



**PATIENT**

Tiki Taylor

**PRESENTING CLINICAL SIGNS**

History: hepatopathy; low level anemia. On gabapentin.  
Abnormal PE/Chem/CBC/UA Results: Previous hx - ACTH stim neg. RBC 5, HCT 36%, Hgb 12, BUN 40, ALT 128, ALKP 1313; UA: protein 3+, USPG 1.033

**SPECIES**

Canine

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE ABDOMEN**

**Urinary System**

The urinary bladder is moderately distended with anechoic urine, and no luminal sediment is present. The ureteral papillae, trigone and pelvic urethra are of normal appearance, and the ureters are not visible (normal). No masses, calculi or mucosal irregularities are noted.

**BREED**

Cavalier King Charles  
Spaniel

**SEX**

Neutered male

The prostate is of appropriate size for patient age and neutering status, with a homogenous parenchyma and smooth capsule. The prostatic urethra is non-dilated with normal margins).

**AGE**

13 years

Both kidneys are hyperechoic, and exhibit poor corticomedullary differentiation. There is no evidence of nephrolithiasis, mineralization, pyelectasia or hydronephrosis. The proximal ureter is not visible (normal). There are numerous, tiny, cortical cysts present in both kidneys. The left kidney measured 5.7 cm. The right kidney measured 5.9 cm.

**WEIGHT**

28 lbs

**Adrenal Glands**

Both adrenal glands are diffusely enlarged and hyperechoic. They have normal phrenic vasculature and are found in the normal location. The left adrenal gland height is (8.3) mm at the cranial pole and (6.2) mm at the caudal pole. The right adrenal gland height is (8.3) mm at the cranial pole and (4.3) mm at the caudal pole

**INTERPRETED BY**

Tam Mengine, DVM,  
DABVP (canine/feline  
practice)

**Spleen**

The splenic parenchyma is diffusely mottled with small hypoechoic nodules up to (3.7 mm) in size. The splenic vasculature is normal with no evidence of congestion or thrombosis, and blood flow through the splenic hilus appears normal.

**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Diane McFadden

**Liver**

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Legacy AH

The liver is diffusely hyperechoic and subjectively enlarged. The portal and hepatic vasculature are of normal size and appearance with no evidence of congestion or thrombosis.

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Pontezzone

The gallbladder is markedly distended with anechoic contents and a large amount of freely movable echogenic sludge. While most of the wall is thin and continuous, there are focal areas of polypoid change to the gallbladder wall. The cystic and common bile ducts are normal / not visible.

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**Gastrointestinal**

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The stomach is empty. The gastric wall is (6.7) mm with normal deviations due to rugal folds, and exhibits appropriate wall layering. The pylorus is of normal appearance.



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The visualized portions of the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum are of normal thickness with intact wall layering that exhibits the appropriate 1:3 muscularis to mucosa ratio. The duodenal wall measures (4.2) mm. The jejunal wall measures up to (3.8) mm. Intestinal motility appears normal.

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The visible portions of the colon are of normal thickness, up to (1.2) mm, with intact wall layering. The ileocecal junction is visualized and appears normal.

**BREED**

Cavalier King Charles  
Spaniel

***Pancreas***

The areas of the limbs and body of the pancreas are isoechoic to the surrounding mesenteric fat, with normal capsular appearance. There is no evidence of peripancreatic inflammation. The pancreatic duct appears normal.

**SEX**

Neutered male

**AGE**

13 years

***Free Abdomen***

There is no evidence of free fluid within the peritoneal cavity. The omentum and intra-abdominal fat are of appropriate echogenicity. Enlarged abdominal lymph nodes are not observed. The aortic trifurcation has normal blood flow with no evidence of thrombosis.

**WEIGHT**

28 lbs

**ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS**

**INTERPRETED BY**

Tam Mengine, DVM,  
DABVP (canine/feline  
practice)

**PRIMARY FINDINGS:**

Reactive hepatopathy.  
Polypoid changes to the gallbladder wall.

**IMAGING  
PERFORMED BY**

Diane McFadden

**SECONDARY FINDINGS:**

Diffusely nodular spleen.  
Bilateral adrenal hyperplasia.

**HOSPITAL NAME**

Legacy AH

Chronic renal disease.

**REFERRING VET**

Dr. Pontezzone

**INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The changes to the gallbladder wall may be incidental, but can also occur with cholecystitis. Given the elevation in liver enzymes, treatment with Ursodiol is recommended. Cholecystocentesis for culture can also be considered or an empirical trial with antibiotics such as Fluroquinolone.

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The changes to the liver and adrenal glands could be consistent with Cushing's disease. Since an ACTH stimulation was normal, this makes Cushing's disease less likely. However, if symptoms such as polyuria and polydipsia are present, then a low-dose Dexamethasone suppression test can be considered to

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completely rule out Cushing's disease. If clinical signs are absent then further testing is not recommended. Additional recommendations to look for a cause of reactive hepatopathy include:

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- ❖ screening for diabetes mellitus and hyperlipidemia if not already performed
- ❖ bile acid testing is recommended to further assess severity of hepatic disease - if elevated then liver biopsies should be considered
- ❖ if bile acids are normal, but the ALT is increased, then initiation of liver support therapies such as SAME, Vitamin E and ursodiol, along with serial monitoring of liver enzyme levels every 2-3 months, could be initiated

**BREED**

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

The splenic changes are non-specific and could be consistent with nodular hyperplasia, extramedullary hematopoiesis, splenitis or less likely, neoplasia. Recommendations include:

**SEX**

Neutered male

- ❖ ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration of affected areas with a 25G needle

**AGE**

13 years

The elevation in BUN is likely due to chronic renal disease. However, if there is a discordant elevation between BUN and creatinine, then the possibility of gastric ulceration could be considered, although there was no evidence of this seen on ultrasound. If there is vomiting or inappetence, then of course omeprazole and Sucralfate can be considered.

**WEIGHT**

28 lbs

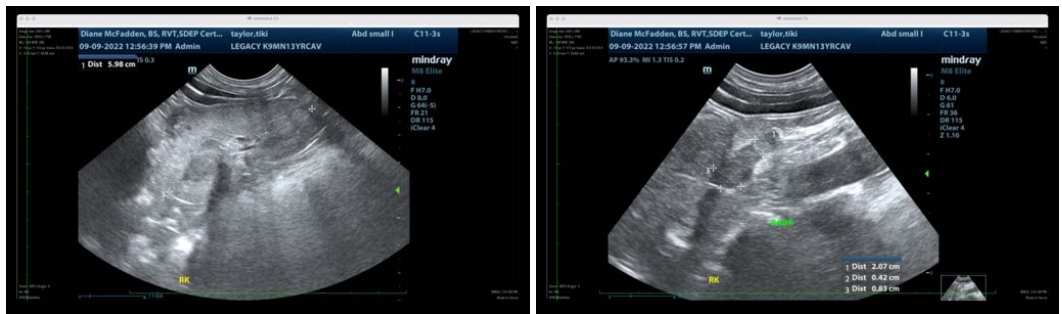
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**IMAGING PERFORMED BY**

Diane McFadden

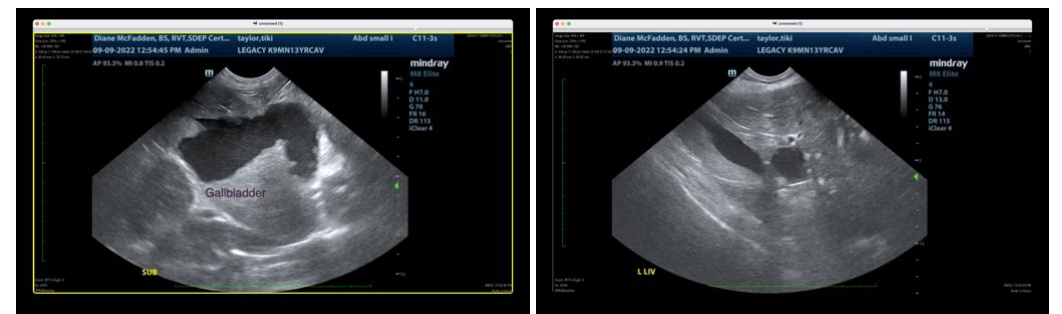


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The information and recommendations provided are based on the images presented by the referring veterinarian/sonographer. No evaluation can be communicated regarding pathology that was not visible in the image/video clips provided.

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.

**Tam Mengine, DVM, DABVP (canine/feline practice)**

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