American College of Radiology
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

Acute Nonspecific Chest Pain-Low Probability of Coronary Artery Disease

Variant 1: Acute nonspecific chest pain; low probability of coronary artery disease. Initial imaging.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CTA coronary arteries with IV contrast	Usually appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	8	8	1	0	0	1	0	1	4	10	0
Radiography chest	Usually appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢ <0.1 mSv	☢ <0.03 mSv [ped]	8	8	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	8
CTA chest with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	5	5	1	0	0	1	9	1	4	1	0
CT chest with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	5	5	1	0	1	1	10	4	0	0	0
CT chest without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	5	5	1	1	1	4	7	2	1	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		38 (19486717)		4											
		20 (27819965)		4											
V/Q scan lung	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	5	5	2	1	2	2	10	0	0	0	0
US echocardiography transthoracic resting	May be appropriate (Disagreement)	Expert Opinion	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	2	0	0	4	4	6	1	0
		References		Study Quality											

		22 (25378470)		4												
Radiography ribs and thoracic spine	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢ 0.1-1mSv		5	5	0	1	2	5	7	1	0	0	0
CT chest without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	4	4	2	3	3	4	4	0	0	0	1
CT heart function and morphology with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	3	3	2	4	9	1	1	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality												
		39 (28027742)		4												
MRI heart function and morphology without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	3	3	0	8	6	0	2	0	0	0	1
		References		Study Quality												
		41 (28005512)		4												
SPECT or SPECT/CT MPI rest and stress	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	3	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality												
		25 (28549119)		4												
SPECT or SPECT/CT MPI rest and stress	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	3	3	1	5	8	1	1	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality												
		25 (28549119)		4												
Fluoroscopy barium swallow and upper GI series	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv		2	2	6	4	1	1	3	1	1	0	0
MRA chest without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	2	7	3	0	4	0	0	1	0
		References		Study Quality												
		40 (27533160)		4												

MRA chest without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	4	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0

References	Study Quality
40 (27533160)	4

MRA coronary arteries without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	5	8	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
MRA coronary arteries without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	4	6	5	1	1	0	0	0	0
MRI heart function and morphology without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	2	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	1

References	Study Quality
42 (19389557)	4
41 (28005512)	4
43 (27899132)	4

HIDA scan	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☢☢ 0.1-1mSv		2	2	6	3	1	4	2	0	0	1	0
US echocardiography transthoracic stress	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	2	8	3	1	2	0	0	1	0

References	Study Quality
15 (26910053)	4
23 (28378340)	3
22 (25378470)	4
24 (29909113)	3

US echocardiography transesophageal	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	6	5	1	3	1	0	1	0	0

References	Study Quality
22 (25378470)	4

MRI heart with function and vasodilator stress perfusion without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	6	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	1

References	Study Quality

		31 (25863305)		Inadequate												
MRI heart with function and inotropic stress without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	6	5	2	0	3	0	1	0	0
		References		Study Quality												
		31 (25863305)		Inadequate												
MRI heart with function and inotropic stress without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	2	2	5	5	3	0	3	0	1	0	0
Arteriography coronary	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv		1	1	10	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality												
		44 (26112200)		4												

Appendix Key

A more complete discussion of the items presented below can be found by accessing the supporting documents at the designated hyperlinks.

Appropriateness Category: The panel's recommendation for a procedure based on the assessment of the risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the specified clinical scenario.

SOE: Strength of Evidence. The assessment of the amount and quality of evidence found in the peer reviewed medical literature for an appropriateness recommendation.

- **References:** The citation number and PMID for the reference(s) associated with the recommendation.
- **Study Quality**: The assessment of the quality of an individual reference based on the number of study quality elements described in the reference.

RRL: Relative Radiation Level. A population based assessment of the amount of radiation a typical patient may be exposed to during the specified procedure.

Rating: The final rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

Median: The median rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

Final tabulations: A histogram showing the number of panel members who rated the procedure as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Additional supporting documents about the AC methodology and processes can be found at **www.acr.org/ac.**