



CHESAPEAKE MEDICAL IMAGING

MRI ORDERING GUIDE

MR ANGIOGRAM

- For brain — *without* contrast only
- For all other sites (neck, thoracic and abdominal aorta or runo) — *without and with* contrast

PELVIS

- For female or male pelvic abnormalities — order pelvis — *without and with* contrast
- For suspected benign bone disease — order pelvis *without only*

EXTREMITIES

- For internal derangement of Osteomyelitis joints / trauma / tendon pathology — *without* contrast *only*
- For suspected infection or tumor — *without and with* contrast

SPINE

- For pain, radiculopathy — *without* contrast only
- In patients with prior spine surgery or cord lesions or masses — *without and with* contrast

COMMONLY ORDERED MRI EXAMS

CHEST

- For muscle pain/tears — *without* contrast
 - For chest wall mass — *without and with* contrast
- NOTE: CT is preferred for most chest abnormalities due to respiratory motion occurring with MR; MR is best reserved for problem solving based on findings on prior CT exam.

ABDOMEN

- For abdominal pain — *without* contrast
 - For liver / pancreas / kidney abnormalities — order *without and with* contrast
 - For adrenal mass — order *without* contrast only
- NOTE: MR is best reserved for problem solving based on findings on prior CT exam; used to better characterize known lesion

BRAIN

- For dementia, trauma, suspected TIA / CVA-headache — order *without* contrast only
- For cranial nerve or Bells Palsy, pituitary pathology, cancer — order *without and with* contrast
- For impaired hearing, posterior fossa symptoms. For suspected demyelination disorder (multiple sclerosis) — order *without and with* contrast
- For orbital pathology — order “brain and orbits”— *without and with* contrast

SOFT TISSUE NECK

- Neck muscle pain, suspect cyst or lipoma — *without* contrast
 - MR abnormal lump or history of neck cancers — order *without and with* contrast
- NOTE: CT is preferred for initial evaluation of neck masses

SUSPECTED BONE MALIGNANCY

- Order suspected site of concern — *without* contrast;
order — *without and with* contrast only if invading outside tissues