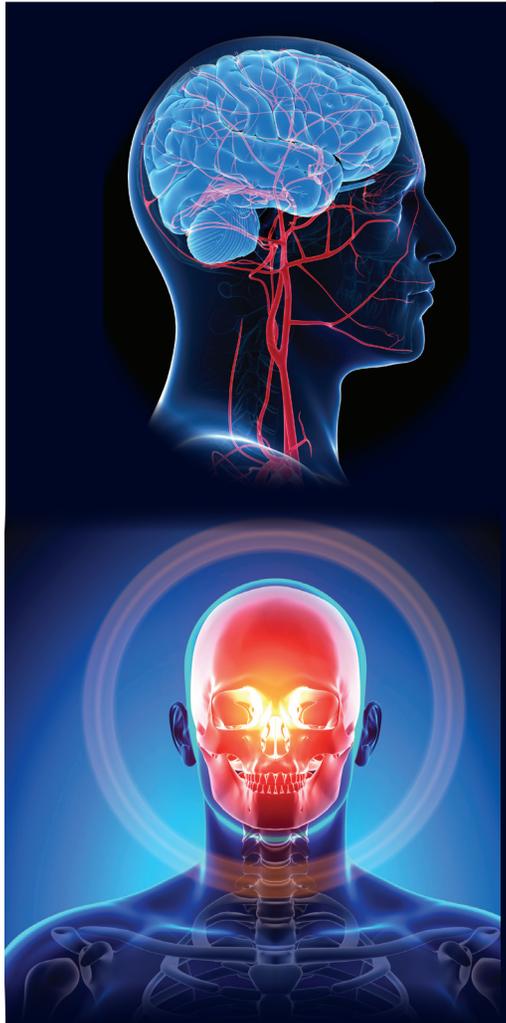


MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) Exam Reference / Protocol Guidelines

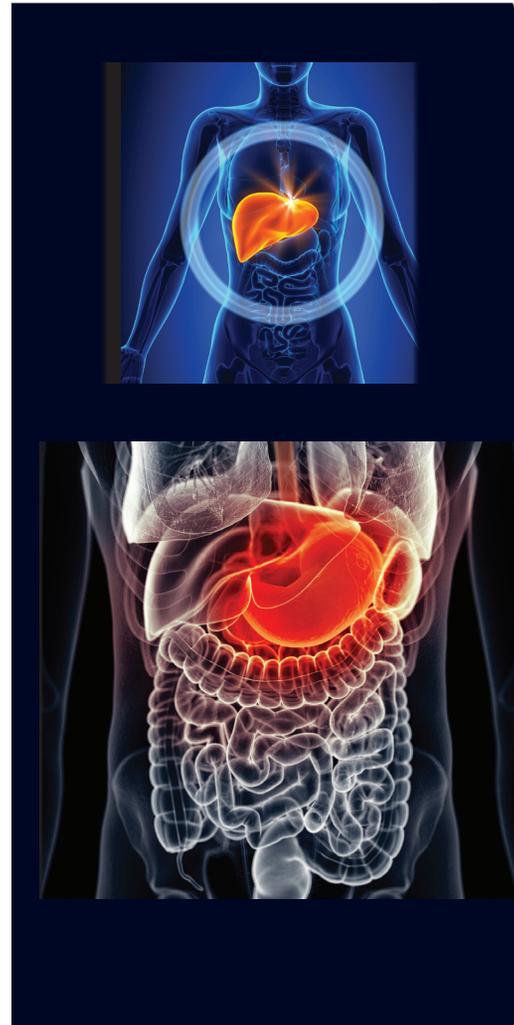
For additional information on MRI and other radiologic exams, please consult the American College of Radiology's ACR Appropriateness Criteria® document found at www.ACR.org.

AREA OF INTEREST HEAD, NECK & CHEST



AREA OF INTEREST	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES
HEAD, NECK & CHEST	BRAIN	Neoplasm/Mets or infection, MS, cranial neuropathy (Bell's, trigeminal neuralgia, acoustic neuroma), focal neurological deficit, headaches (new onset in cancer patient, arteritis, positional), new onset seizures, ataxia, pituitary abnormalities	YES	MRI Brain with and without	70553
		Stroke, TIA, migraines and typical headaches, dementia, concussion/TBI, memory loss	NO	MRI Brain without	70551
	MRA HEAD <i>(Please note: MRA Head and MRV Head cannot be performed on the same day)</i>	Evaluate for aneurysm or intracranial stenotic disease, vertebrobasilar insufficiency, carotid or vertebral dissection, pulsatile tinnitus, first degree relative with aneurysm	NO	MRA Head without	70544
		Known AVM	YES	MRA Head with and without	70546
	MRV HEAD	Concern for dural sinus thrombosis, dural sinus stenosis	NO	MRA Head without	70544
	TMJ	Pain, clicking <i>(check insurance, a limited number of plans provide coverage)</i>	NO	MRI TMJ without	70336
	SOFT TISSUE NECK/FACE	Head and neck cancer, palpable lumps, adenopathy, infection	YES	MRI Soft Tissue Neck with and without	70543
	MRA NECK	Carotid stenosis, vertebrobasilar insufficiency, dissection, vasculitis, FMD	YES	MRA Neck with and without	70549
	CHEST	Mass, neoplasm, pectoralis tear	NO	MRI Chest without	71550
		Cardiac mass, mediastinal mass, chest wall mass	YES	MRI Chest with and without	71552
	Aortic dissection, Aortic aneurysm	YES	MRA Chest with and without	71555	

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**AREA OF INTEREST
ABDOMEN & PELVIS**


AREA OF INTEREST	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES	
ABDOMEN & PELVIS	LIVER	Hemangioma, cirrhosis, hepatitis, increased LFTs, hepatoma, cholangiocarcinoma, metastasis	YES	MRI Abdomen with and without	74183	
	MRCP	Biliary obstruction, jaundice	NO	MRI Abdomen without	74183	
	ADRENAL GLANDS	Hypertension, pheochromocytoma, mass, lesion	YES	MRI Abdomen with and without	74183	
	KIDNEY	Mass, lesion, metastasis	YES	MRI Abdomen with and without	74183	
	PANCREAS	Pancreatitis, mass, lesion	YES	MRI Abdomen with and without	74183	
	MRA	Renal artery stenosis, hypertension, mesenteric artery stenosis, ischemic bowel	YES	MRA Abdomen with AND/OR without	74185	
	ENTEROGRAPHY	Crohn's disease, small bowel tumor	YES (plus oral)	MRI Abdomen with and without MRI Pelvis with and without	74183 72197	
	PELVIS (GENERAL)		Proximal hamstring tear, sports hernia, fracture	NO	MRI Pelvis without	72195
			Bony pelvis for lesion, mass, infection, metastasis, bladder tumor, rectal cancer	YES	MRI Pelvis with and without	72197
	MALE PELVIS		Prostate cancer staging or localization <i>(3T recommended)</i>	YES	MRI Pelvis with and without	72197
FEMALE PELVIS		Uterine fibroid, adenomyosis, urethral diverticulum, bicornate uterus, ovarian mass, endometriosis, metastasis	YES	MRI Pelvis with and without	72197	
		Uterine fibroid embolization	YES	MRI Pelvis with and without MRA Pelvis with	72197 72198	

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AREA OF INTEREST MUSCULOSKELETAL



AREA OF INTEREST	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES	
MUSCULOSKELETAL	UPPER EXTREMITIES (NO JOINT) Humerus, forearm (radius/ulna), hand	Fracture or stress fracture	NO	MRI upper extremity without	73218	
		Mass, lesion, metastasis, infection	YES	MRI upper extremity with and without	73220	
	UPPER EXTREMITY JOINTS					
	SHOULDER	SHOULDER	Labral tear, Bankart lesion, SLAP tear, history of instability/dislocation, post-op rotator cuff repair	Arthrogram	MRI joint with IR joint arthrogram	73222
			Rotator cuff tear, biceps tendon tear, fracture, avascular necrosis, muscle tear	NO	MRI upper extremity joint without	73221
			Ulnar collateral ligament tear	Arthrogram	MRI joint with IR joint arthrogram	73222
	ELBOW	ELBOW	Biceps tendon tear, osteochondritis dissecans	NO	MRI elbow without	73221
			Tennis elbow, lateral epicondylitis, common extensor tendon, ERCB tear	Consider IV contrast	MRI elbow with and without	73223
			Triangular fibrocartilage tear, scapholunate ligament tear	Consider Arthrogram	MRI joint with IR joint arthrogram	73222
	WRIST	WRIST	Occult fracture, tendon tear	NO	MRI upper extremity joint without	73221
			Osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, tumor, mass, metastasis, cellulitis, infection	YES	MRI upper extremity joint with and without	73223
			Tendon tear, fracture, muscle tear, Stener lesion, collateral ligament tear	NO	MRI upper extremity joint without	73221
FINGERS	FINGERS	Osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, tumor, mass, cellulitis, infection	YES	MRI upper extremity joint with and without	73223	

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**AREA OF INTEREST
MUSCULOSKELETAL**


AREA OF INTEREST	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES	
MUSCULOSKELETAL	LOWER EXTREMITIES: Femur, Tibia/Fibula (see FOOT below)	Fracture, stress fracture, shin splints	NO	MRI lower extremity without	73718	
		Mass, lesion, metastasis, osteomyelitis	YES	MRI lower extremity with and without	73720	
	LOWER EXTREMITY JOINTS					
	HIP <i>(Please note: Bilateral hips = 73721 x 2)</i>	Fracture, stress fracture, avascular necrosis	NO	MRI lower extremity without	73721	
		Labral tear, femoroacetabular impingement	Arthrogram	MRI lower extremity with	73722	
	KNEE	Meniscus tear, ACL tear, MCL tear, osteochondritis	NO	MRI lower extremity without	73721	
		Post-op partial meniscectomy, ACL reconstruction	Arthrogram	MRI lower extremity with	73722	
	ANKLE/HINDFOOT: Exam protocols are area-specific and cannot be combined with other areas in the same appointment.	Achilles, posterior tibial tendon, peroneus brevis/longus, fracture, stress fracture, plantar fasciitis, tarsal tunnel	NO	MRI Ankle/Hindfoot without	73721	
			Consider IV contrast	MRI Ankle/Hindfoot with and without	73721	
	MIDFOOT: Exam protocols are area-specific and cannot be combined with other areas in the same appointment.	Fracture, stress fracture, Lisfranc injury	NO	MRI Midfoot without	73718	
FOREFOOT: Exam protocols are area-specific and cannot be combined with other areas in the same appointment.	Morton's neuroma, mass, lesion, osteomyelitis, tendonopathy, plantar plate	YES	MRI Forefoot with and without	73720		

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

Exam Reference / Protocol Guidelines

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AREA OF INTEREST

SPINE



BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES
CERVICAL SPINE	Neck pain, radiculopathy, trauma	NO	MRI Cervical Spine without	72141
	Prior surgery, concern for neoplasm or infection, myelopathy, MS, syrinx	YES	MRI Cervical Spine with and without	72156
THORACIC SPINE	Thoracic back pain, radiculopathy, trauma	NO	MRI Thoracic Spine without	72146
	Prior surgery, concern for neoplasm or infection, myelopathy, MS, syrinx	YES	MRI Thoracic Spine with and without	72157
LUMBAR SPINE	Low back pain, radiculopathy, trauma, spondylolisthesis	NO	MRI Lumbar Spine without	72148
	Prior surgery, concern for neoplasm or infection	YES	MRI Lumbar Spine with and without	72158
SACRUM	Pain, trauma, insufficiency fractures	NO	MRI Pelvis without	72195
	Concern for neoplasm or infection	YES	MRI Pelvis with and without	72197



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MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) Exam Reference / Protocol Guidelines

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MRI SAFETY

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses a magnetic field, combined with radio waves to create very detailed images of the body's organs, tissues, and internal structures. MRI exams do not use ionizing radiation or cause pain. The magnetic fields do not produce any known tissue damage or side effects. Most implants placed in the body during surgery or other procedures are **conditional** for MRI. However, to ensure patient safety, **ALL** implants must be checked prior to the MRI exam. Certain implants may cause distortion of images if they are located near the area being scanned. It is also important that we are informed of any other foreign objects in the body, or any injuries to the body involving metal. **Glucose monitors and drug patches must be removed. No electronic devices will be allowed in the MRI*. All patients will be changed into MRI clothing.**

To make our MRI exams as safe as possible for our patients, we require the following patient information:

- The patient's age, and weight
- Patient's medical history: Renal failure, diabetes, high blood pressure?
- History of recent surgery, or surgery on the area to be scanned
- Is there any possibility the patient could be pregnant?
Radiologist approval required if pregnant. If no, must be 100% sure*
- The date and reason for any previous MRI exams
- Has the patient ever had any type of cancer?
- Description, manufacturer and model numbers of any implanted devices
- Colonoscopy within the past 6 weeks. If so any clips?

CONTRAST

Generally speaking, contrast dye is recommended whenever there is the possibility of a tumor or infection in any body part. Certain MRI exams require the injection of contrast dye, called gadolinium, into a vein to help clarify images and provide for improved interpretation. Although gadolinium does not contain iodine, recent findings have shown that gadolinium-based contrast agents increase the risk of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF) in patients renal insufficiency. **Exams ordered with Eovist may require eGFR**

ADVANCED RADIOLOGY MRI WEIGHT LIMITS

Fairfield: *550 lbs* 70 cm bore

Orange: 440 lbs (550 lbs for certain exams) 70 cm

bore Stamford: *550 lbs *70 cm bore

Stratford: 350 lbs 60 cm bore

Shelton: 350 lbs 60 cm bore

Trumbull: 440 lbs (550 lbs for certain exams) 70 cm bore

Wilton: 550 lbs 70 cm bore

CLAUSTROPHOBIA

Our technologists are specifically trained to assist those patient who may suffer from claustrophobia. Most claustrophobic patients have successful exams. Some patients may require a mild oral sedative prescribed by their doctor.