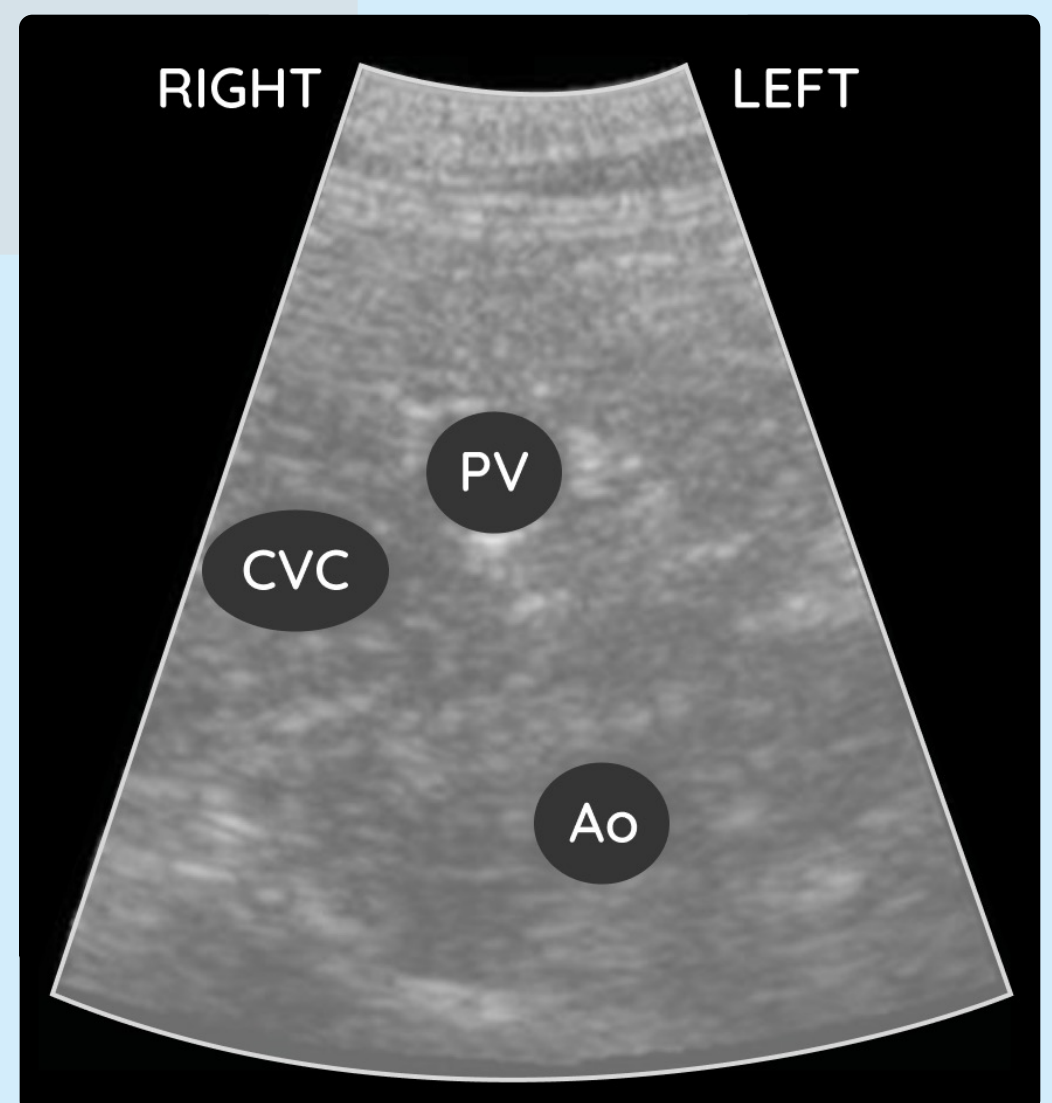
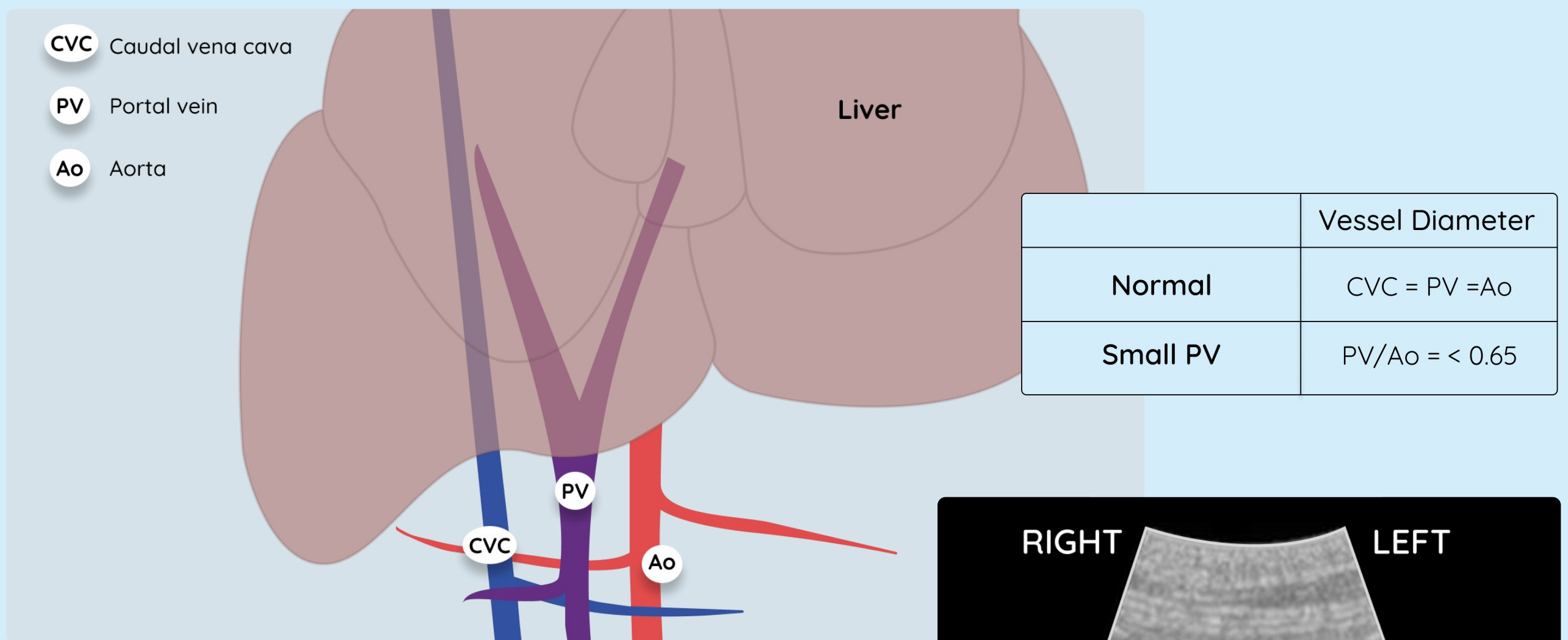


Porta Hepatis



Porta Hepatis

The porta hepatis (hilum of the liver) is an anatomic landmark at the caudal liver margin. It is positioned centrally and just to the right of the midline. It is where the **portal vein (PV)**, **caudal vena cava (CVC)**, and **aorta (Ao)** can all be visualised in a single cross-sectional view on ultrasound, allowing for comparison. The porta hepatis is also where the portal triad structures enter and exit the liver: the portal vein, hepatic artery, and hepatic ducts.



The clinical purpose of assessing the porta hepatis for these three vessels is detecting liver shunts.

The aorta has high-pressure, pulsatile flow and maintains a consistent diameter; it's not affected by portal venous system diseases, and it won't change size with portal hypertension or shunts, so it allows for reliable comparisons.

In normal dogs and cats, these three vessels should have roughly equal diameters when measured at this level: $CVC = PV = Ao$.

A PV diameter/Ao diameter less than 0.65 (65%) suggests a smaller than normal PV, which could be an indication of a portosystemic shunt where blood bypasses the liver.

References

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