

WEBINAR

Veterinary POCUS: Assessing Acute Abdominal Conditions Using the Rapid 5-Point Abdominal POCUS Exam

July 2022



Your Host



Dr. Oron Frenkel, MD, MS

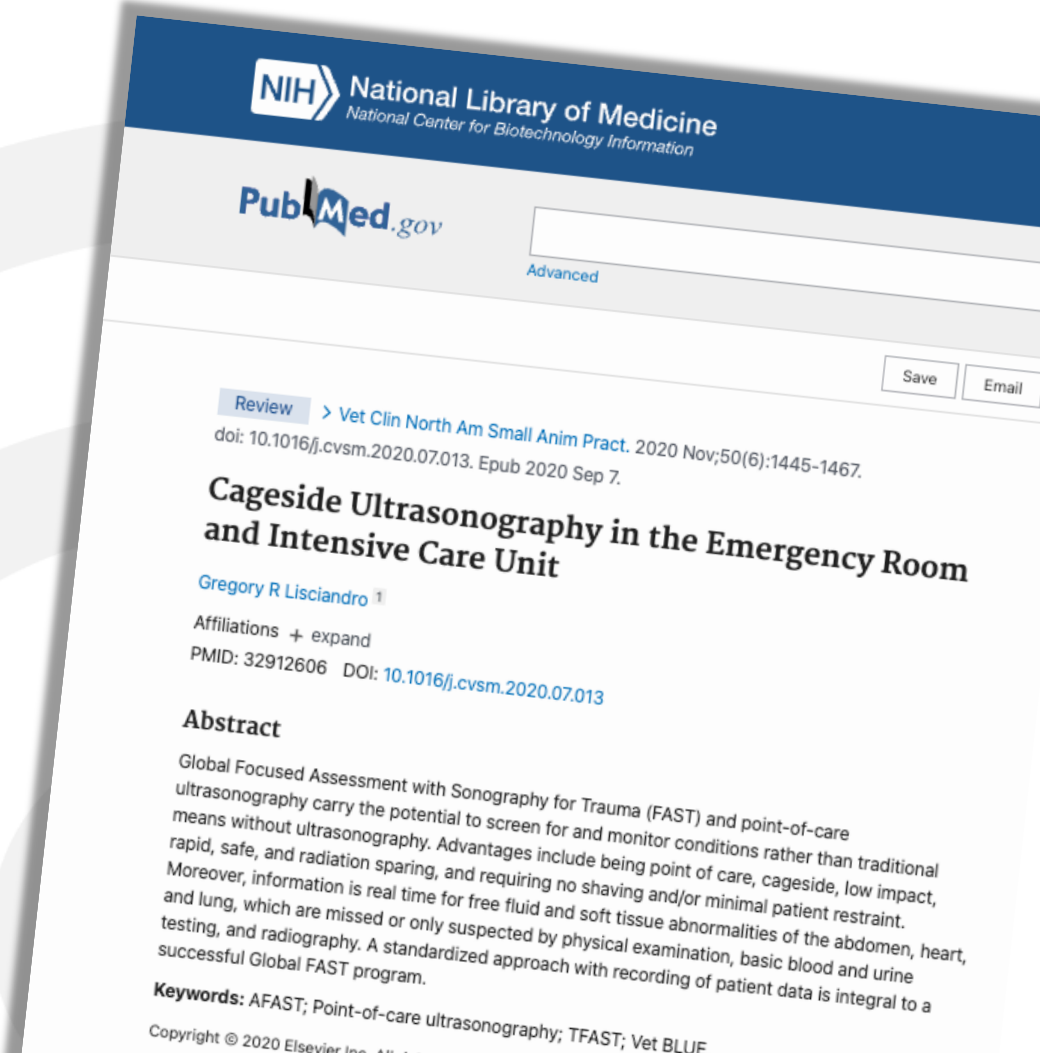
Emergency Physician & POCUS Educator

Chairman, Clarius Medical Advisory Board

Cageside Ultrasonography in the Emergency Room and Intensive Care Unit

Information is real time for free fluid and soft tissue abnormalities of the abdomen, heart, and lung, which are missed or only suspected by physical examination, basic blood and urine testing, and radiography

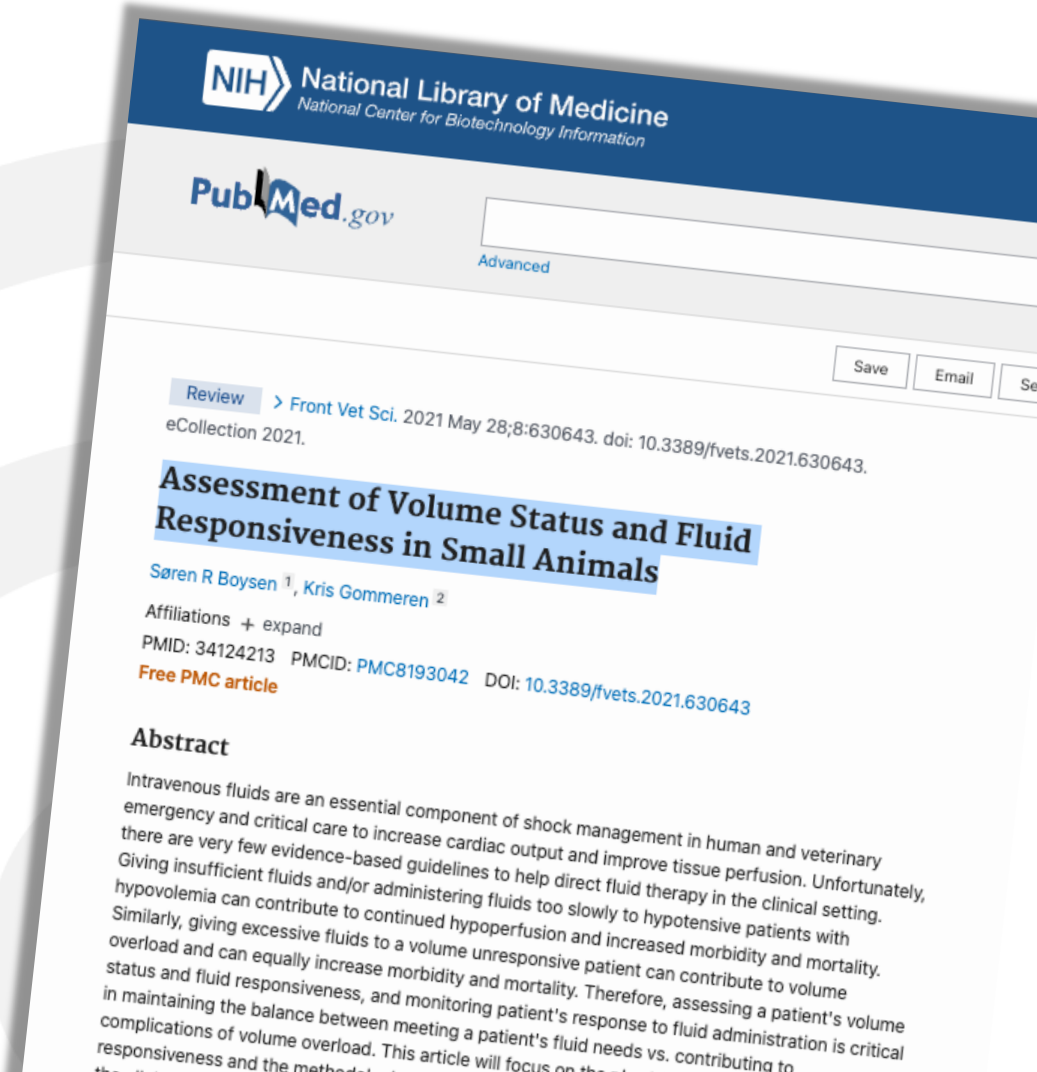
Lisciandro GR. Cageside Ultrasonography in the Emergency Room and Intensive Care Unit. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract.* 2020 Nov;50(6):1445-1467. doi: 10.1016/j.cvsm.2020.07.013. Epub 2020 Sep 7. PMID: 32912606.



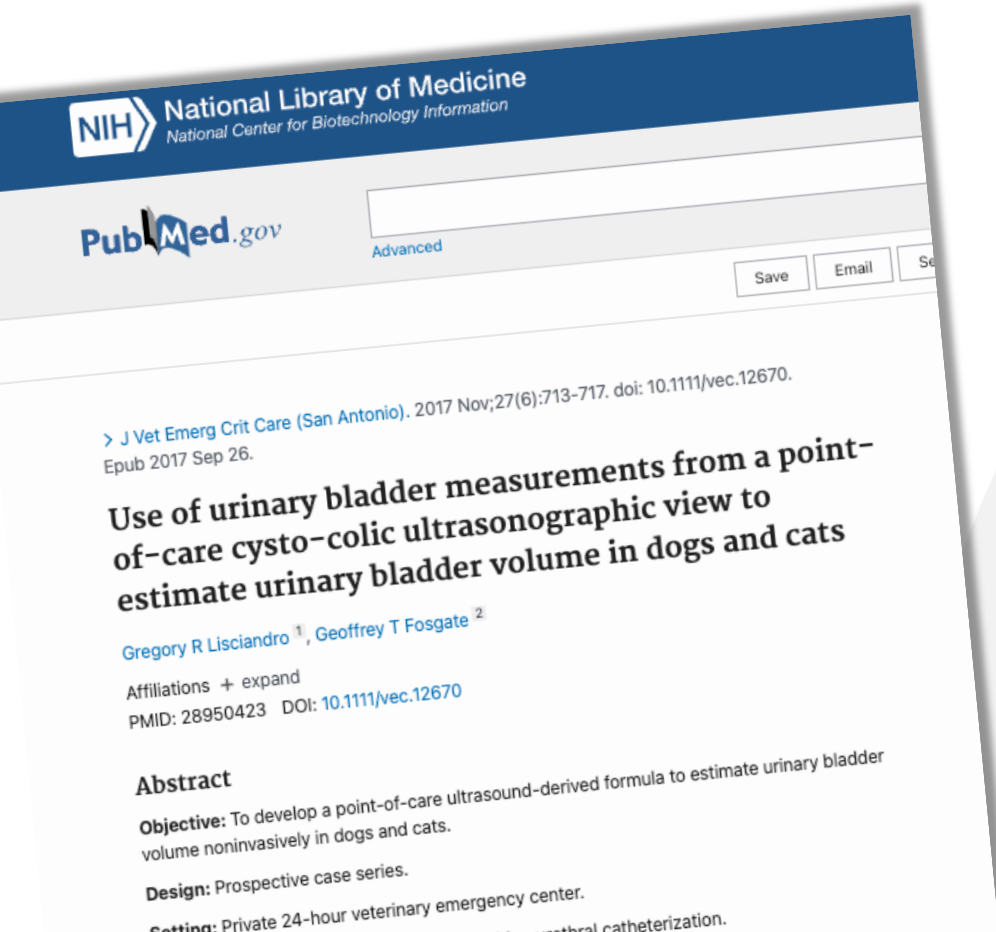
Assessment of Volume Status and Fluid Responsiveness in Small Animals

Assessing a patient's volume status and fluid responsiveness, and monitoring patient's response to fluid administration is critical in maintaining the balance between meeting a patient's fluid needs vs. contributing to complications of volume overload.

Boysen SR, Gommeren K. Assessment of Volume Status and Fluid Responsiveness in Small Animals. Front Vet Sci. 2021 May 28;8:630643. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2021.630643. PMID: 34124213; PMCID: PMC8193042.



Use of urinary bladder measurements from a point-of-care cysto-colic ultrasonographic view to estimate urinary bladder volume



The point-of-care ultrasound-derived formula may be useful to estimate urine volume noninvasively in dogs and cats.

Lisciandro GR, Fosgate GT. Use of urinary bladder measurements from a point-of-care cysto-colic ultrasonographic view to estimate urinary bladder volume in dogs and cats. J Vet Emerg Crit Care (San Antonio). 2017 Nov;27(6):713-717. doi: 10.1111/vec.12670. Epub 2017 Sep 26. PMID: 28950423.

Your Expert Guest Speakers



Dr. Soren Boysen, DVM, DACVECC

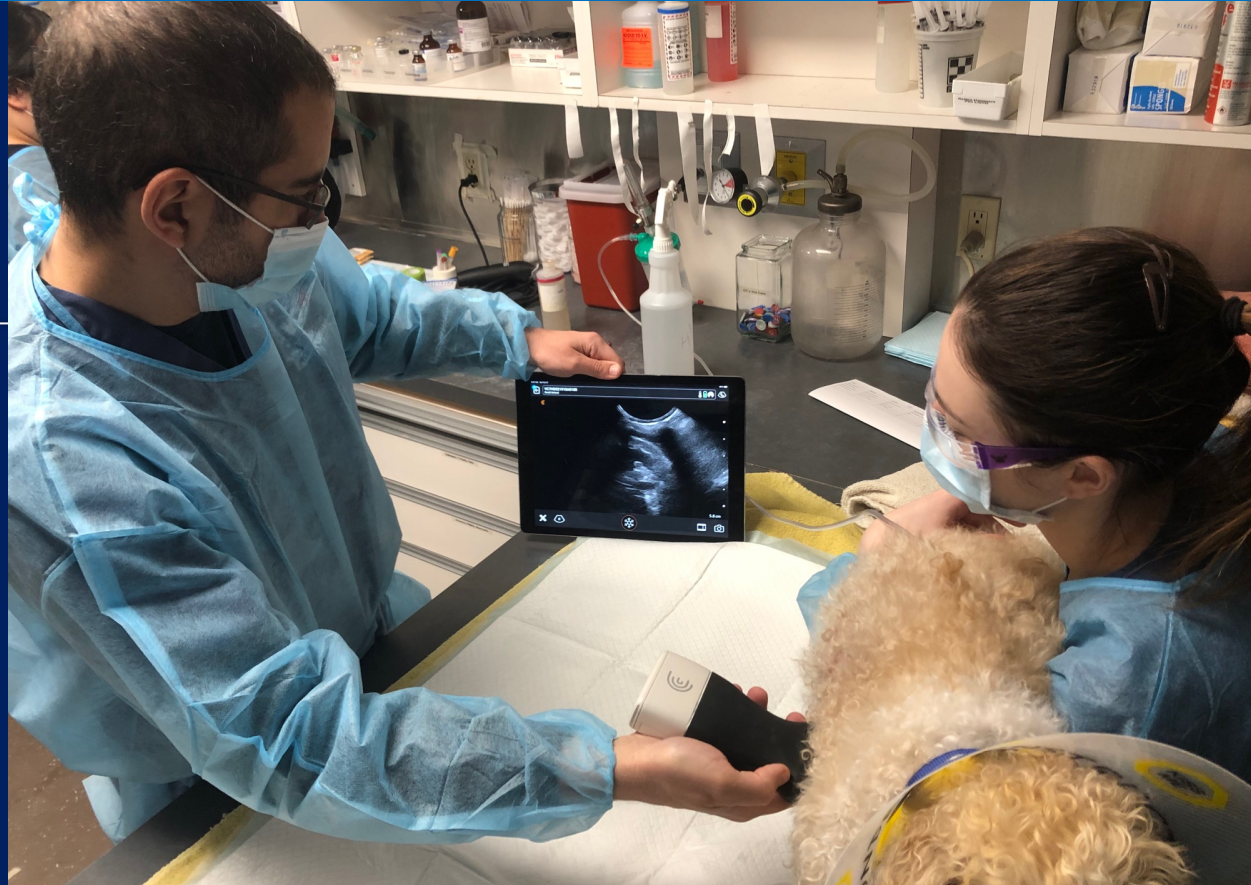
Professor, Veterinary Clinical & Diagnostic Sciences,
University of Calgary



Dr. Serge Chalhoub, BSc, DVM, DACVIM

Senior Instructor, Veterinary Clinical & Diagnostic
Sciences, University of Calgary

Veterinary POCUS: Rapidly assessing acute abdominal conditions using the 5-point abdominal point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) exam



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**Serge Chalhoub, DVM,
DACVIM**

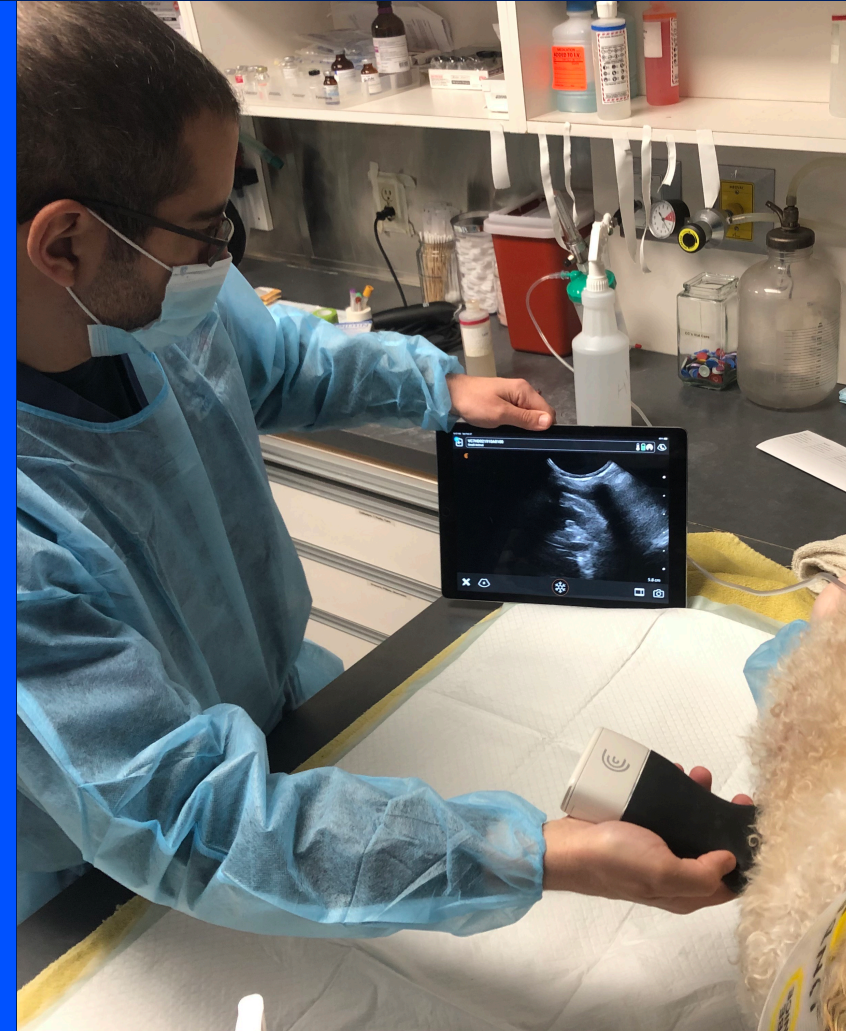
schalhou@ucalgary.ca

Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences

In relation to this presentation, we receive conference honorariums, but otherwise declare no conflicts of interest

Objectives for today

- Discuss how POCUS is applied based on the clinical setting encountered
- Review current specific abdominal POCUS applications
- Demonstrate how the 5-point abdominal POCUS exam is performed
- Demonstrate the application of POCUS in a patient with an acute abdomen



Zola: History and presenting complaint

- 3-year-old m/n Husky
- Cried out after landing on the tailgate trying to jump out of a truck 48 hours ago
- Seemed fine afterwards
- Vomiting this morning, not eating past 24 hours
- Does not want to get up or walk



Zola: Physical exam

- Very dull but responsive, estimated weight 30 kg
- HR: 160 bpm, RR: 20 breaths per minute, T: 37.1 C (98.8 F)
- Is ambulatory but does not want to walk
- Very painful (tries to bite) when palpating the abdomen

Stable or unstable?

Is POCUS indicated?



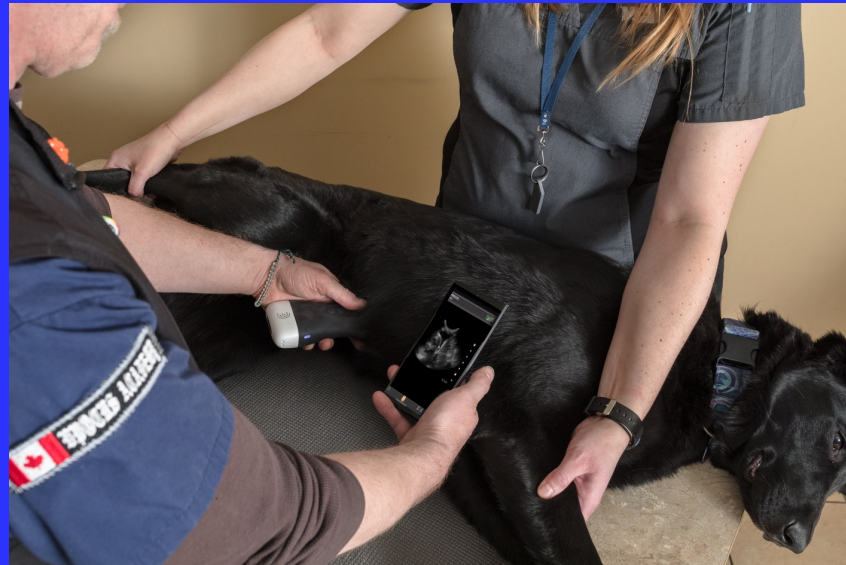
POCUS and unstable patients.....

Are all aspects of POCUS always indicated in all patients?

- Prevalence of free fluid (any cavity with POCUS)
 - Stable patients (based on triage exam): < 10% chance of free fluid
 - Unstable patients (based on triage exam): $\geq 75\%$ chance of free fluid
- No significant difference in prevalence of free fluid between dogs and cats



Serious conditions result in sonographically detectable findings!



POCUS is an extension of the physical exam.....

- As such POCUS should be applied similarly to the physical exam...
 - Is a full cranial nerve examination indicated on every patient?
 - Is a full orthopedic exam always indicated?
 - Do you do a rectal exam on really dyspneic patients?

All aspects of POCUS are not always indicated

How is POCUS clinically applied?



General Application of POCUS?

1. Abdominal POCUS
2. Pleural space & lung ultrasound (PLUS)
3. Cardiac POCUS
4. Other techniques developed as research expands
 - Nerve blocks, optic nerve sheath diameter, etc.



How is it used?

Patient centered & targeted!

Abdominal
POCUS

Pleural and lung
POCUS

Cardiovascular
POCUS

Patient assessment & pretest probabilities

Patient



Evidence suggests POCUS may delay treatment and adversely affect outcomes in some ER cases

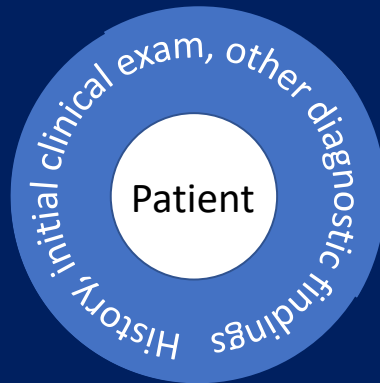
Patient centered & targeted!

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Patient assessment & pretest probabilities



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REVIEWS

Diagnostic Point-of-Care Ultrasound for Hospitalists

Nilam J. Soni, MD^{1*}, Brian P. Lucas, MD, MS²

¹Department of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas; ²Medicine Service, VA Medical Center, White River Junction, Vermont.

J Korean Med Sci. 2020 Feb 24;35(7):e54|
<https://doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2020.35.e54>
eISSN 1598-6357-pISSN 1011-8934

JKMS

Special Article
Medicine General & Policy



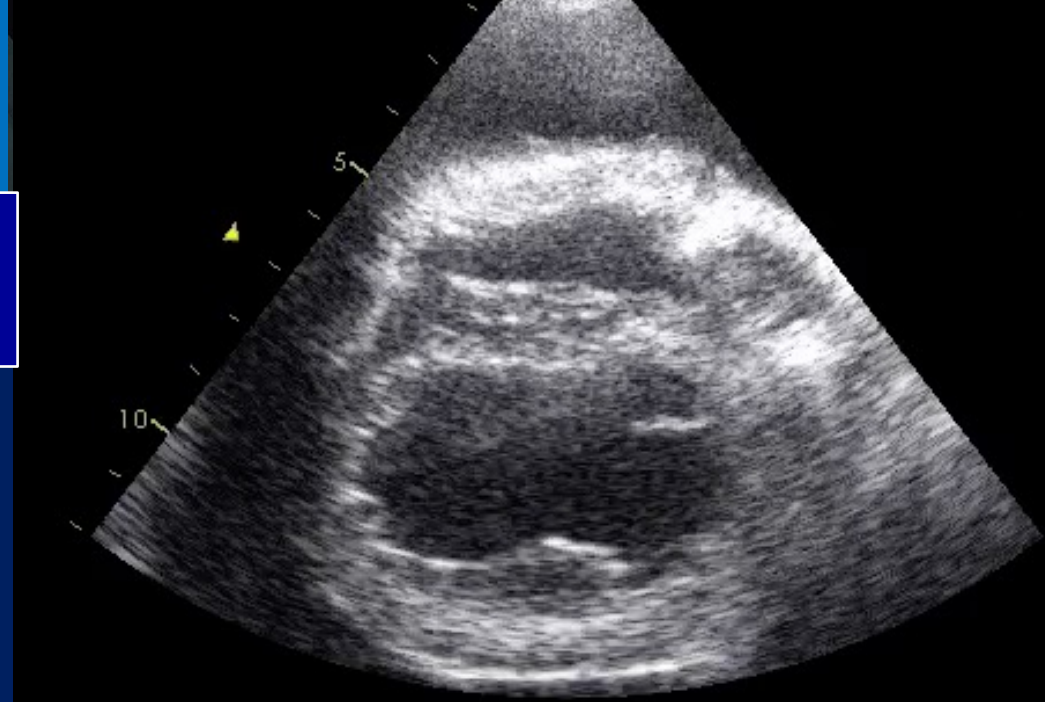
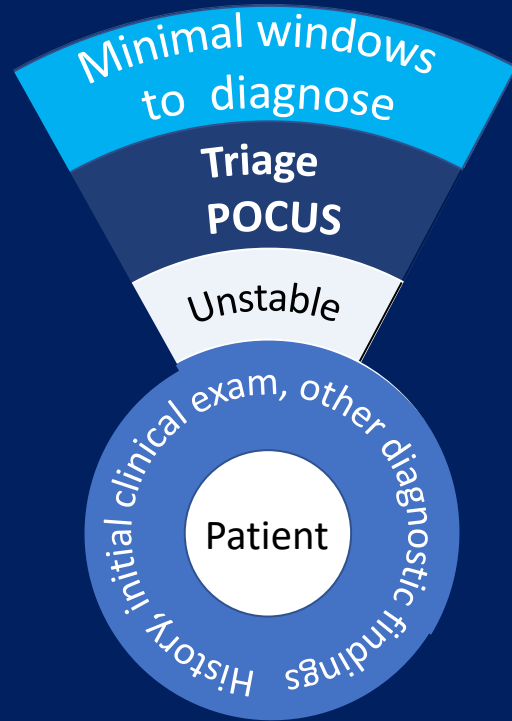
Clinical Guidance for Point-of-Care Ultrasound in the Emergency and Critical Care Areas after Implementing Insurance Coverage in Korea

Patient centered & targeted!

Abdominal
POCUS

Pleural and lung
POCUS

Cardiovascular
POCUS

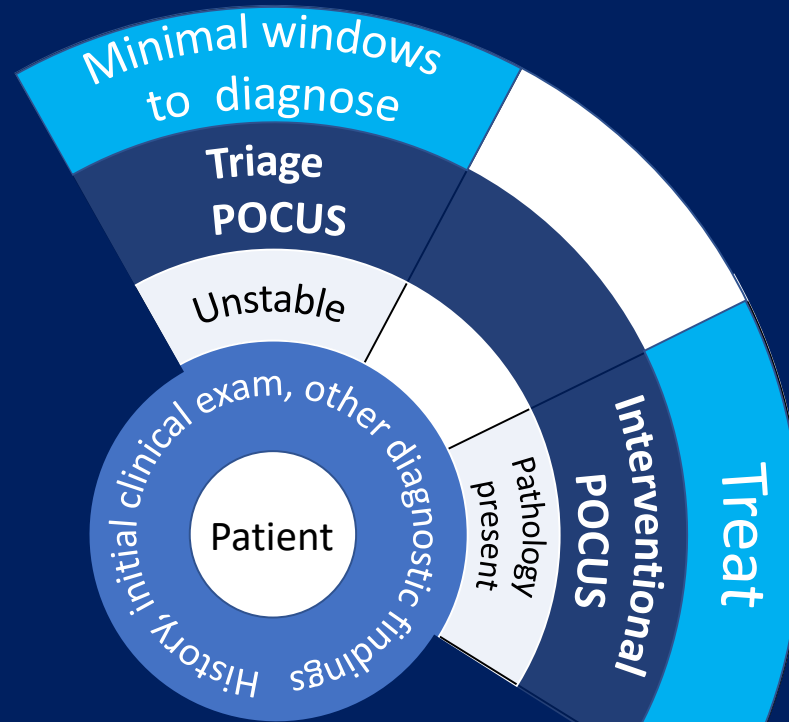


Patient centered & targeted!

Abdominal
POCUS

Pleural and lung
POCUS

Cardiovascular
POCUS



Observational/Cohort Study

Critical Care Explorations

Impact of Point-of-Care Ultrasound in the Emergency Department on Care Processes and Outcomes in Critically Ill Nontraumatic Patients

Jarrod M. Mosier, MD FCCM^{1,2,3}; Uwe Stolz, PhD, MPH⁴; Rebecca Milligan, MD^{1,2,3}; Crit Care Expl 2019; 1:e0019



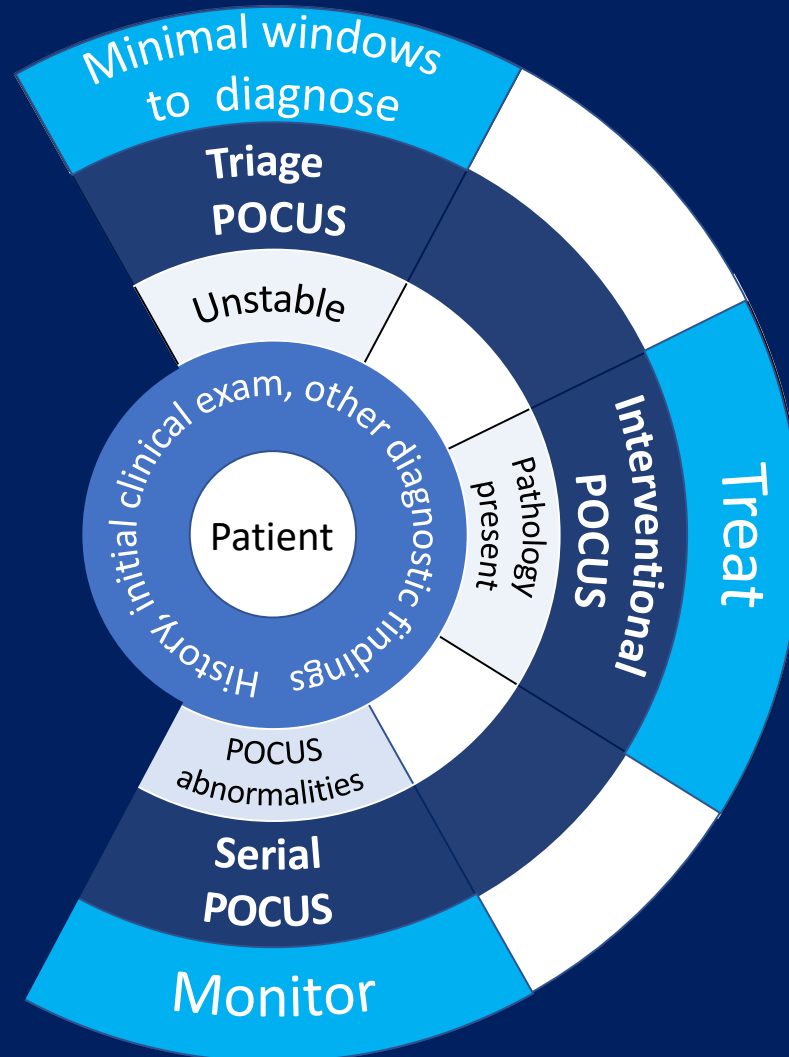
Evidence suggests POCUS may delay treatment and adversely affect outcomes in some ER cases

Patient centered & targeted!

Abdominal
POCUS

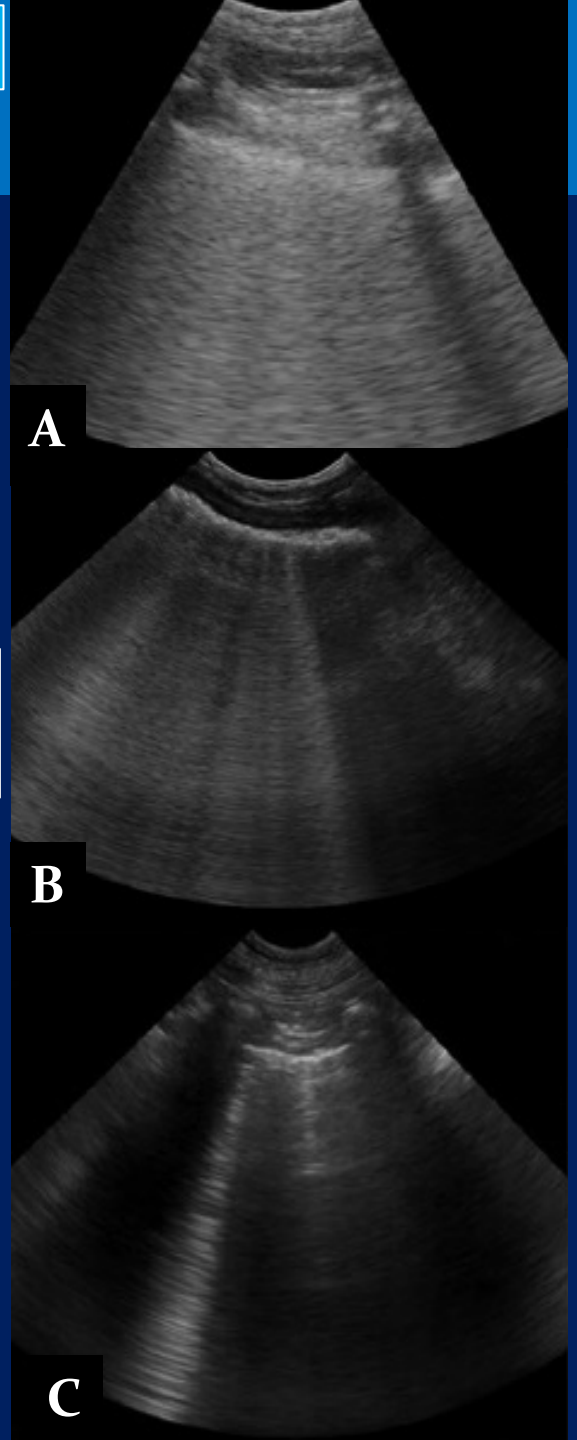
Pleural and lung
POCUS

Cardiovascular
POCUS



Furosemide

Decreasing
severity

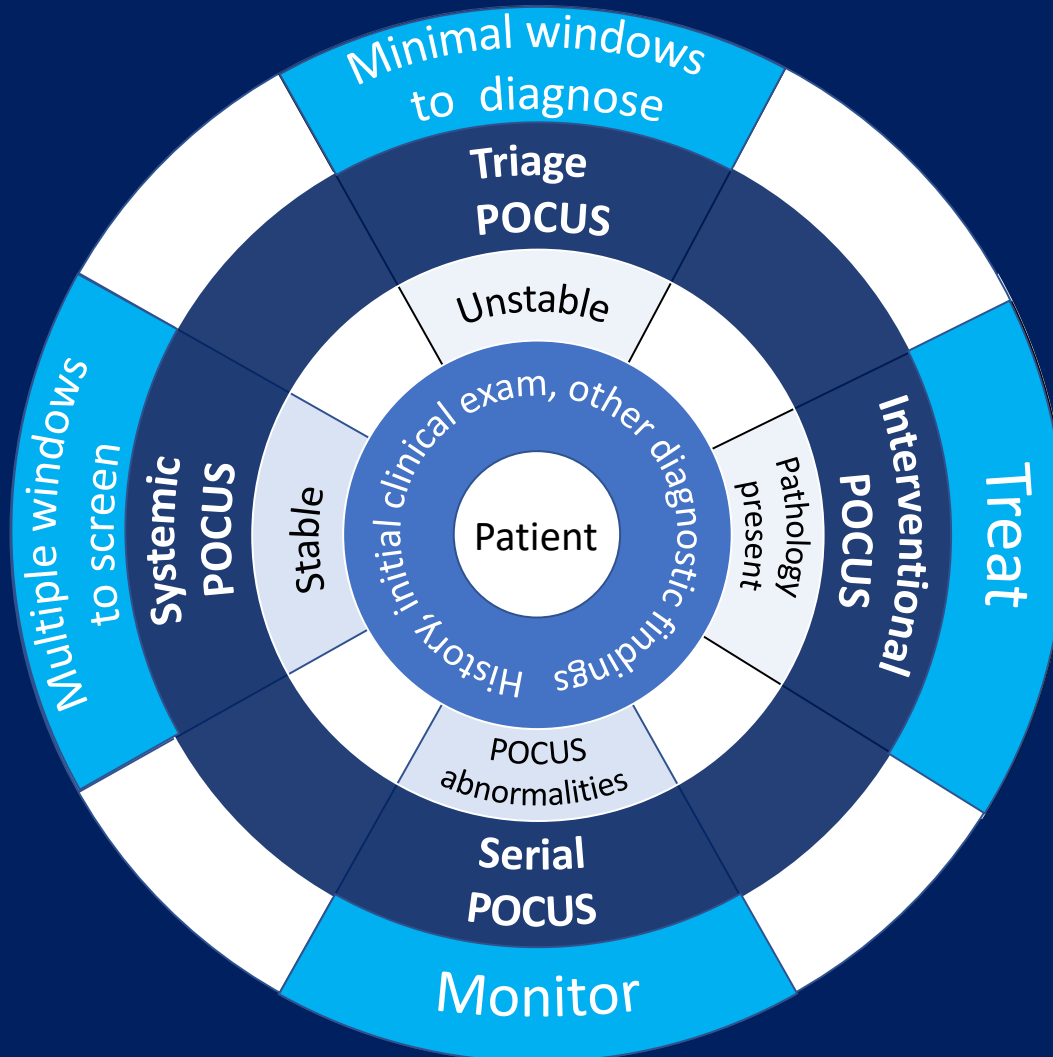


Patient centered & targeted!

Abdominal
POCUS

Pleural and lung
POCUS

Cardiovascular
POCUS



Pre and post surgery or prior to discharge



General and ICU hospitalized



POCUS: General concepts

- Probe selection, frequency, depth?
- To clip or not to clip?
- Coupling agents?
 - Alcohol
 - Alcohol/gel mixes
 - Alcohol on the dog, gel on the probe



Microconvex/curvilinear
5-8 MHz



Coming back to Zola...

Do you currently want to scan and answer all possible POCUS questions?

What POCUS question(s) (binary) do you want to rule in/out considering the clinical information?

HR: 160, RR: 20 breaths per minute, T: 37.1 C (98.8 F)

- PCV 49% (37-55)
- TS 55 g/L (60-78)
- BUN >80 mg/dl (15-26)
- Glu 10 mmol/L (4-6.5) (180 mg/dl)
- Lac 8.3 mmol/L (<2.5)
- Doppler systolic blood pressure: 78 mmHg



Differential diagnoses?

- Could be many things
 - Hemoabdomen (ruptured mass, trauma or both)
 - Uroabdomen (trauma induced)
 - Bile peritonitis (trauma induced)
 - Referred pain - Disc disease/fracture
 - Trauma (tail gate injury) is a "red herring"
 - Other acute abdominal condition (e.g. GI foreign body, pancreatitis, other)
 - Other cause of shock (e.g. pericardial effusion)

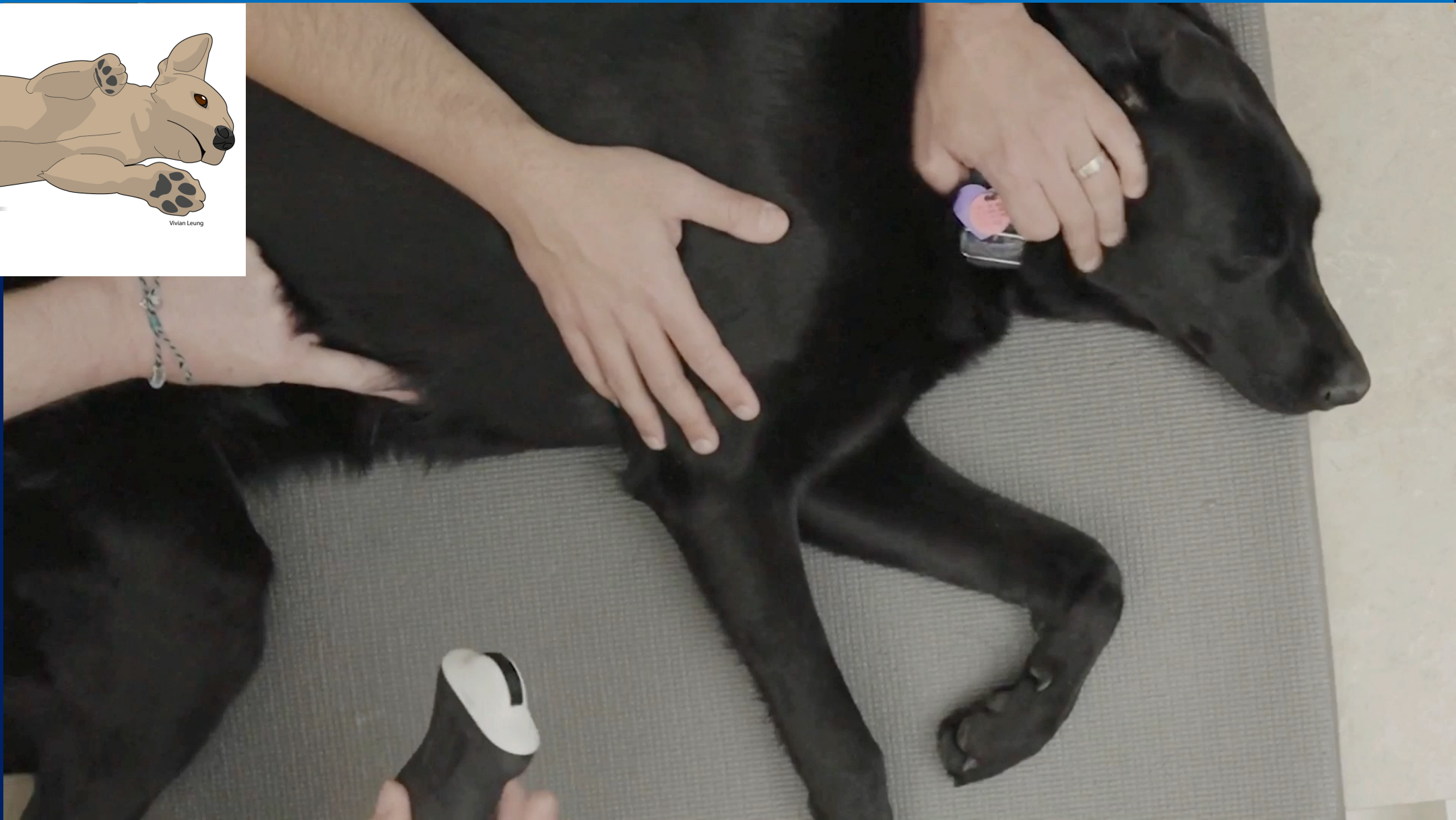
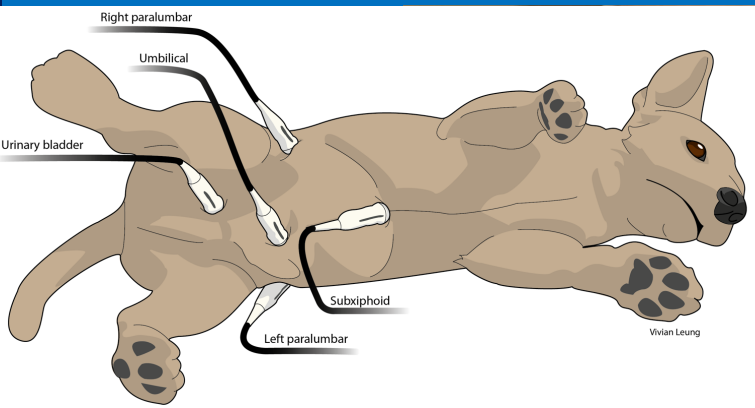
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1. What system and question(s) are you going to start with?
2. What position are you going to scan Zola in?

What sites do we currently assess?

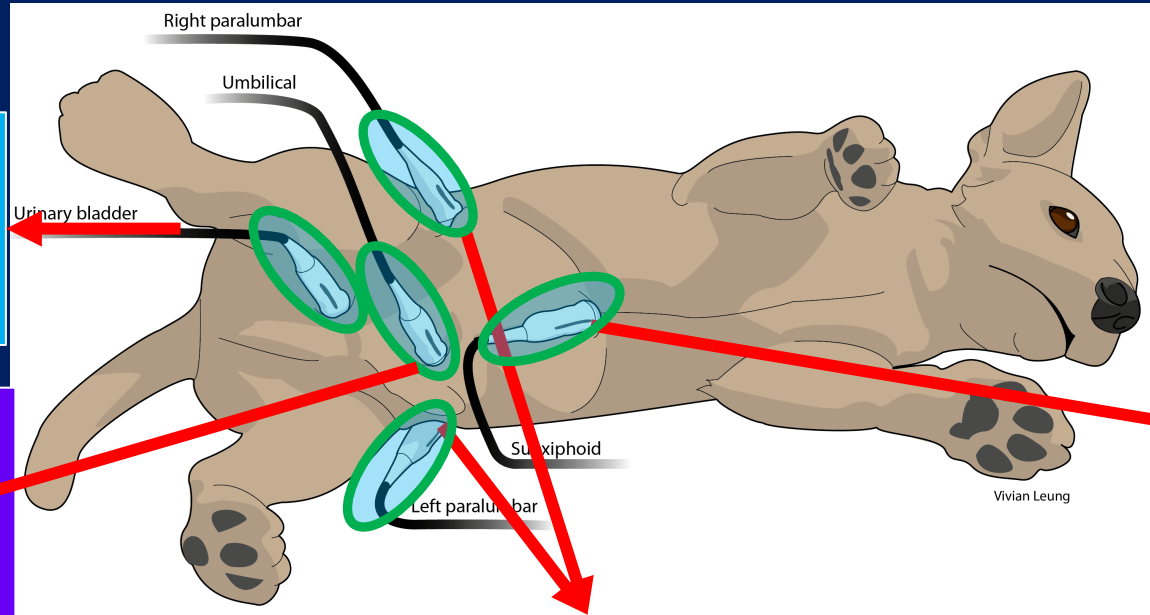


5-Point Abdominal POCUS Binary Questions

All Sites: 1) Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N*

3) Urine*
production Y/N
3b) Pyometra?

12) Splenic
masses? More
research needed



4) Is there generalized ileus Y/N?*
(duodenum)

5) Is there renal pelvic dilation Y/N?

6) Is there gall bladder wall*
edema Y/N

7) Is there gastric ileus +/- fluid
distention Y/N*

8) Is it OK to give a fluid bolus?
Y/N (CVC assessment)**

9) *Is there pericardial effusion*
Y/N**

10) Is there CPR cardiac activity
Y/N?

11) *Is there pleural effusion Y/N***

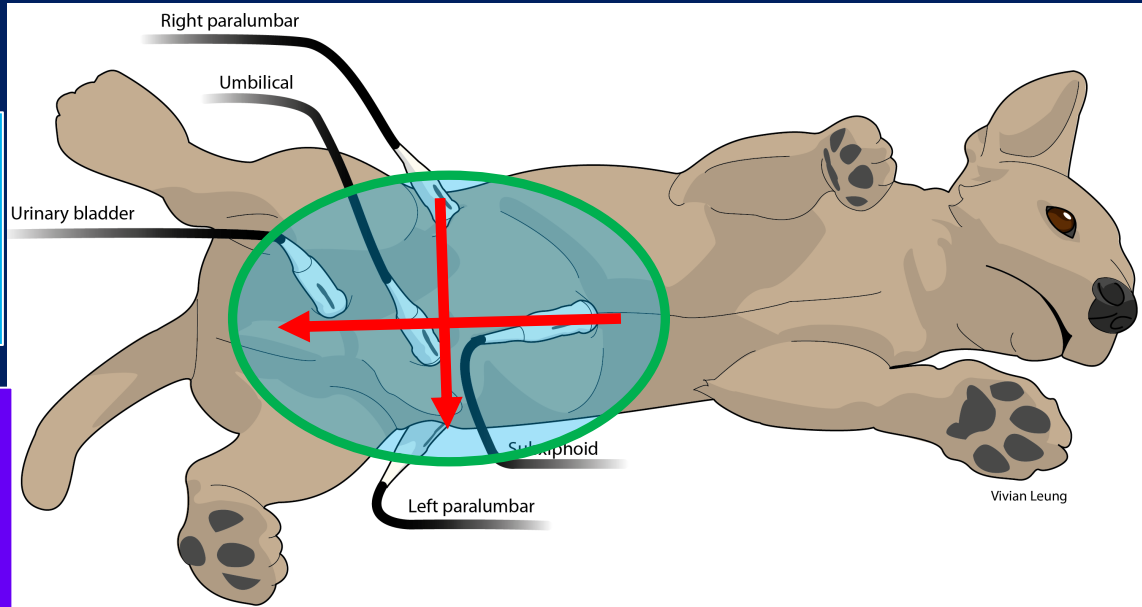
Combine the answer of abdominal POCUS findings with other POCUS results,
history and clinical findings to narrow the differential diagnosis

What is the recommended order to scan?

All Sites: 1) Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N*

3) Urine*
production Y/N
3b) Pyometra?

12) Splenic
masses? More
research needed



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Combine the answer of abdominal POCUS findings with other POCUS results,
history and clinical findings to narrow the differential diagnosis

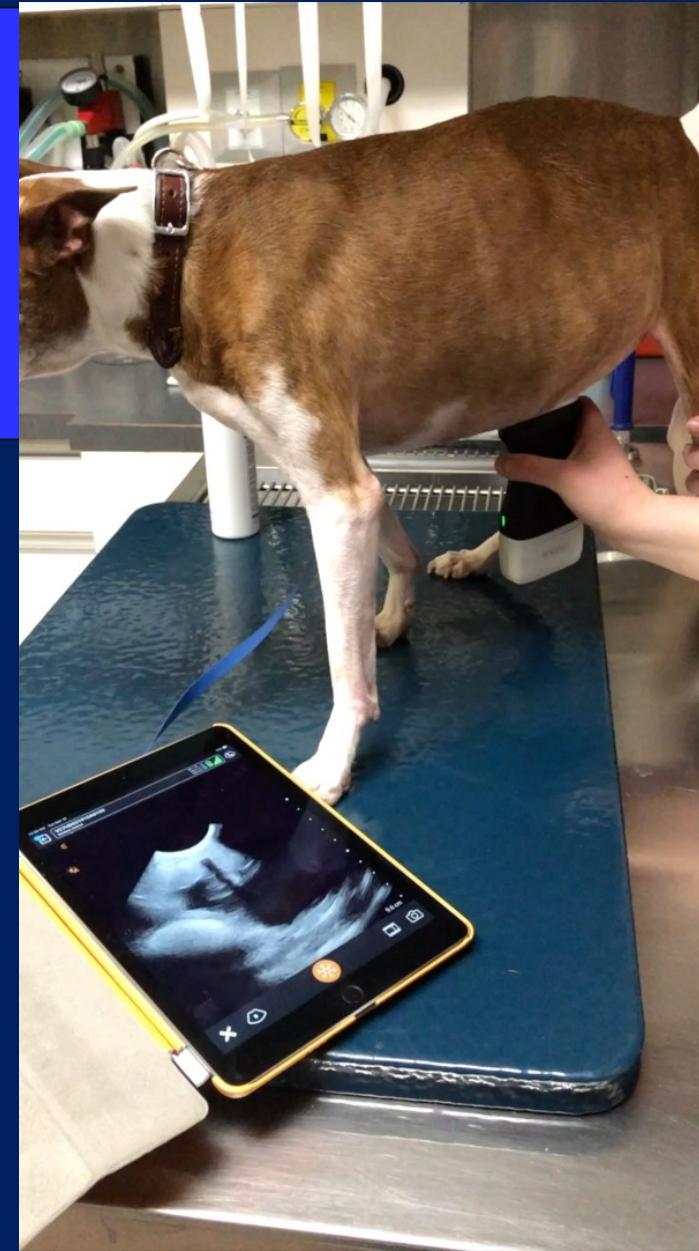
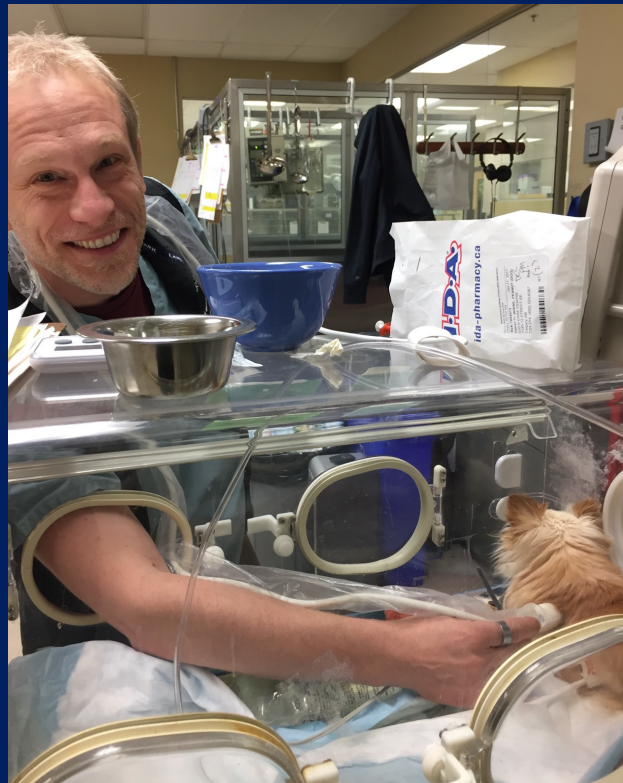
What position are you going to scan in?

- Can scan patients...
 - While on oxygen after anxiolytics
 - While giving fluids/performing life saving interventions



What position are you going to scan in?

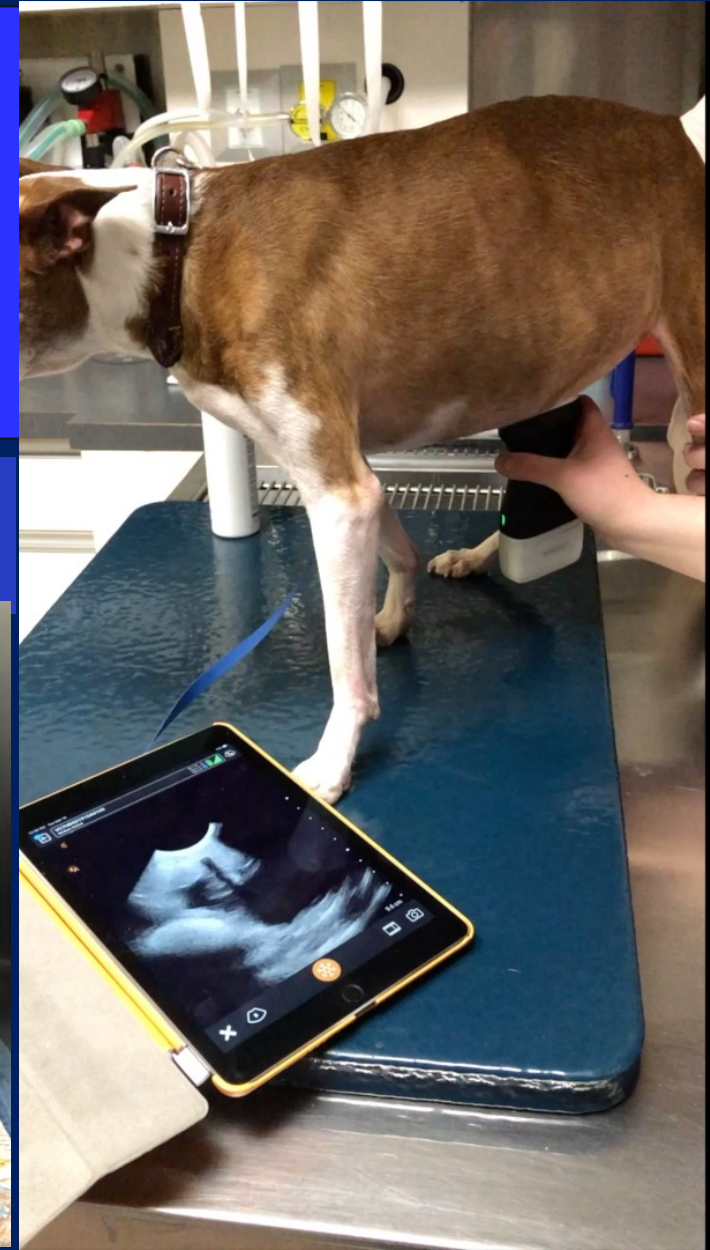
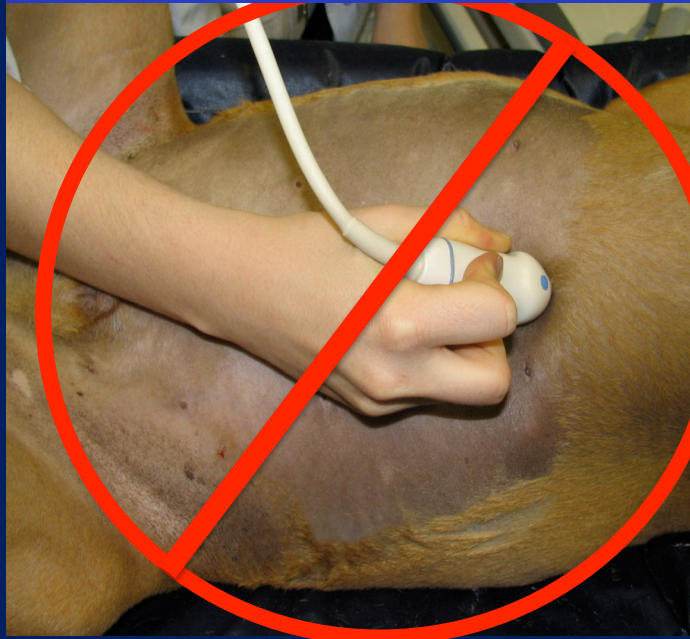
- Can scan patients...
 - While on oxygen after anxiolytics
 - While giving fluids/performing life saving interventions
- **In the position they are comfortable!!



What position are you going to scan in?

- Can scan patients...
 - While on oxygen after anxiolytics
 - While giving fluids/performing life saving interventions
- **In the position they are comfortable!!

Avoid Dorsal!!



Zola and abdominal POCUS: What question(s) are most likely and are you comfortable trying to answer?

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- PCV 49% (37-55)
- TS 55 g/L (60-78)
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Hemoabdomen (ruptured mass, trauma or both)

Uroabdomen (trauma induced)

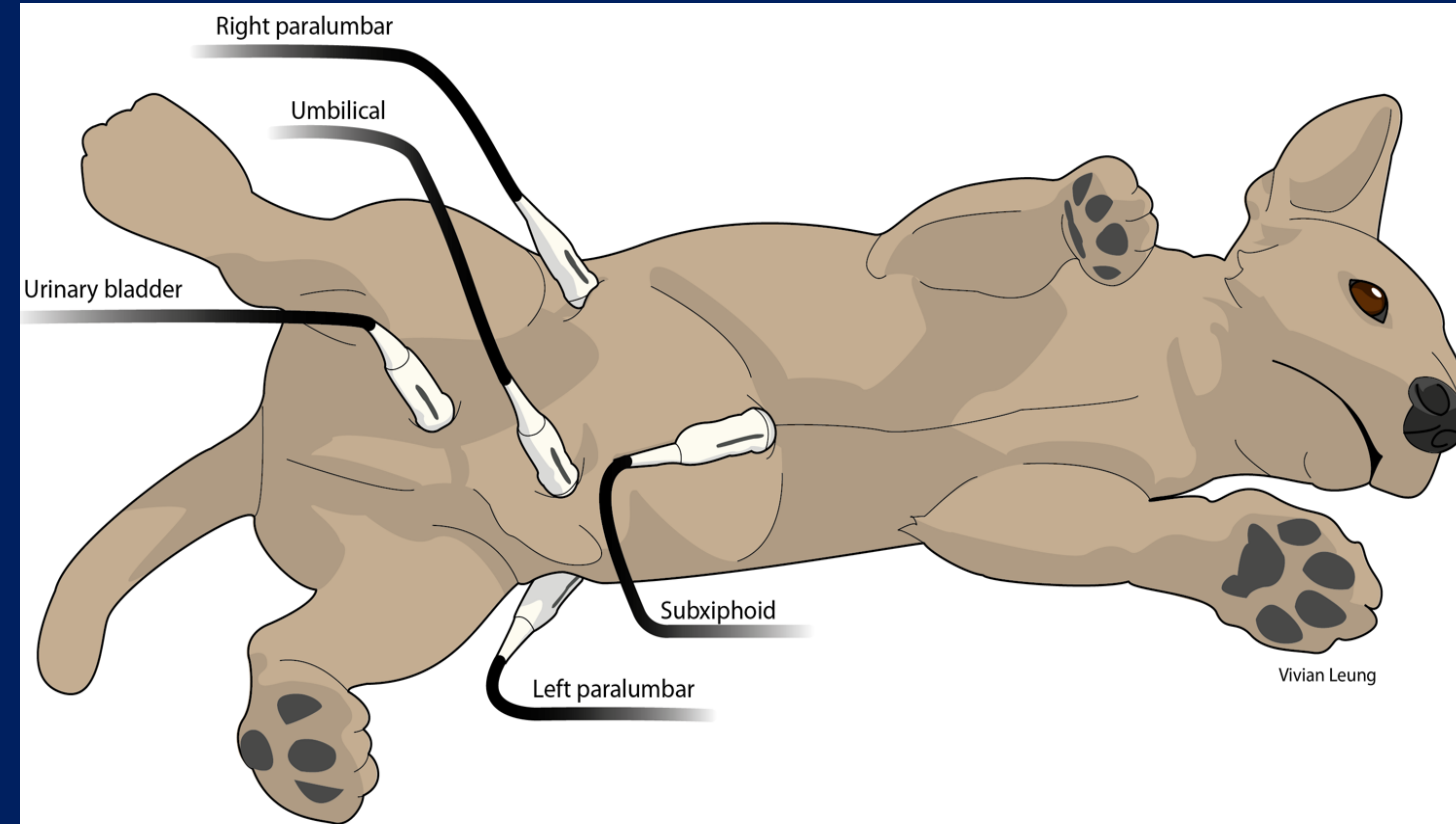
Bile peritonitis (trauma induced)

Referred pain - Disc disease/fracture

Trauma (tail gate injury) is a "red herring"

Other acute abdominal condition (e.g. GI foreign body, pancreatitis...)

Other cause of shock (e.g. pericardial effusion)



- 1) Free abdominal fluid Y/N?
- 2) Free abdominal air Y/N?
- 3) Gall bladder wall edema Y/N?
- 4) Urine production (+/- pyometra) Y/N?
- 5) Generalized ileus Y/N? (duodenum)
- 6) Renal pelvic dilation Y/N?
- 7) Gastric ileus +/- fluid distention Y/N?
- 8) Fluid bolus OK? Y/N (CVC assessment)
- 9) Pericardial effusion Y/N?
- 10) CPR cardiac activity Y/N?
- 11) Pleural effusion Y/N?
- 12) Caudal lung pathology Y/N?
- 13) Splenic mass if Hemoabdomen Y/N?

How Accurate is abdominal POCUS for fluid?

JOURNAL OF
Veterinary Emergency
AND Critical Care

Original Study

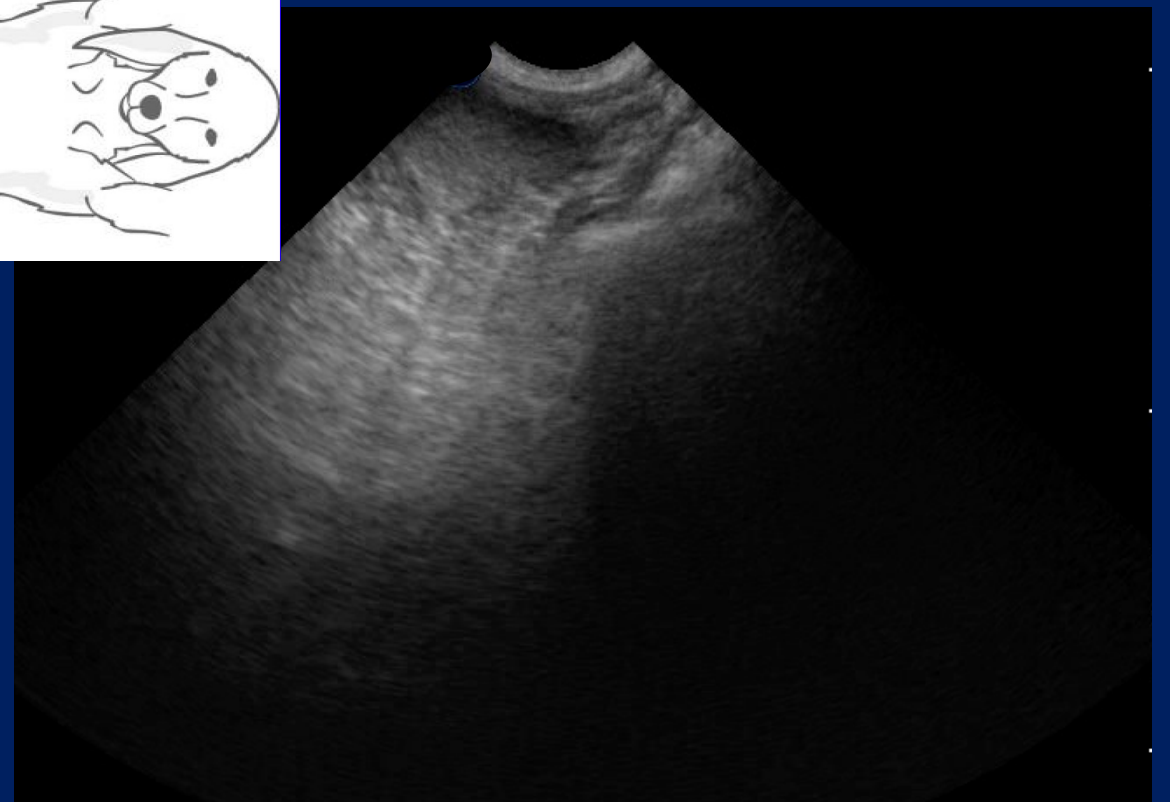
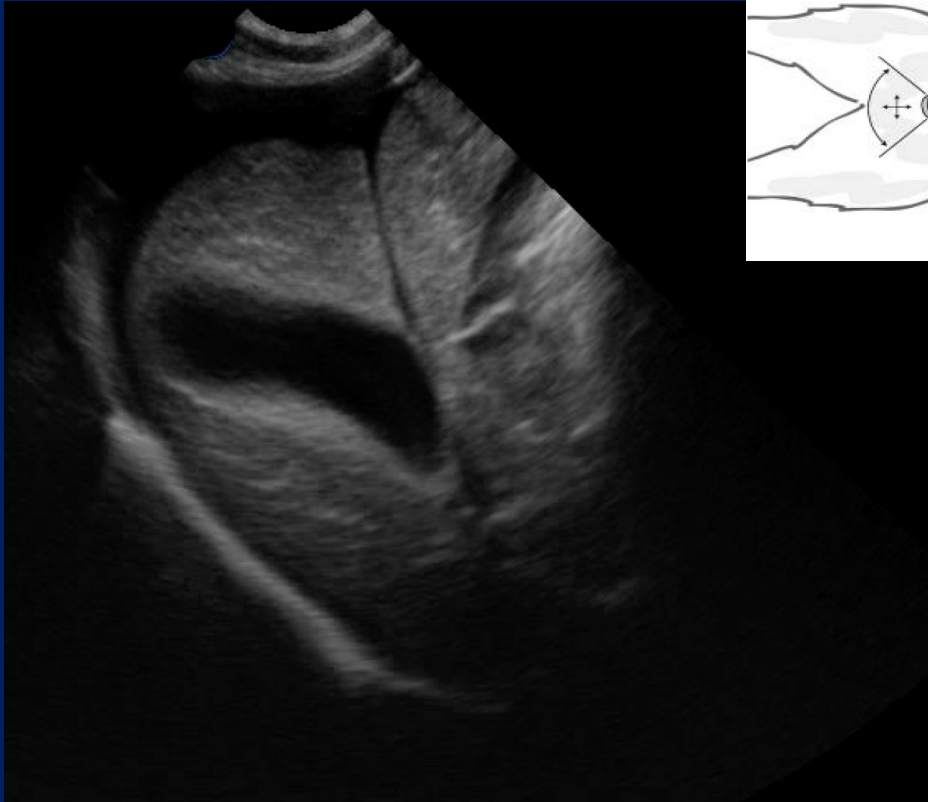
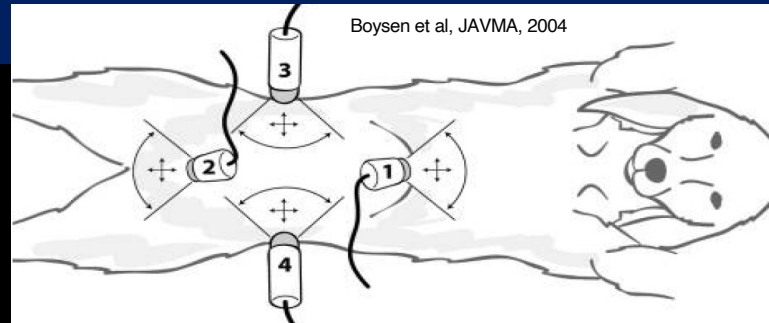
Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care () 2018, pp 1-7
doi: 10.1111/vec.12732

Evaluation of the agreement between focused assessment with sonography for trauma (AFAST/TFAST) and computed tomography in dogs and cats with recent trauma

Walters, et al, 2018

Abdominal POCUS vs. CT (fluid) : Kappa 0.82 = excellent agreement using original 2004 abdominal FAST protocol!

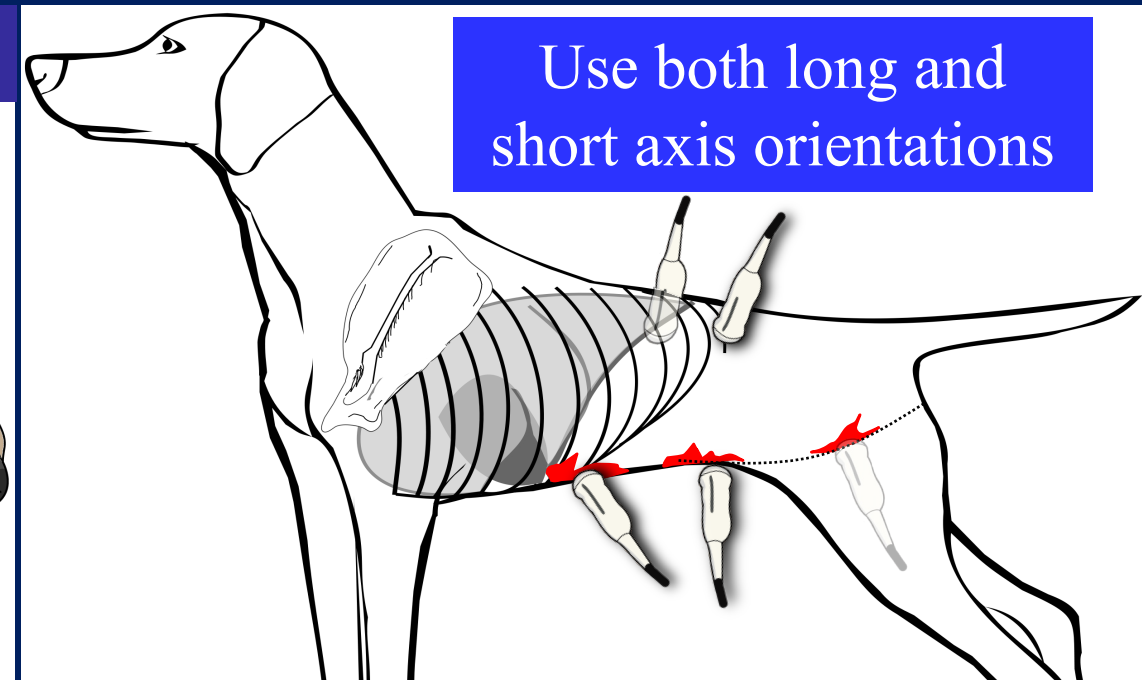
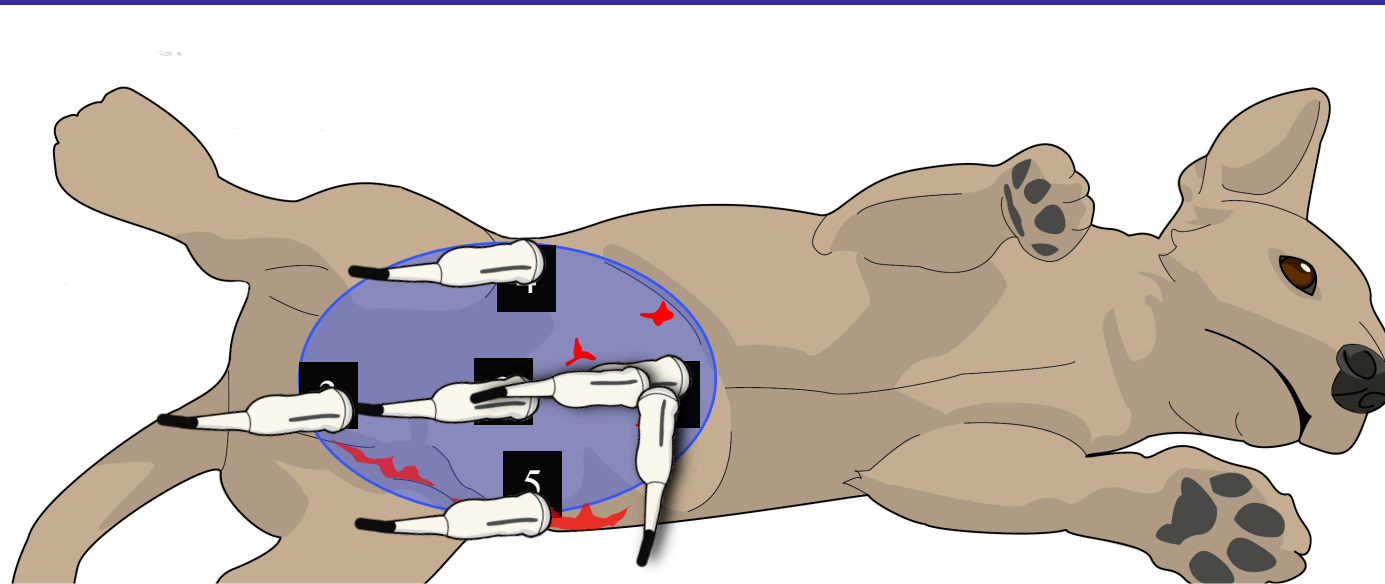
Likely higher umbilical site and serial exams included



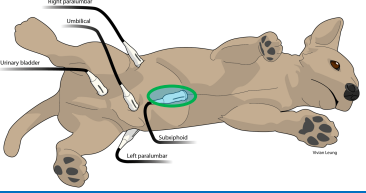
Question 1: Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N – important considerations

- a) Fluid can accumulate anywhere:
- b) Fluid accumulates at different locations with patient position:
- c) Fluid can be trapped by adhesions/omentum:

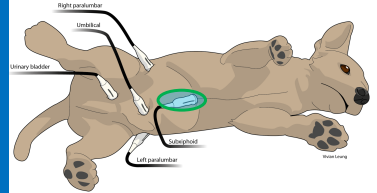
Why it is a 5-point abdominal POCUS exam!



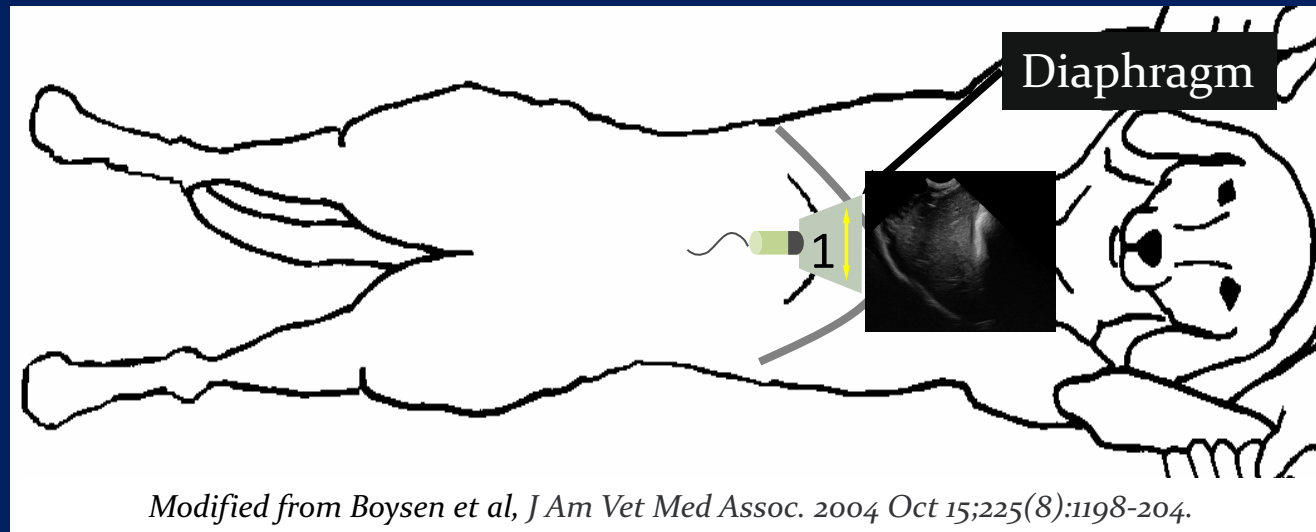
Each binary question must be answered thoroughly: Patient position, pathology to search, use multiple sites, change probe orientation



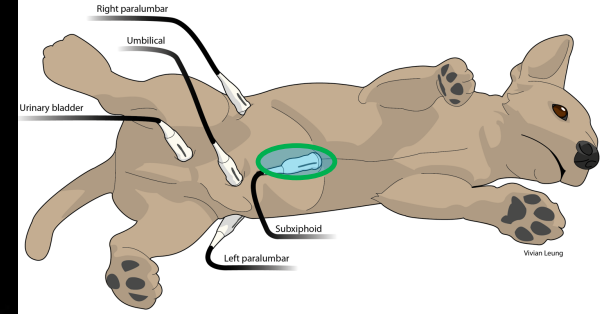
Subxiphoid site



Question 1: Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N

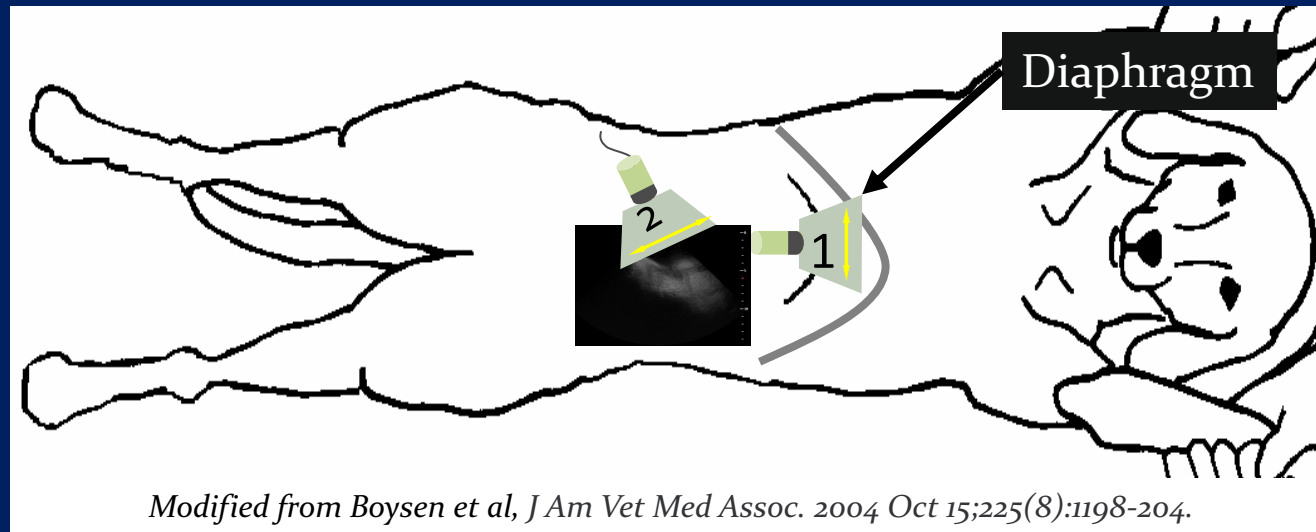


Zola

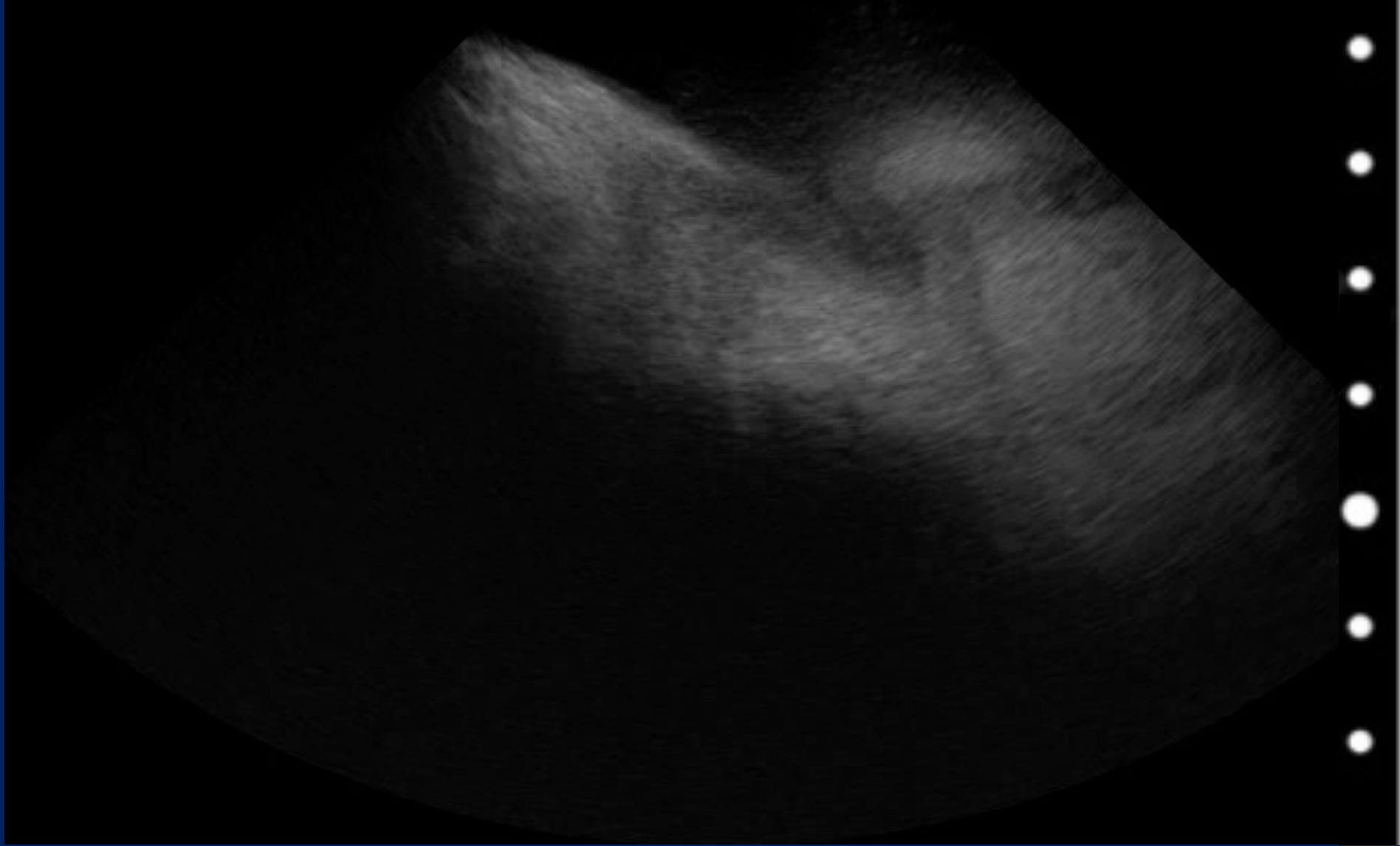
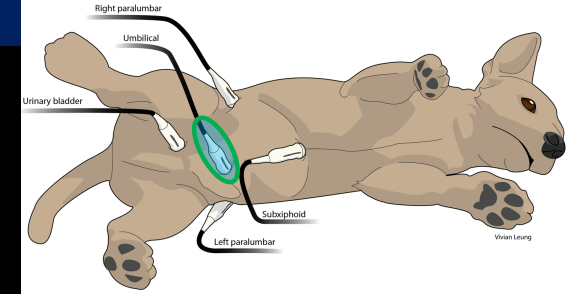


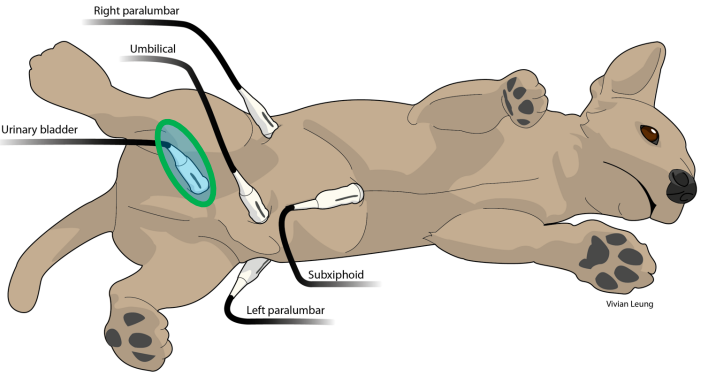
1. Free abdominal fluid?
- ~~2. Free abdominal air?~~
- ~~3. Gall bladder wall edema?~~
4. OK to give a fluid bolus?
- ~~5. Pericardial effusion~~

Question 1: Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N



Zola

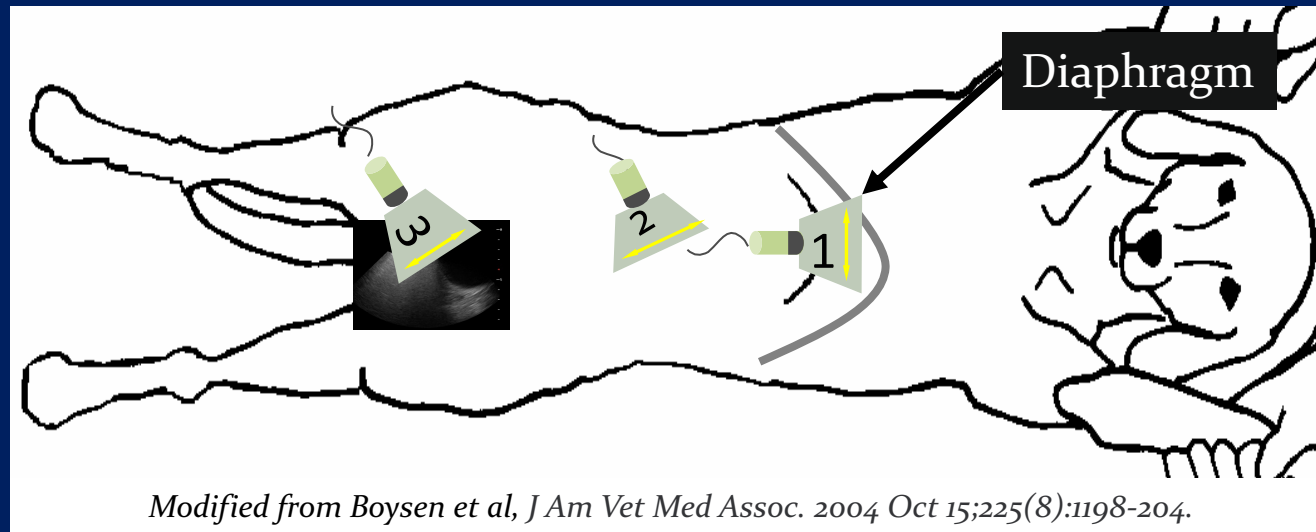




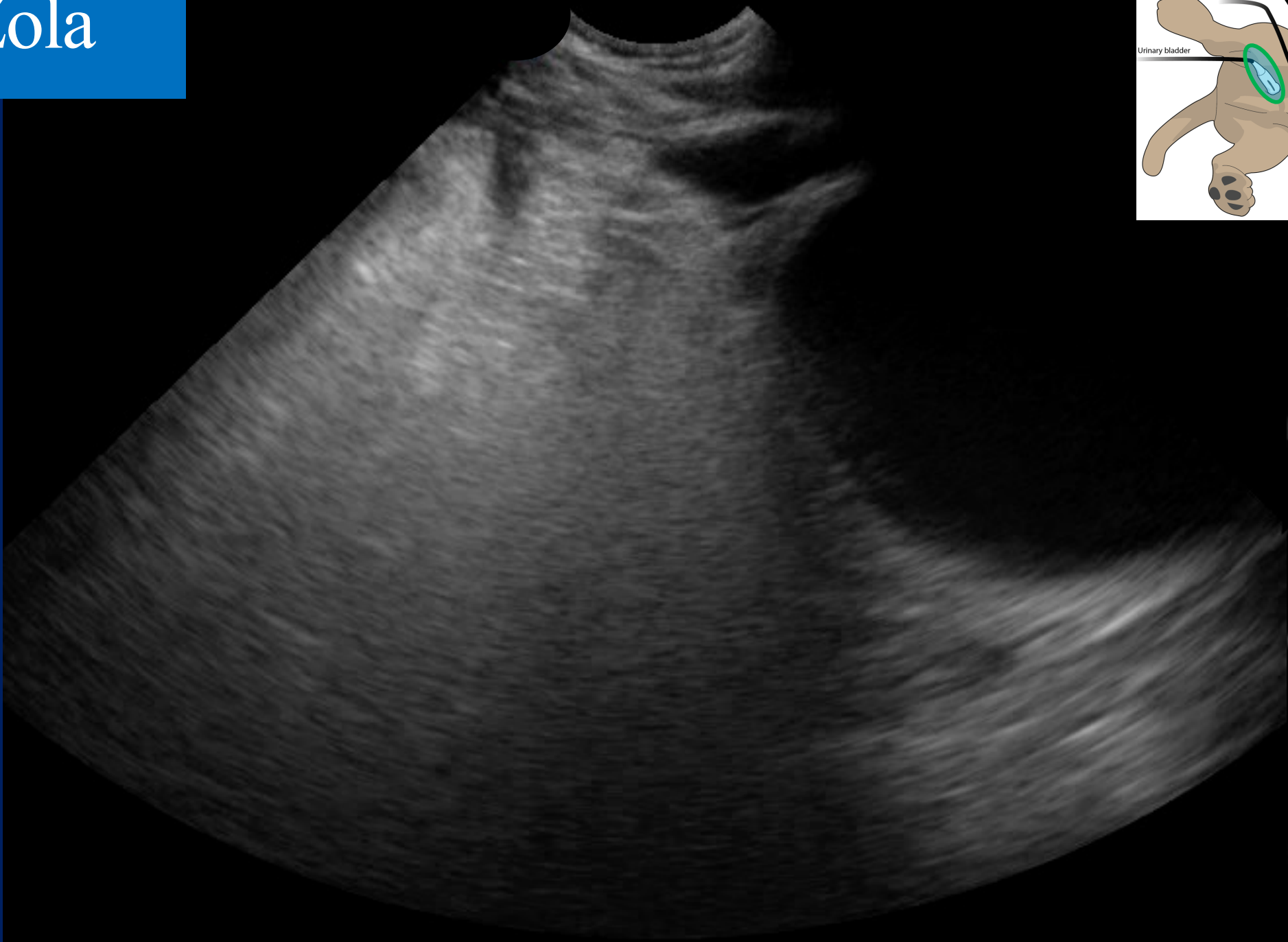
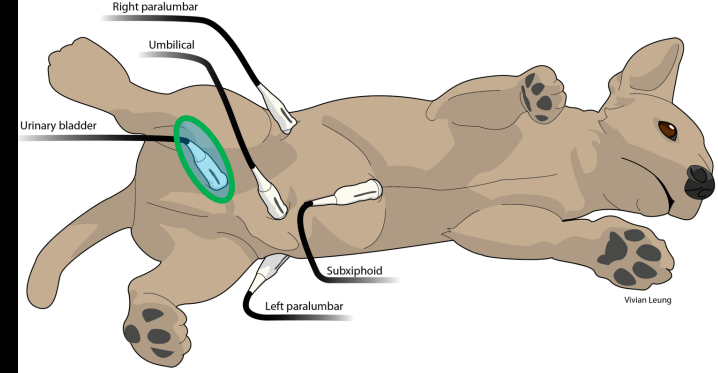
Urinary bladder site

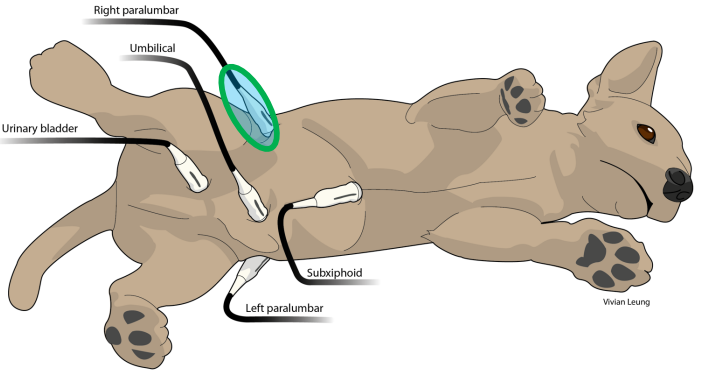


Question 1: Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N



Zola

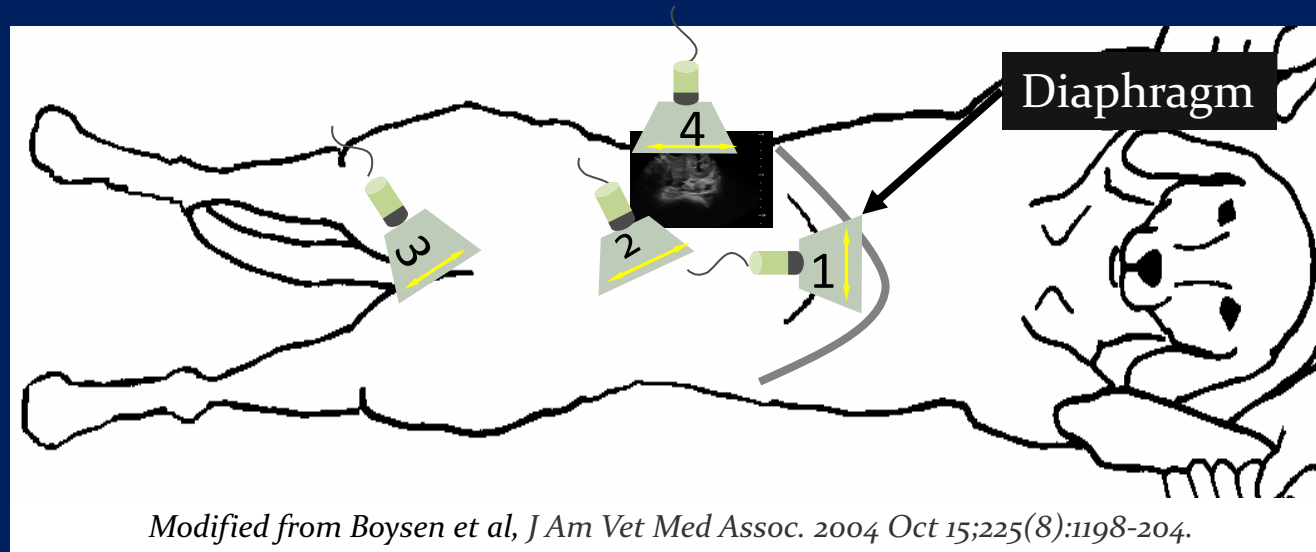




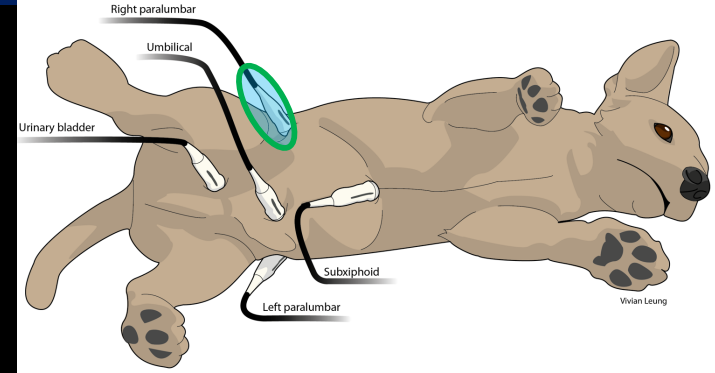
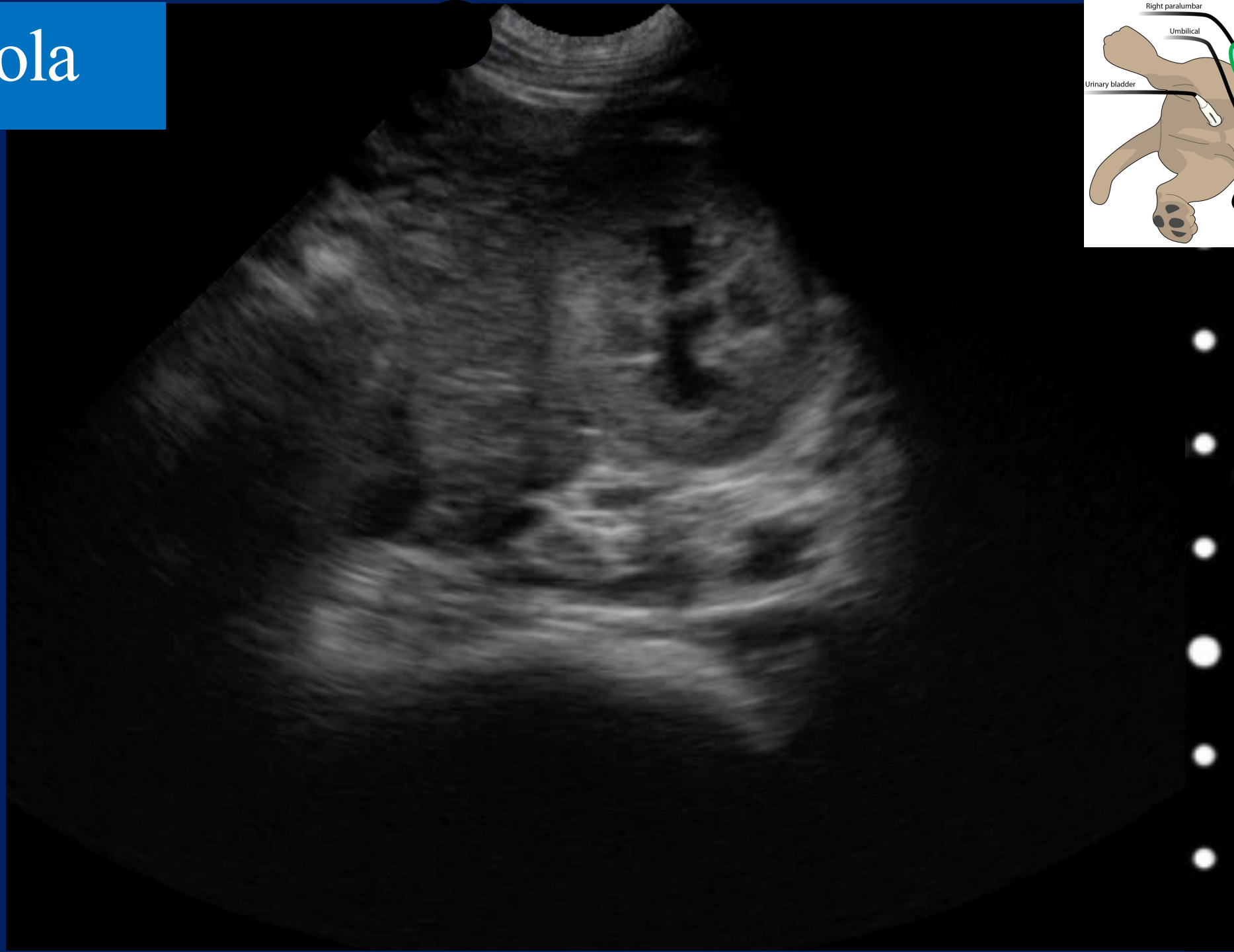
Right paralumbar site

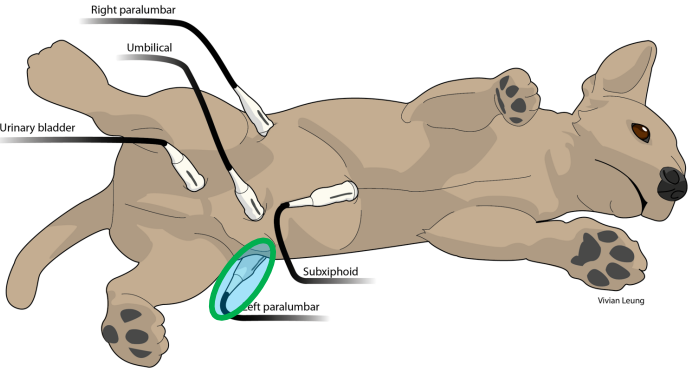


Question 1: Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N



Zola

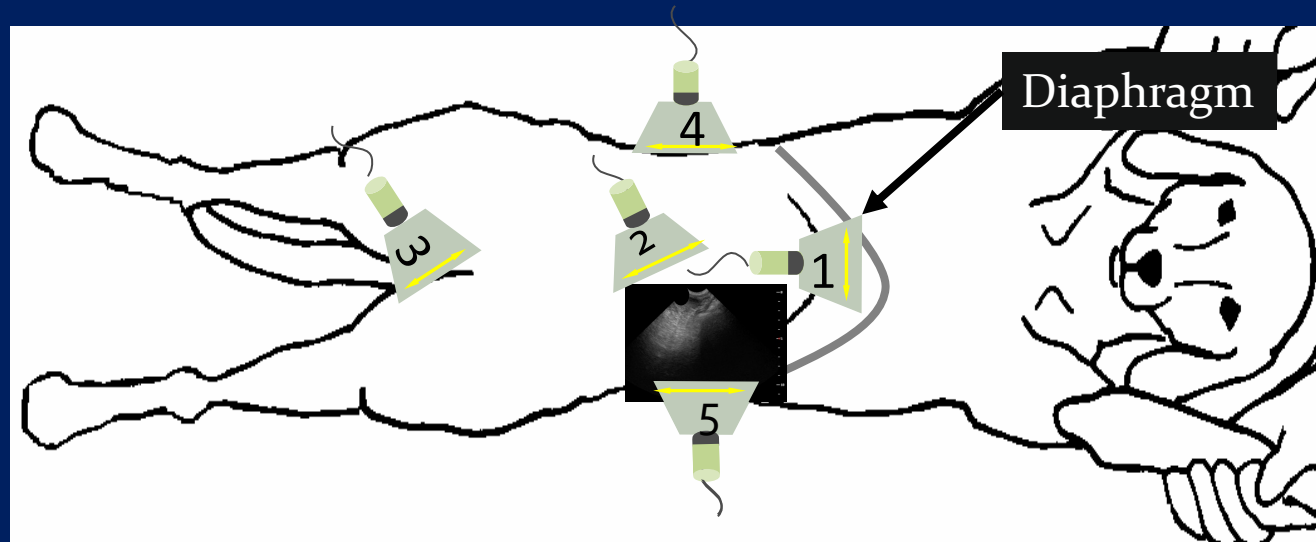




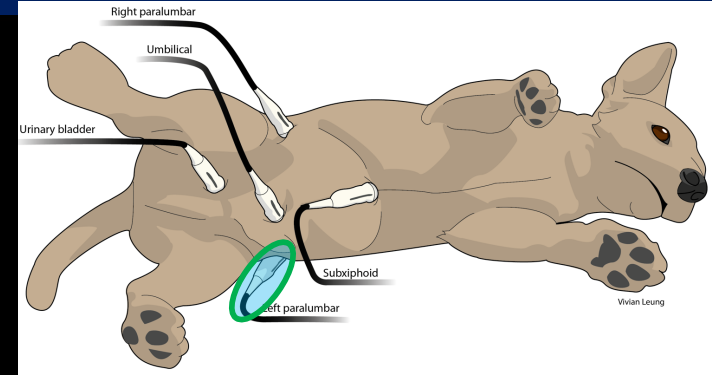
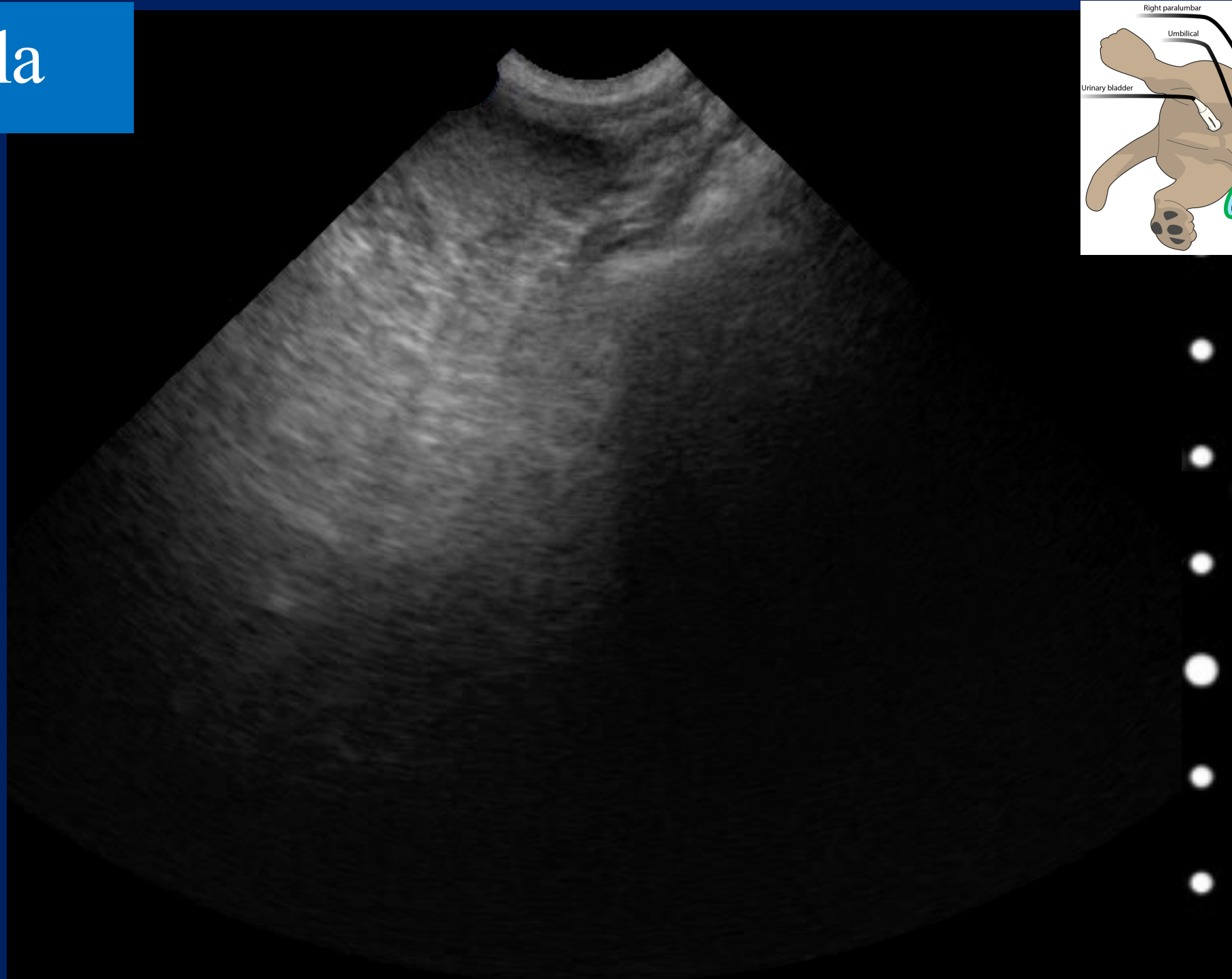
Left paralumbar site



Question 1: Is there free abdominal fluid Y/N

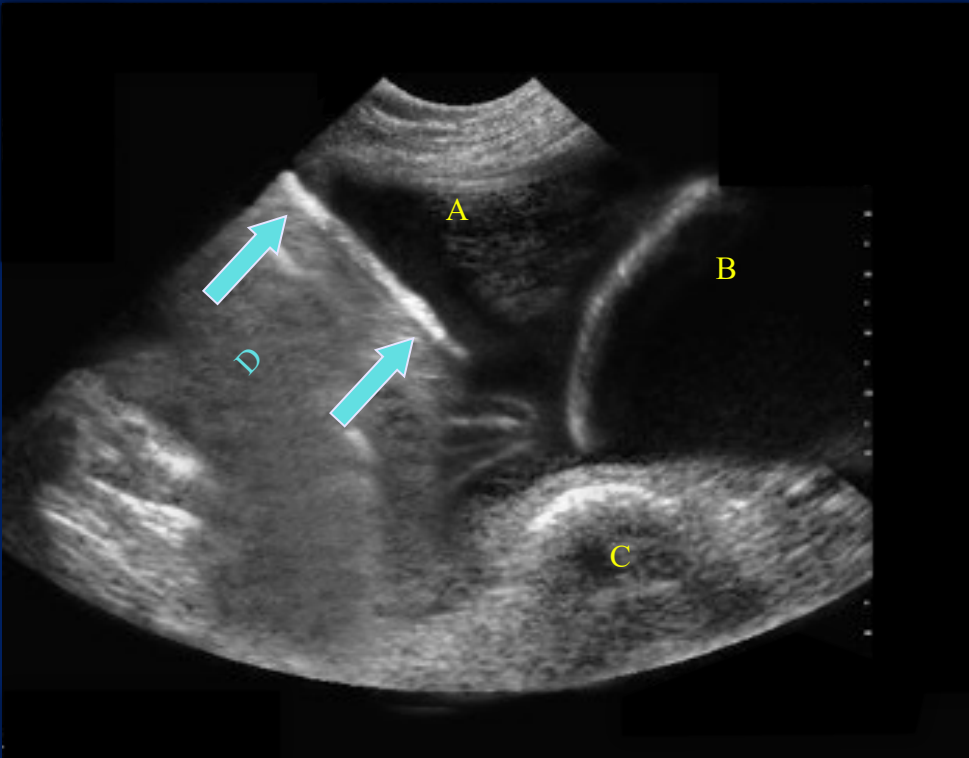


Zola



Localize injury to the abdomen, but not the specific organ injured
Centesis and fluid analysis is helpful in the first 5 minutes

What is the type of free fluid?



Perform Abdominocentesis

Zola

- If abdominal PCV is much lower than peripheral PCV following trauma think dilution and uroabdomen
- How do you confirm this?



Peripheral (49%)



Abdominal (12%)

Serosanguinous



Uroabdomen

- Fluid compared to peripheral blood
 - Uroabdomen
 - Abdomen to peripheral K⁺ ratio >1.4:1 (dogs)
(Schmiedt et al, JVECCS Dec 2001)
 - Abdomen to peripheral Creat ratio >2:1 (dogs)
(Schmiedt et al, JVECCS Dec 2001)



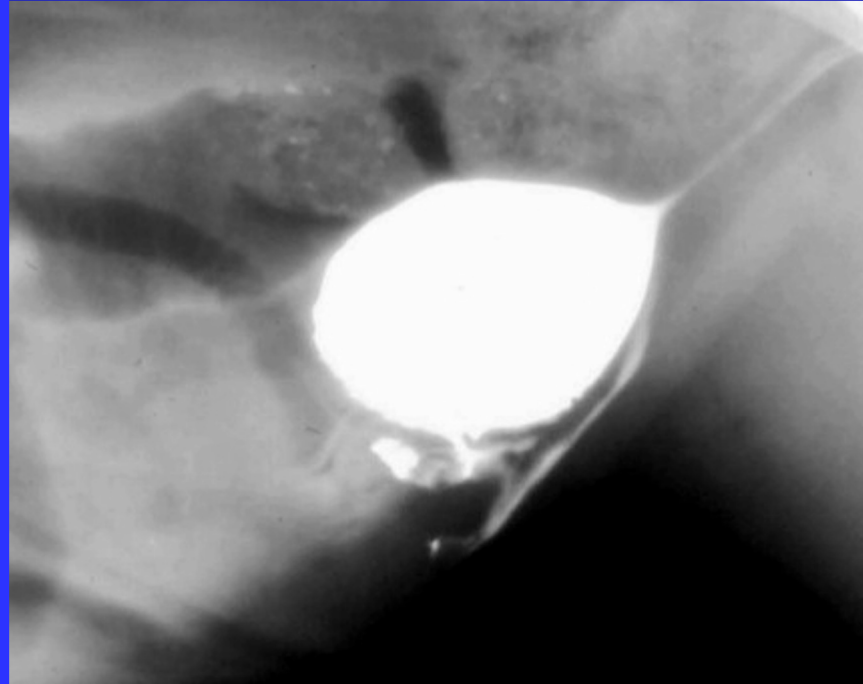
Zola

- Stabilize



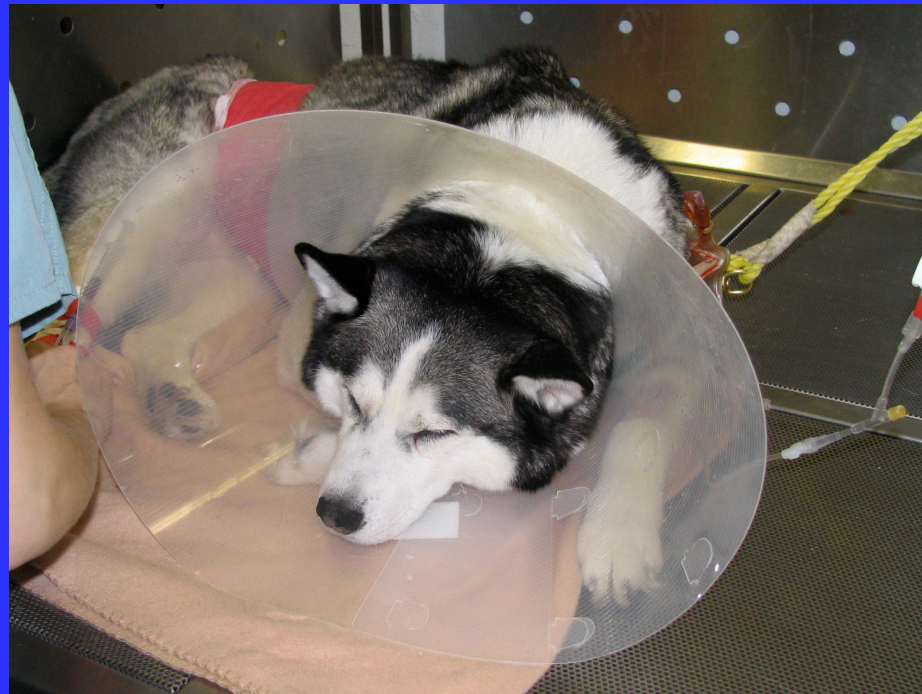
Zola...location of injury?

- Contrast study
 - Urethrocystogram –interpretation?



Prognosis

- Mortality rate of 78% if not treated
- Survival rate in dogs and cats with urinary bladder or urethral rupture is with treatment 73-79% (slightly better in dogs)



Zola's outcome

- Hemoabdomen
 - Transfusion at 4 hour mark
- Uroabdomen
 - Surgery at 16 hours to repair bladder



Zola's post operative progression...

- Alert responsive
- Heart rate 102 bpm, respiratory rate 22
- Temperature 38.8C (101.6 F)
- Incision site unremarkable
- Removed urinary catheter day 3 post op – over night crew concerned about urine production



Estimating bladder volume

To noninvasively estimate urinary bladder volume:
Calculate the volume of a sphere

$$W \times L \times (DL+DT)/2 \times 0.52 \text{ (vs .625)}$$

Gives you an estimation in milliliters

Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine

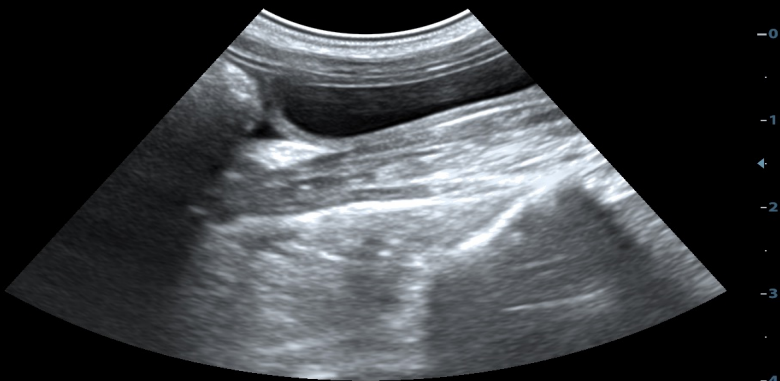
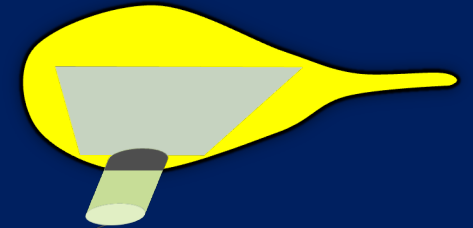
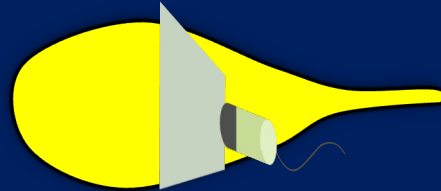


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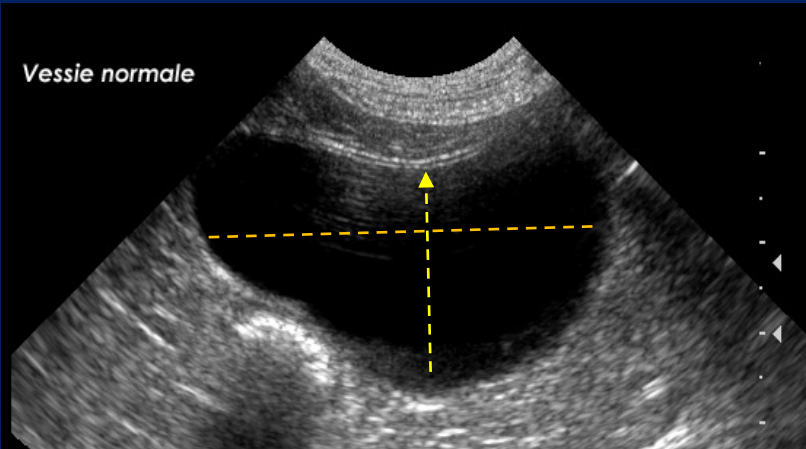
Three-dimensional bladder ultrasound to measure daily urinary bladder volume in hospitalized dogs

Edward J. Vasquez, Allison Kendall, Sarah Musulin, Shelly L. Vaden

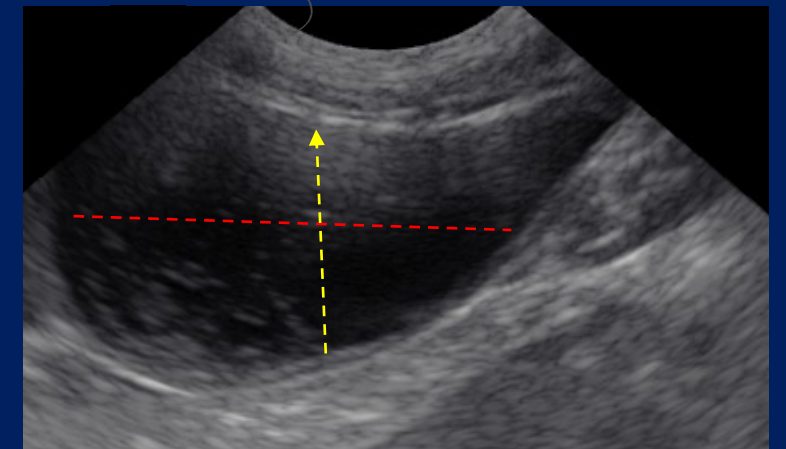
First published: 31 July 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16232>



Avoid compressing bladder
It's the volume of a sphere!



Transverse (short axis)



Longitudinal (long axis)

Summary

- Consider the history and initial findings to determine the POCUS question to ask first

Zola did go home!



Summary

- Consider the history and initial findings to determine the POCUS question to ask first
- Don't forget that patient positioning will influence where sonographically detectable pathology accumulates
- Ultrasound is one of the earliest modalities to detect fluid including uroabdomen
- Fluid analysis is needed to (K+/creatinine fluid:plasma ratios) confirm uroabdomen
- Contrast studies help localize the specific urinary tract site of injury

Questions?



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“Live Demonstration



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Poll

What additional information would you like?

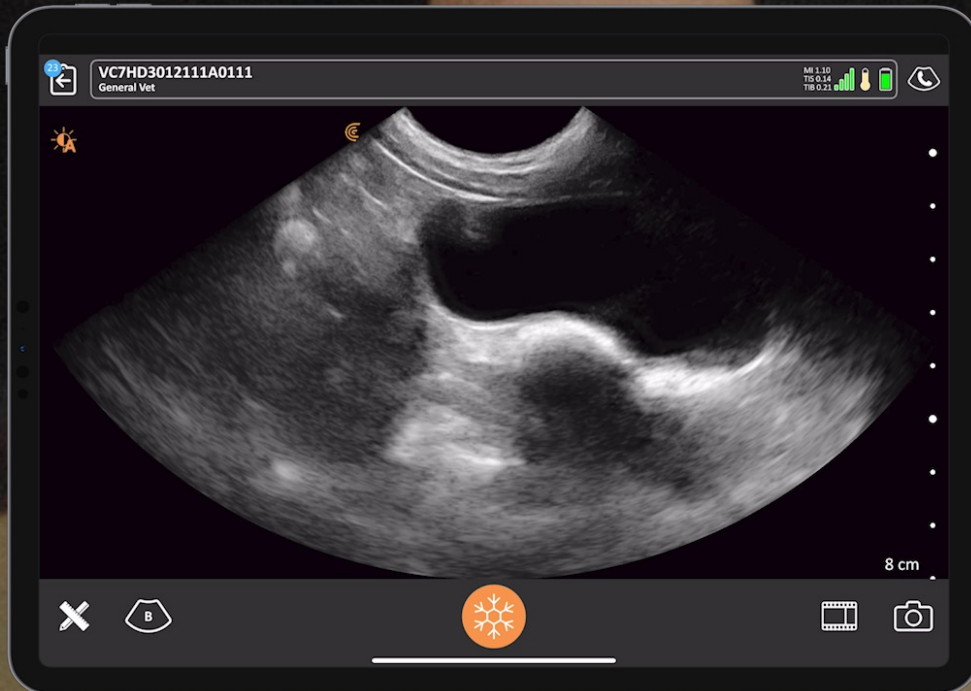
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Tuesday, September 27th, 2022
2 PM Pacific | 9 PM GMT

Questions?



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Thank you!