

MRI REFERENCE CHART

What to Order & How to Order It



MRI HEAD

HISTORY	WITHOUT CONTRAST	WITH CONTRAST	WHAT TO ORDER
Headache, Memory Loss, TIA, Weakness	✓		Routine Brain
Multiple Sclerosis, Ataxic Gait, Visual Changes, Numbness or Pain in Extremities, Unexplained Symptoms in Patient (Under 50), Family History of MS	✓		MS Brain
Seizure, Epilepsy, Dementia	✓		Seizure Brain
Traumatic Injury, MVA, Concussion, Head Trauma	✓		Trauma Brain
Tumor Screen, Past or Family History of Cancer, New Seizure in Patient (>50 YRS)		✓	Brain
Aneurysm Screen—Sudden Severe Headaches, Family History	✓		Brain + Circle of Willis
Tinnitus, Vertigo, Hearing Loss, Loss of Balance, Acoustic Neuroma Screen or Follow-up	✓		IACs
Abnormal Prolactin, Galactorrhea, Amenorrhea, Adenoma Screen, Visual Disturbance, Proptosis, Optic Nerve Compression		✓	Pituitary
Clicking/Popping TMJ Joint, TMJ Pain, MVA, Headaches	✓		TMJ
Soft Tissue Neck Mass		✓	Soft Tissue Neck
Complex Neurological Symptoms Not Responding to Treatment			Call MRI Radiologist for Specific Protocol

MRI SPINE

HISTORY	WITHOUT CONTRAST	WITH CONTRAST	WHAT TO ORDER
Neck Pain, Numbness/Weakness/Pain in Arms, Hands, Digits	✓		C Spine
Thoracic Pain, Chest Wall Symptoms	✓		T Spine
Low Back Pain, Loss of Balance, Unable to Walk, Bowel or Bladder Dysfunction, Numbness to Feet, Leg Weakness, Radiculopathy	✓		L Spine
Pain “Sacrum/Coccyx”, Chronic Back Pain, Fall onto Sacrum, Arthritis of Spine, Sacroiliitis	✓		MRI SI Joints
Spinal Tumour, Syrinx, Infection, Previous Back Surgery		✓	Spine

MRI EXTREMITIES

HISTORY	WITHOUT CONTRAST	WITH CONTRAST	WHAT TO ORDER
Soft Tissue Mass or Tumor, Bone Tumor, Osteomyelitis for any Extremity, General Infection		✓	MRI (Indicate Area)
Injury, Unexplained Pain, Tendinosis, Ligament Tear, Muscle Tear, Avascular Necrosis, Occult Fracture, Osteochondral Injury	✓		MRI (Indicate Area)
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, Failure of Treatment			Call MRI Radiologist for Specific Protocol

MRI EXTREMITIES UPPER—SHOULDER | ELBOW | WRIST | HAND | FINGER

Injury, Unexplained Pain, Tendinosis, Ligament Tear, Muscle Tear, Non-Response to Conservative Treatment, Bursitis, Tendinitis	✓		MRI (Indicate Area)
Slap Lesion, Labral Tear, Shoulder Dislocation, Rotator Cuff Repair, Cartilage Tear, MVA		✓	MRI Arthrogram (Shoulder)
TFCC or Ligament Tear in Wrist		✓	MRI Arthrogram (Wrist)
Brachial Plexus Neuropathy	✓		Brachial plexus
Competitive Athlete, Medicolegal			Call MRI Radiologist for Specific Protocol

MRI EXTREMITIES LOWER—HIP | KNEE | ANKLE | FOOT | TOES

Injury, Unexplained Pain, Tendinosis, Ligament Tear, Muscle Tear, Non-Response to Conservative Treatment, Bursitis, Tendinitis	✓		MRI (Indicate Area)
Hip Labral Tear, Sharp Pain that Comes and Goes, Clicking or Locking Symptoms		✓	MRI Arthrogram (Hip)
Meniscal Injury, Ligament Tear, Occult Pain, Internal Derangement, Pain, Locking	✓		MRI Knee
Previous ACL Repair, Meniscal Repair, Labral Repair, Prior Arthroscopy, Microfracture Surgery—Any Area		✓	MRI Arthrogram (Area)
Pre-Surgery Planning			Call MRI Radiologist for Specific Protocol

MRI BODY

HISTORY	WITHOUT CONTRAST	WITH CONTRAST	WHAT TO ORDER
Liver/Pancreas/Kidney Evaluation, Tumor, Hepatitis, Weight Loss, Abdomen Pain		✓	MRI Abdomen with Gadolinium
Pelvic Pain, Mass, Fibroids, Bladder Abnormality, Bleeding, Endometriosis, Hematuria, Family History of Cancer		✓	MRI Pelvis with Gadolinium
Infertility, Uterine Anomaly	✓		MRI Pelvis with Fertility Protocol
“Wellness Screening—Non-Radiation”			Call MRI Radiologist for Specific Protocol

MRI BREAST

HISTORY	WITHOUT CONTRAST	WITH CONTRAST	WHAT TO ORDER
Breast Cancer Screening—High Risk Patients		✓	MRI Breast
Extent of Disease Work Up in Newly Diagnosed Cancers, Cases of Atypia or Other High Risk Lesions—Preoperative Evaluation for Multifocal/Multicentric/Contralateral Disease		✓	MRI Breast
Postoperative Evaluation—Positive Margins at Initial Excision or for Distinguishing Tumor Recurrence from Scar Tissue at Prior Lumpectomy Site		✓	MRI Breast
Monitor Response to Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy		✓	MRI Breast
Suspicion of Breast Cancer Recurrence When Other Modalities are Inconclusive or in Reconstructed Breasts		✓	MRI Breast
Metastatic Axillary Lymphadenopathy with Unknown—but Suspected—Breast Primary		✓	MRI Breast
Lesion Characterization when Mammography/Ultrasound Inconclusive or Biopsy Results Equivocal		✓	MRI Breast
Palpable Abnormality or Persistent Clinical Concern without Mammographic/Sonographic Findings		✓	MRI Breast
Nipple Discharge		✓	MRI Breast
Evaluation of Implant Integrity	✓		MRI Breast