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Radiological Diagnosis?

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Radiological Diagnosis?

A 5-month-old female Collie dog was examined for intermittent gagging and labored respiration of 7 days duration. Physical examination showed good general body condition. Auscultation of the thorax revealed loud heart sounds on the right side and weak heart sounds on the left side. Lung sounds were normal on the right side but on the left side normal lung sounds were absent and intestinal sounds were heard.

Laboratory findings included a mild non-regenerative anemia (PCV 36%, Hb 12.8 mg/dl) and a normal total white blood cell count (10,700/mm³) but with a mild relative eosinophilia (11%). Blood glucose (118 gm/dl) and alkaline phosphatase (125 IU) levels were both elevated.

Thoracic radiographs were taken (Fig. 1).

by E. A. Landers, D.V.M.*

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FIGURE 1. Lateral and ventrodorsal radiographs of a 5-month-old collie dog with a history of gagging and labored respiration for 7 days.

Iowa State University Veterinarian
Radiographic Diagnosis

Left-sided diaphragmatic rupture with herniation of small and large intestines.

Comments
The intestinal shadows were confined to the left hemithorax indicating that the mediastinum was still intact. Surgical findings were a tear in the dorsal part of the left hemidiaphragm. The duodenum, jejunum, ileum, cecum, colon, pancreas and spleen were displaced into the thoracic cavity. There was granulation tissue at the edges of the diaphragmatic tear suggesting it was an acquired tear. The dog made an uneventful recovery following the surgical repair of the diaphragmatic tear.