American College of Radiology
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

Chronic Ankle Pain

**Variant 1:** Chronic ankle pain. Initial imaging.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radiography ankle</td>
<td>Usually appropriate</td>
<td>☢♂️</td>
<td>&lt;0.1 mSv</td>
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<td>CT ankle with IV contrast</td>
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<td>☢♂️</td>
<td>&lt;0.1 mSv</td>
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<td>☢♂️</td>
<td>&lt;0.1 mSv</td>
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**Variant 2:** Chronic ankle pain. Multiple sites of degenerative joint disease in the hindfoot detected by ankle radiographs. Next study.
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<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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**Variant 3:** Chronic ankle pain. Ankle radiographs normal, suspected osteochondral lesion. Next study.
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<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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**Variant 4:** Chronic ankle pain. Ankle radiographs normal or nonspecific, suspected tendon abnormality. Next study.
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<th>Peds RRL [ped]</th>
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<th>Median</th>
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Variant 5:  Chronic ankle pain. Ankle radiographs normal or nonspecific, suspected ankle instability. Next study.

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<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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Variant 6:  Chronic ankle pain. Ankle radiographs normal or nonspecific, suspected ankle impingement syndrome. Next study.

<table>
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<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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<td>MRI ankle without IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually appropriate</td>
<td></td>
<td>O 0 mSv</td>
<td>O 0 mSv</td>
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<td>CT ankle without IV contrast</td>
<td>May be appropriate</td>
<td></td>
<td>☢ &lt;0.1 mSv</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Bone scan with SPECT or SPECT/CT ankle</td>
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<td>☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>O 0 mSv</td>
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<td>5 2 0 6 3 0 0 0 1</td>
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<td>Usually not appropriate</td>
<td></td>
<td>☢ &lt;0.1 mSv</td>
<td></td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Usually not appropriate</td>
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<td>☢ &lt;0.1 mSv</td>
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<tr>
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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](http://www.acr.org/ac).