



## Protocol for a basic abdominal ultrasound exam The "Big 5"

Perform a clockwise scan starting in the cranial right abdomen.  
Scan each organ, then collect representative still images, following the protocol below.  
Collect videoclips as needed to supplement the still images.  
When initially scanning, fan through each organ until it is no longer in view.  
Structures in parentheses are landmarks that may or may not be seen in each view.

- LIVER:**
  - Sagittal views
    - Right lateral, cranial (right liver, diaphragm)
    - Right lateral, caudal (caudate lobe, RK)
    - Right lateral, more toward midline (GB, diaphragm)
    - Midline (common bile duct, PV, CVC)
    - Midline to left lateral (long axis aorta, left HV, left PV, stomach)
    - Left lateral (left liver, head of spleen)
  - Transverse views
    - Cranial: single view or separate right and left views (liver, diaphragm)
    - Mid: single view or separate right and left views (GB, PVs)
    - Caudal: single view or separate right and left views (CVC, HV, maybe GB)
  
- SPLEEN:**
  - Sagittal and transverse views
    - Splenic head (from left ventral abdomen or intercostal space 11-12)
    - Cranial body
    - Tail
    - Mid body (hilus)
    - Comparison view of liver and spleen
  
- LEFT KIDNEY:**
  - Sagittal views
    - Medial (poles symmetrical)
    - Medial (renal sinus/pelvis)
    - Mid (with & w/o measurement)
    - Lateral
    - Comparison view (split screen) of liver and kidney
  - Transverse views
    - Cranial pole
    - Mid (renal sinus/pelvis)
    - Caudal pole
  
- URINARY BLADDER:**
  - Sagittal views
    - Lateral to the right
    - Mid (may need separate views to see the apex and the trigone)
    - Lateral to the left
  - Transverse views
    - Cranial
    - Mid
    - Caudal (trigone)
  
- RIGHT KIDNEY:**
  - Sagittal views
    - Medial (poles symmetrical)
    - Medial (renal sinus/pelvis)
    - Mid (with & w/o measurement)
    - Lateral
    - Comparison view (split screen if needed) of liver and kidney
  - Transverse views
    - Cranial pole
    - Mid (renal sinus/pelvis)
    - Caudal pole
  
- MIDABDOMEN:** Moving cranial to caudal, then medial to lateral, grid approach