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Dromedary hump on ultrasound: a normal variant

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An 11-year-old boy underwent an ultrasound scan of the abdomen for non-specific abdominal pain. His blood investigations were normal. The ultrasound was normal except for a prominence on the lateral border of the left kidney, consistent with an incidental 'dromedary hump' (Figure 1).

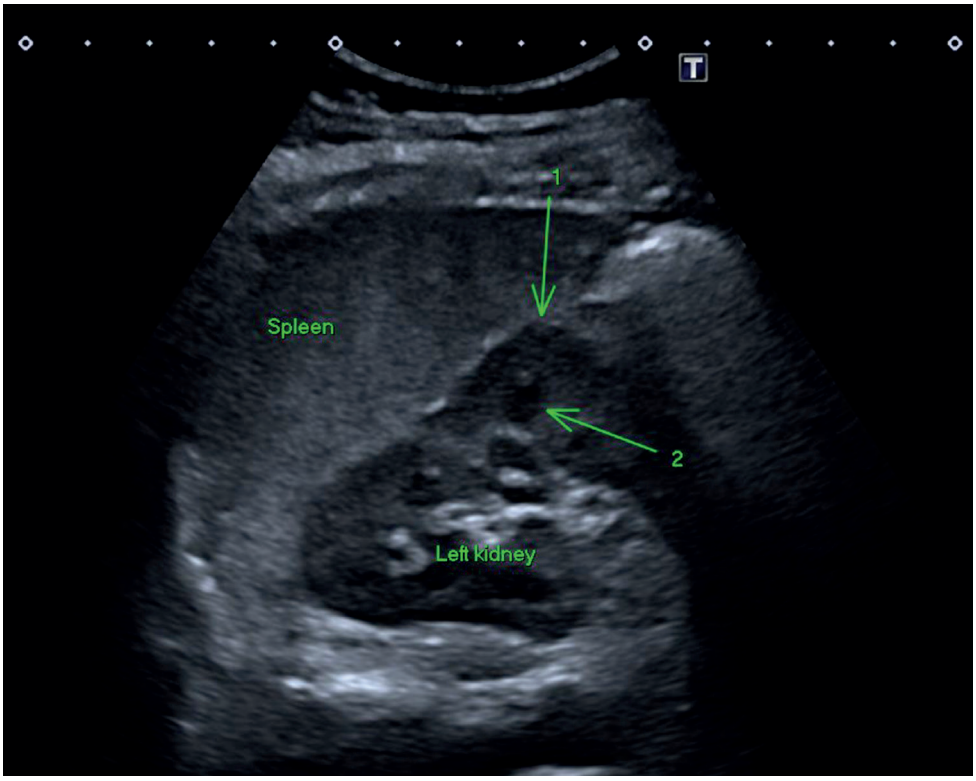

Figure 1. Transabdominal ultrasound image demonstrating a prominent bulge to the contour of the left kidney (arrow 1), adjacent to the spleen, with a calyx underlying the hump extending further laterally into the hump than the other renal calyces (arrow 2).

A dromedary hump is a normal anatomical variant with an estimated prevalence rate of 0.5%. It appears as a focal bulge on the lateral border of the left kidney, caused by moulding of the normal renal parenchyma from the adjacent spleen, and derives its name from the hump of a dromedary camel (Bhatt et al, 2007).

Diagnostic ultrasound features include similar vascularity to the adjacent renal parenchyma, and that calyces underlying the hump extending further laterally into the hump than the other left renal calyces (McGahan and Goldberg, 2008). Recognition of this normal variant on ultrasound, which can occasionally be mistaken for a renal neoplasm, alleviates the need for further radiological investigations.

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