

MRI Quick Guide

The goal of this guide is to be a quick reference to common MRI exams that are ordered.

ABDOMEN

- Abdomen w. wo—MRI liver, kidneys, pancreas
- Abdomen w.o—MRCP ONLY (bile duct imaging)—if any other organ will also be visualized, then order as w.wo
- MRI Abdomens can NEVER be imaged as just (with); it will need to be corrected to w.wo.

BRAIN

- Brain w.o—HA's, migraines
- Brain w.wo—Metastatic disease, MS, pituitary, IAC's
- Brain with—Please note, this is a rare instance that would only be ordered this way as f/u to a recent RTN non-contrast brain study with a positive finding
- Volume Brain Imaging—Is w.o, and it requires 15+ minutes of imaging time (not done in the Bloomfield location); it is also called (volume brain, neuroquant, quantitative analysis, volumetrics)

ORBITS/FACE/NECK

- Orbits/face/neck—ww/o

HEAD

- MRA Head w.o—Is a standard way to order for r/o aneurysm
- MRA Head ww.o—Is often ordered if pt is s/p coiling

NECK OR CAROTIDS

- MRA Neck or Carotids—Standard way to order is w.wo

CHEST

- MRA Chest—Must be ordered as w.wo

MRA ABD

- MRA ABD—Must be ordered as w.wo

Please note: none of these exams can be ordered as WITH contrast only.

BREAST

- MRI Breast –Only r/o implant rupture can be ordered as w.o
- All other breast MRIs must be ordered as w.wo; otherwise, the exam is non-diagnostic and will not be performed
- Breast MRIs should always be bilat – unless a short interval f/u to a prior breast mr—ie 6 mo f/u or hx of mastectomy

EXTREMITY JOINTS

- Extremity joints include: shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips, knees, ankles and for clinical pain, tears, fx, stress fx, avn—w.o
- Please note: Exceptions, when contrast warranted, are: clinicals- mass, infection, osteomyelitis, metastatic disease, Morton’s neuroma—these are iv contrast exams—w.wo
- The only orthopedic exams that are ordered as WITH-only are ARTHROGRAMS (this is an intraarticular injection where the radiologist injects contrast directly into the joint space with x-ray guidance)
- (a recent w.o study – being reordered as contrast due to finding still would need to be w.wo—due to types of sequence used)

EXTREMITY NON-JOINTS

- MRI Extremity Non-joints include: humerus, forearm, hands, thigh, calf, feet and follow similar guidelines as the joints

L/S

- MRI l/s—order w.o, unless for hx – of lb surgery, metastatic disease, infection, mass, tumor

C/S AND T/S

- MRI c/s and t/s—order w.o- for pain, compression fx, radiculopathy
- Order as w.wo—for MS, metastatic disease, tumor/mass, infection