

Commonly Ordered MRI Procedures And Their Indications

The procedures and indications below are guidelines for commonly ordered MRI procedures. If you have any questions in regards to ordering or scheduling an MRI procedure, please feel free to contact the MRI Department at 740–2661 or a Radiologist at 740–2692.

MRI ABDOMEN – WITHOUT

MRCP (Magnetic Resonance Cholangio–Pancreatography)
Done to evaluate:

- Biliary tract, common bile duct
- Pancreatic duct
- Gall bladder stones

MRI ABDOMEN– WITH/WITHOUT

Done for:

- Liver pathology (hemangiomas, masses, etc)
- Kidney pathology (cysts, tumors)
- Adrenal pathology (cysts, tumors)
- Pancreas pathology(cysts, tumors)
- Splenic pathology (cysts, tumors)
- Abd pain

MRI BRACHIAL PLEXUS–WITH AND WITHOUT

Done for:

- Neuroma or suspected tumors
- Injury to brachial plexus region
- Brachial plexopathy
- Peripheral neuropathy

MRI CHEST– WITH/WITHOUT

CT is suggested for most evaluation of the Chest,

MRI Done for:

- Soft tissue masses in the chest/mediastinum area
- Mesothelioma

MRI PELVIS– WITHOUT

Done for:

- SI joint pain
- Pelvis fracture
- Sacral and/or coccyx disorders

MRI PELVIS– WITH/WITHOUT

Done for:

- Ovarian or uterine pathology, fibroid tumors
- Bladder pathology
- Mass, Mets to bone
- CA of Prostate
- Plexus lesions

MRI BRAIN (head)– WITHOUT

May be without or with/without @ physicians request

Done for:

- Headaches (HA)
- Tremors
- CVA or TIA (Stroke or mini stroke)
- Chiari malformation
- Memory loss
- Dementia

MRI BRAIN (head)– WITH/WITHOUT

Done for:

- MS (multiple sclerosis)
- CVA or TIA (stroke or mini stroke)
- Tumors, cancer or mets
- Seizures/epilepsy/Parkinsons
- Lacunar infarction
- Hearing loss
- Vertigo (dizziness)
- Tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
- Pituitary tumors /adenomas
- paresthesia

MRI ORBIT/ FACE/NECK – WITH/WITHOUT

Done for:

- Any soft tissue mass in neck or face area or cancer in those areas
- Parotid tumor
- Nasopharynx tumor
- Pharynx
- Orbital tumors
- Abscess
- Cervical Adenopathy

TMJ– WITHOUT

Done for:

- Osteo–arthritis
- Cartilage injury
- TMJ disorders
- Jaw pain

MRA ABDOMEN– WITH

Done for:

- Renal artery stenosis
- HTN (High blood pressure)
- Bowel Ischemia
- Acute renal failure
- Atherosclerotic disease

MRA ABDOMEN/PELVIS/BILATERAL LOWER EXTREMITIES WITH/WITHOUT (runoff)

Done for:

- Claudication
- Visualization of aorta, bifurcation & lower extremities
- Arterial stenosis

MRA CHEST– WITH

Done for:

- Aortic dissection/aneurysm/anomalies
- Subclavian steal

MRA BRAIN (head) WITHOUT contrast always

Done for:

- Aneurysm
- AVM (arterial venous malformation)
- CVA (stroke) TIA
- Cavernous angioma

MRA NECK– WITH / WITHOUT

Done for:

- Carotid stenosis (blockage)
- Vertebral artery injury
- Atherosclerotic disease
- CVA/TIA

All spines should be done with/without contrast for history of surgery within the past ten years to that part of the spine, history of cancer, infections. All other spines should be done without contrast.

WITHOUT CONTRAST

MRI CERVICAL SPINE – WITHOUT

Done for:

- Neck pain (cervicalgia)
- HNP(herniated disk)
- Arm tingling/numbness/weakness/pain
- Cervical radiculopathy/radiculitis
- Stenosis
- Arthropathy

MRI THORACIC SPINE – WITHOUT

Done for:

- Upper/mid back pain
- Compression fracture
- Osteoporosis
- Herniated disk
- Stenosis
- Radiculitis or radiculopathy

MRI LUMBAR SPINE – WITHOUT

Done for:

- Low back pain (lumbago)
- HNP (herniated disk)
- Lumbar radiculopathy or radiculitis
- Lower extremity numbness/tingling/weakness
- Myelopathy
- Loss of bowel or bladder control
- Spinal stenosis

WITH/WITHOUT CONTRAST

MRI CERVICAL SPINE – WITH/ WITHOUT

Done for:

- Cancer or mets
- Infection / abscess
- MS, hemiplegia/paresthesia
- Myelopathy
- Syrinx
- Tumor
- Surgery to c-spine within past 10yrs

MRI THORACIC SPINE – WITH/ WITHOUT

Done for:

- Cancer or mets
- Surgery to t-spine within past 10yrs
- Multiple myeloma
- Infection / abscess
- MS (multiple sclerosis)
- Transverse myelitis
- Syrinx

MRI LUMBAR SPINE – WITH/ WITHOUT

Done for:

- Cancer or mets
- Infection
- Abscess
- Mass
- Previous lumbar surgery within past 10yrs
- Cauda Equina syndrome

MRI UPPER EXTREMITY–

- Upper any joint= shoulder, elbow, or wrist
- Upper other than joint= humerus, forearm, or hand

MRI LOWER EXTREMITY–

- Lower any joint= Knee, Hip or Ankle
- Lower other than joint= femur, Tib/Fib or foot

All MRI EXTREMITIES WITHOUT

Done for:

- Pain
- Avn
- Muscle/ligament tear
- Injury
- Internal derangement
- Swelling
- Arthritis
- Tendonditis

All MRI EXTREMITIES WITH AND WITHOUT contrast

Done for:

- Cancer, tumors, or infection.
- Osteomyelitis
- Abscess
- Masses or soft tissue lumps

ARTHROGRAM (special Exam)

- This should be ordered as two part test:
- X-ray arthrogram shoulder, hip, elbow or wrist to be done first
- MRI Upper Extremity any Joint With to follow
- Arthrograms due not need creatinine prior

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