

10 Common Ultrasound Mistakes You Can Avoid!

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This session will review the “oops” moments in my career. The goal is for you to learn from my mistakes. I will provide humbling examples of why not to believe the following statements.

1. Partial scans are OK
 - a. “Sailor” 2 y.o. Coonhound male dog
 - b. anorexia, vomiting, ehrlichia+, swollen scrotum
2. A complete scan of the abdomen is enough for a dog with hypercalcemia
 - a. “Maggie” 9 y.o. Golden Retriever FS dog.
 - b. PU/PD for 2 weeks
3. Sternal lymph node drains the thorax
 - a. “Sam” 12 y.o. DSH, MC cat
 - b. Sternal lymph node enlargement on radiographs
4. Adrenal glands in cats are not important
 - a. “Seymour” 15 y.o. DSH, MC cat.
 - b. Stumbling for 2 weeks, progressive.
5. Retroperitoneal fluid is either blood or urine
 - a. “Sugar” 7 y.o. Beagle, FS dog
 - b. Normal scan, except retroperitoneal free fluid
6. Assumptions are OK 1 – abdominal case example
 - a. “Selby” 13 y.o. maltese female dog
 - b. lethargic, vomiting, in heat 3 weeks ago
7. Assumptions are OK 2 – echo case example
 - a. “Lilah” 4 y.o. MixB FS dog
 - b. Grade 4/6 murmur left base. 6 M/sec LVOT jet
8. Always believe the first lesion that answers the clinical question
 - a. “Jesse” 15 y.o. DSH, MC cat.
 - b. Not eating, lethargic for 3 days
9. I have seen it all
 - a. “Olive” 12 y.o. DSH FS cat
 - b. seen to eat “ankle bracelet”, now vomiting
10. Do not learn echo
 - a. “Wade” 8 y.o. DSH, MC cat
 - b. presents severely dyspneic, no imaging possible at this time