumen.

Pancreas

The pancreas was normal in size and contour with isoechoic to mildly heterogeneous parenchyma compared to adjacent omentum. No signs of active inflammation or neoplasia.

Free Abdomen

No overt lymphadenopathy or peritoneal effusion was present.

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Chronic hepatopathy with non-uniformly echogenic to hypoechoic nodular parenchyma
- Partial/emerging gallbladder mucocele
- Prominent bilateral adrenal glands
- Mild chronic renal changes
- Mild heterogeneous pancreas- non-specific, age-related changes suspected with potential for low-grade or chronic pancreatitis possible.

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The presentation of the liver is non-specific yet may indicate vacuolar hepatitis, steroid hepatopathy, chronic active hepatitis, cholangiohepatitis, early fibrosis / cirrhosis or other hepatopathy with areas of hematopoiesis or nodular to regenerative hyperplasia. Hepatic neoplasia is possible yet considered a less likely differential diagnosis.

Full adrenal work up recommended given the patients' clinical signs as well as subjective prominent bilateral adrenal glands without evidence of adrenal tumors and presentation of the liver.

Screening hepatic FNA, assuming normal clotting status could be considered. Further renal staging to include urine C/S and protein: creatinine ratio on sterile urine sample may be considered.

Cushing Work UP

Efficient & Accurate Cushing's Work up

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.

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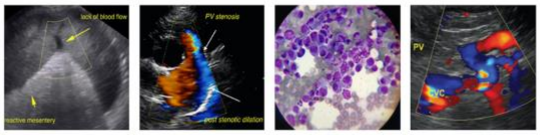

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Its important to remember that Cushing's dogs usually look and play the part and other diseases cause false + stress related cortisol spikes. On rare occasion a Cushing's dog will not follow the rules but this is truly an exception.
Potential Cushing's 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

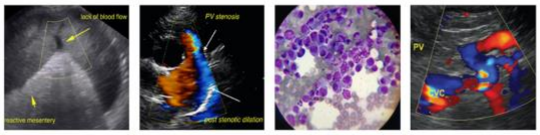
1) **UA:** Repeatable (2-3 urine samples) Urine specific gravity & urine cortisol/creatinine ratio (UCCR): If ***repeatable USG< 10.20 and + UCCR*** move to next step 2.

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.

Address & treat concurrent disease first before performing Cushing's testing or testing will be artificially altered increasing false negatives and positives.

3) **LDDST** (0.01 D-Sodium phosphate mg/kg IV ***with precise dosing****)*** (Better screening test but plagued with false + but considered more specific than ACTH stim) 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). **Interpetation LDDST:** Look at 8-hour post first: If > 1.4 = Cushing's. Then look at 4-hour: if > 1.4 or > 50% baseline = Cushing's. 4-hour do then 8-hour spike most consistent with PDH. Flat line high constant curve without dip more consistent with tumor but can be PDH. See attached graph.



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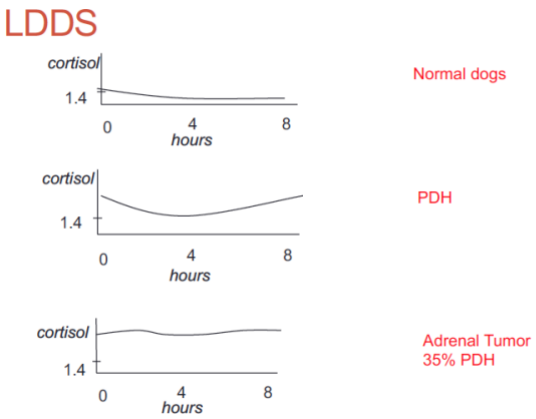

Courtesy: Rebecca Berg DACVIM, DECVIM

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). ACTH stim is better for diagnosis of Addisons, Iatragenic Cushing's, and Cushing's therapy monitoring but problematic with initial Cushing's diagnosis. First dx LDDST is suggested.

5) If **diabetic** then run both LDDST & ACTH stim but stabilize as much as possible first.

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. Cushing's hypertension is usually 150-180 systolic range while pheochromocytoma range is more often > 180 systolic.

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. CT for adrenal may be more through for adrenalectomy surgical planning if ultrasound views of the CVC were problematic.

7) **Adrenectomy** for adrenal mass is prescribed then it is essential to stabilize the patient first regarding secondary disease such as organ dysfunction, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hypernatremia, thromboembolic risk urinary and other infection in order to minimize potential for operative and postoperative complications as they are common in adrenalectomy. Trilostane stabilization therapy for Cushing's would be the first approach then address surgery and hypertension should be managed ideally < 160 systolic with ace inhibitors, phenoxybenzamine, or amlodipine.

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 .

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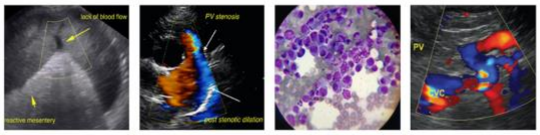

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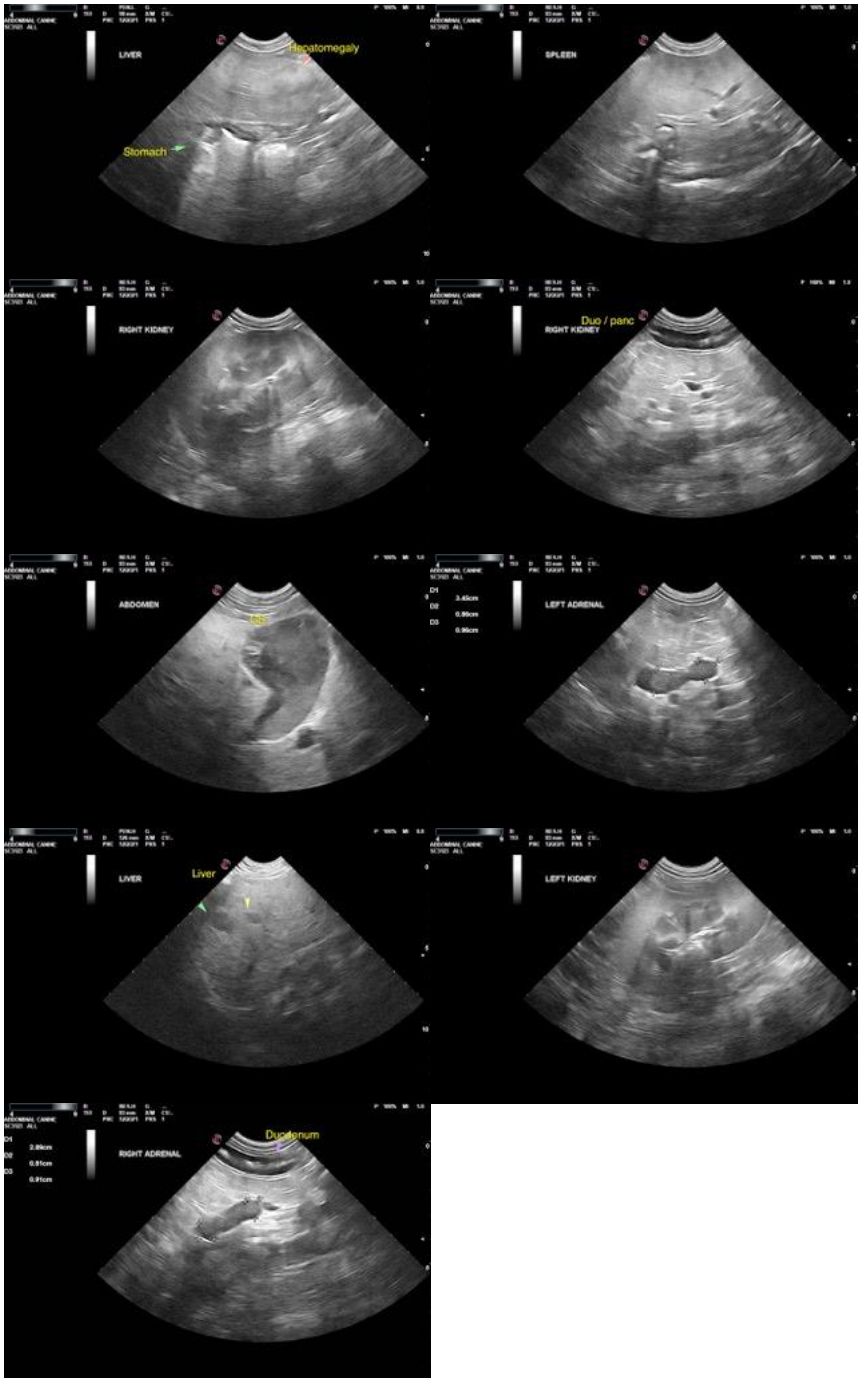

The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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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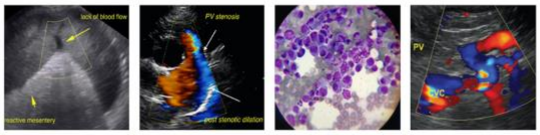

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