KROMHOUT
MEDICAL IMAGING

ID 2026- 01- 01
Regular weekday

PATIENT	REFERRAL CLINIC	STUDY
X	X	Caudal carapace
Tortoise I Gopher tortoise I F		1 january 2026
60 years old		1 serie I 344 images
		No contrast

HISTORY

- Intractable haemorrhage emanating from a cavity between the scutum and the plastron ca. 3 cm sagittal to the spine on the right caudal aspect of the tortoise.
- Concern : Traumatic injury, neoplastic or infectious osteomyelitic cause of the cavitation and osteolysis.

FINDINGS

Native CT images 0,46mm slices in standard reconstruction

Irregular osteolytic lesion (+/- 2.08 x 2.03cm) of the bones and overlying scutes at the caudal aspect of the carapace on the right (lateral part of pygal bone, caudal and lateral part of suprapygal bone, caudoventral aspect of costal bone, dorsal and cranial part of 1st peripheral bone and caudal part of the 2nd peripheral bone). Some gas attenuation is seen medial from this. No visible aggressive periosteal reaction or discrete soft tissue mass is identified.

CONCLUSION

- Focal irregular osteolytic lesion involving the caudal right carapace and overlying scutes without associated soft tissue mass or periosteal reaction.

- Differential diagnosis: chronic infectious osteomyelitis or shell osteomyelitis (bacterial +/- fungal shell rot) most likely, given the focal osteolysis involving both scutes and shell bone and the presence of adjacent gas attenuation, which may reflect gas-producing bacteria or communication with the external environment. A chronic traumatic shell defect with secondary osteomyelitis less likely, primary osseous neoplasia (e.g. osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, fibrosarcoma) or granulomatous osteomyelitis (fungal or mycobacterial) if clinically appropriate is unlikely.

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DISCLAIMER

This report is based on the available history and radiographic interpretation only and not on a physical examination of the patient. It must therefore only be interpreted by the referring veterinarian responsible for the care of this patient.

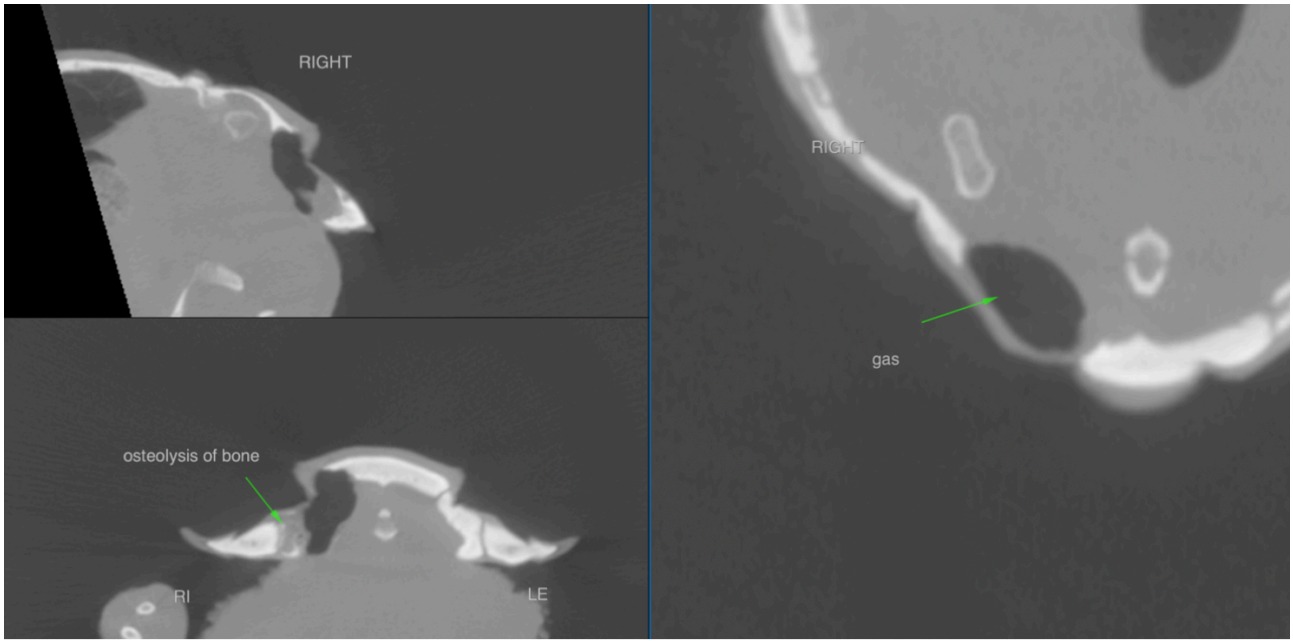


Image 1 - sagittal reconstructed and transverse CT image of the right elbow

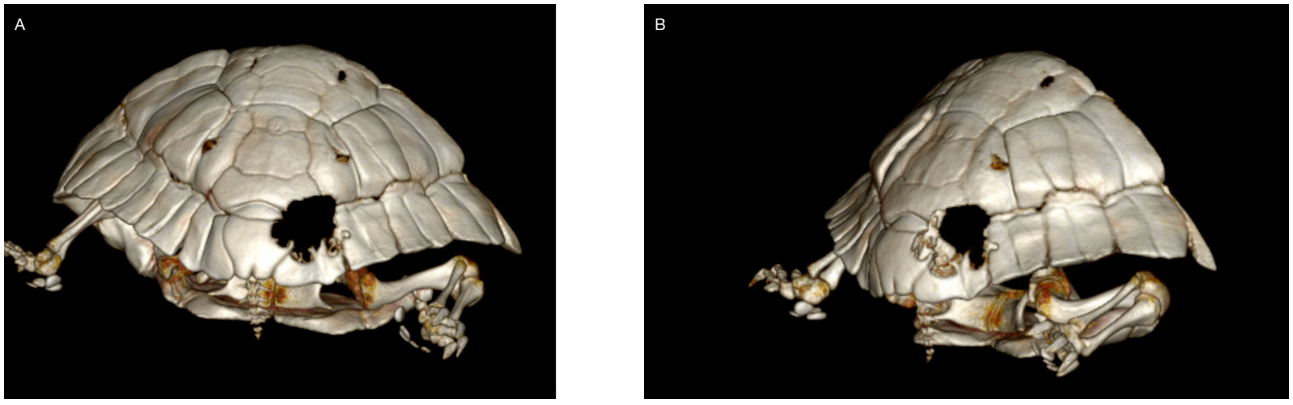


Image 2 - 3D volume rendering of the caudal carapace: caudal view (A) and right lateral view (B)

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