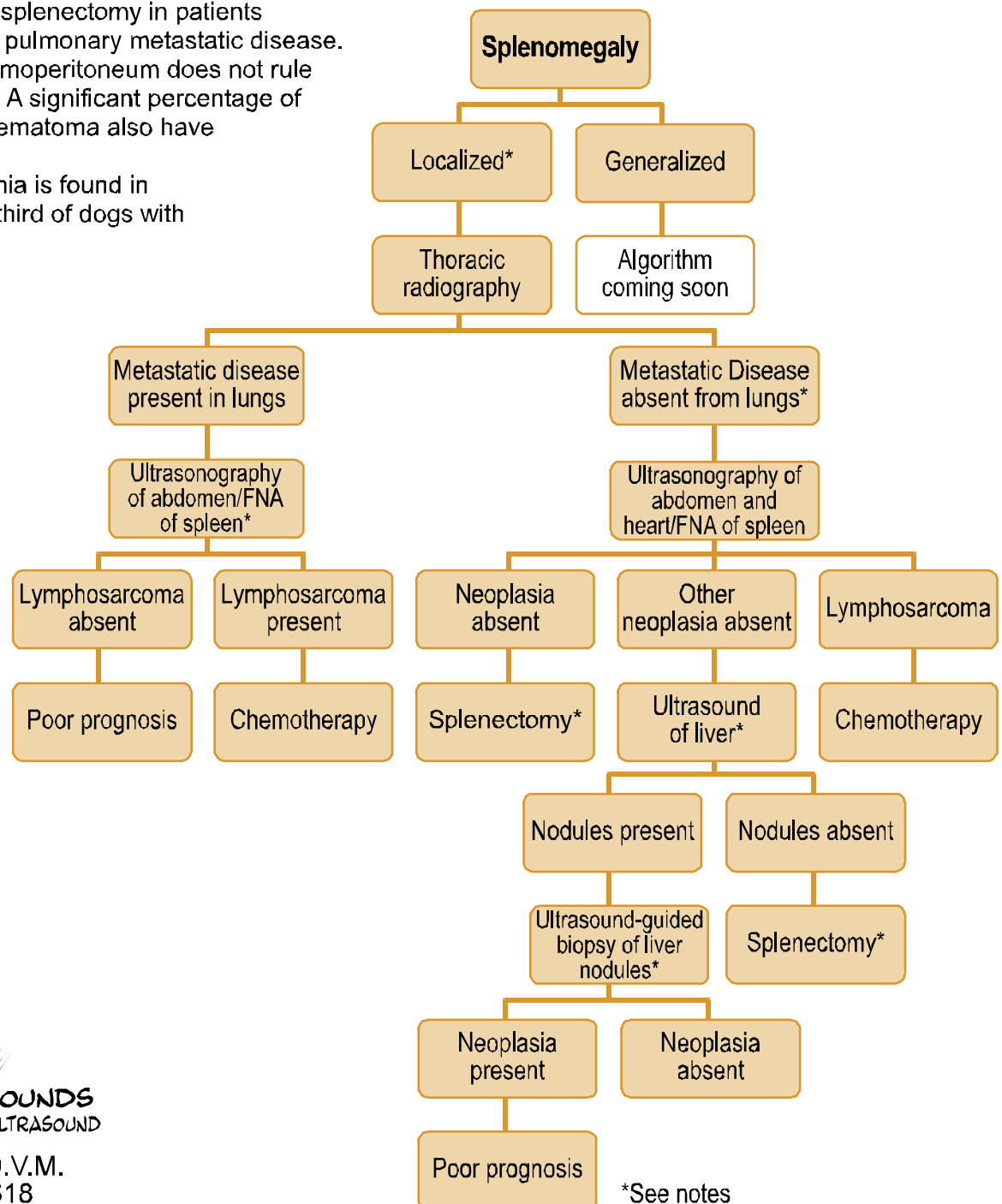


Notes to accompany localized splenic disease algorithm

- Types of splenic tumors include: hemangioma, hemangiosarcoma, fibrosarcoma, leiomyosarcoma, leiomyoma, myelolipoma, and lymphoma.
- Non-neoplastic localized splenic masses are as common as neoplastic splenic masses in the dog. In clinical studies of 497 dogs undergoing splenectomy for localized masses, non-neoplastic disease was found in 51% of the cases. In the cat, only approximately 37% of localized splenic masses are likely to be neoplastic.
- The age of the patient is not helpful in separating neoplastic from non-neoplastic disease of the spleen; likewise, the gross appearance of the lesion does not distinguish neoplastic from non-neoplastic disease of the spleen.
- It is wise to perform bone marrow aspiration on patients with cytopenias before splenectomy. In dogs and cats with bone marrow aplasia or hypoplasia it is common for the spleen to assume primary hematopoietic function.
- In dogs with suspected splenic hemangiosarcoma, an ultrasound exam of the right atrium is recommended. The presence of right atrial masses in conjunction with a localized splenic mass makes hemangiosarcoma more likely than benign disease.
- It is important to ultrasound the liver and right atrium prior to splenectomy in patients without evidence of pulmonary metastatic disease.
- The presence of hemoperitoneum does not rule out benign disease. A significant percentage of dogs with splenic hematoma also have hemoperitoneum.
- Ventricular arrhythmia is found in approximately one third of dogs with splenic masses.



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*See notes