

<b>Size</b>	12 ± 3 cm in the MCL (vertical) 9 ± 1 cm in depth
<b>Shape</b>	wedge-shaped
<b>Margin</b>	right ≤ 75°, left ≤ 45°, sharp-edged
<b>Surface</b>	smooth, slightly concave
<b>Contour</b>	dorsally and ventrally extended
<b>Internal structure</b>	fine homogeneous reflexes; somewhat more echogenic than the kidney parenchyma, slightly less echogenic than the pancreas; rather “dark” and “sharply contrasted”; the area of the caudate lobe is usually more hypoechoic
<b>Quadrante lobe</b>	43 ± 8 mm
<b>Liver veins</b>	easily depictable as far as the periphery, < 6 mm, no wall echoes, lumen fluctuations during Valsalva’s manoeuvre
<b>Portal vein</b>	mostly < 12 mm, ventral to the inferior vena cava, marked wall echoes, branching distribution from the hepatic porta, no respiratory modulation
<b>Hepatic artery</b>	branching with pulsations in the hepatic porta
<b>Bile ducts</b>	thin, bright reflex bands, mostly demonstrable (< 4 mm; < 50% of the accompanying portal vein branch)
<b>Ductus choledochus</b>	≤ 7 mm; following cholecystectomy and in old age ≤ 11 mm