

American College of Radiology ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

Brain Tumors

Variant 1: Adult. Primary brain tumor screening. Genetic risk factors.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MRI head without and with IV contrast	Usually appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	9	9	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	10
		References	Study Quality												
		24 (28620005)	4												
		25 (34633580)	4												
MRI head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	1	0	1	9	5	0	0	0
		References	Study Quality												
		26 (28572266)	4												
		25 (34633580)	4												
MRI complete spine without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	1	1	2	3	8	1	0	0	0
		References	Study Quality												
		21 (34806136)	4												
		24 (28620005)	4												
CT head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
CT head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	14	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

CT head without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼☼ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
MRI functional (fMRI) head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	15	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
MRI head perfusion with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	15	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
MR spectroscopy head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	15	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
MRI complete spine without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
FDG-PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼☼ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	15	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
MRI head without IV contrast with DTI	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
MRI complete spine with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
MRI head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI head perfusion without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	15	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fluciclovine PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼☼ 10-30 mSv		1	1	15	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
DOTATATE PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv		1	1	11	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0

		References		Study Quality											
		22 (35961372)		4											
		23 (30777201)		2											
FDG-PET/MRI brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv		1	1	15	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Fluciclovine PET/MRI brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊕⊕⊕ 1-10 mSv		1	1	15	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
DOTATATE PET/MRI brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	⊕⊕⊕ 1-10 mSv		1	1	11	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0
		References	Study Quality												
		22 (35961372)	4												
		23 (30777201)	2												

Variant 2: Adult. Secondary or metastatic brain tumor screening. Extracranial malignancy.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MRI head without and with IV contrast	Usually appropriate	Limited	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	9	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	11
		References	Study Quality												
		32 (32065345)	4												
		31 (29799956)	2												
		30 (37245883)	4												
		29 (-3197191)	4												
MRI head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	1	1	2	11	1	0	0	0
		References	Study Quality												
		29 (-3197191)	4												
		30 (37245883)	4												
MRI complete spine without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	2	0	2	5	7	0	0	0
CT head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊕⊕⊕ 1-10 mSv	⊕⊕⊕ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

CT head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
CT head without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼☼ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	11	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
MRI functional (fMRI) head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
MRI head perfusion with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
MR spectroscopy head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
MRI complete spine without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
FDG-PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼☼ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
MRI head without IV contrast with DTI	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
MRI complete spine with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
MRI head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI head perfusion without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Fluciclovine PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼☼ 10-30 mSv		1	1	14	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
DOTATATE PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv		1	1	11	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

References	Study Quality
11 (35854930)	4

		46 (37010573)		2											
		45 (31371360)		2											
		44 (30777220)		2											
MRI functional (fMRI) head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Strong	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	6	6	0	0	0	2	6	3	2	2	1
		References		Study Quality											
		4 (34060940)		Good											
		42 (32653026)		2											
		43 (28980887)		Good											
MRI head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Strong	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	6	6	1	0	0	2	4	5	2	2	0
		References		Study Quality											
		59 (37468750)		1											
		58 (28751449)		2											
		57 (35198981)		Good											
		33 (28486641)		4											
MRI head without IV contrast with DTI	May be appropriate	Strong	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	6	6	0	0	0	0	4	7	3	0	2
		References		Study Quality											
		2 (31494311)		2											
		3 (31192130)		4											
		60 (35626069)		4											
		61 (30277427)		2											
MRI head perfusion without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Strong	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	6	6	0	0	0	0	7	4	5	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		51 (37105676)		2											
		50 (36549990)		2											
		49 (37246748)		2											
		48 (32678438)		2											
		47 (29098571)		1											

DOTATATE PET/MRI brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv		2	2	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		34 (35695763)		4											
CT head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
CT head without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹☹ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI complete spine without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	10	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
FDG-PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹☹ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	9	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		36 (31426864)		2											
		35 (30519867)		4											
MRI complete spine with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
MRI head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	11	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
DOTATATE PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv		1	1	9	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		34 (35695763)		4											

Variant 4: Adult. Suspected extra-axial brain tumor on prior imaging. Pretreatment evaluation.

MRI complete spine without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	1	1	1	7	6	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		64 (37535461)		4											
MRI functional (fMRI) head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	4	4	3	1	2	4	4	1	0	1	0
		References		Study Quality											
		70 (25957723)		2											
CT head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	3	3	5	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		62 (33459822)		4											
		63 (27432671)		4											
MRI head perfusion with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	3	3	5	1	3	1	6	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		72 (35155210)		2											
		71 (33504729)		4											
MRI head without IV contrast with DTI	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	3	3	5	1	3	0	6	1	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		70 (25957723)		2											
MRI head perfusion without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	3	3	5	1	4	3	3	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		72 (35155210)		2											
		71 (33504729)		4											
CT head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

		55 (36334295)		1													
		54 (26250565)		4													
		53 (33802292)		4													
		33 (28486641)		4													
MRI head perfusion with IV contrast	Usually appropriate	Strong	0 0 mSv		0 0 mSv [ped]	7	7	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	3	1	
		References		Study Quality													
		76 (27502247)		Good													
		72 (35155210)		2													
		71 (33504729)		4													
		56 (32048719)		4													
		54 (26250565)		4													
		48 (32678438)		2													
MRI head perfusion without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Strong	0 0 mSv		0 0 mSv [ped]	6	6	0	0	0	0	7	4	1	4	0	
		References		Study Quality													
		76 (27502247)		Good													
		72 (35155210)		2													
		71 (33504729)		4													
		56 (32048719)		4													
		54 (26250565)		4													
		48 (32678438)		2													
MRI head without IV contrast	May be appropriate (Disagreement)	Expert Opinion	0 0 mSv		0 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	2	1	0	2	3	7	0	1	0	
		References		Study Quality													
		63 (27432671)		4													
		62 (33459822)		4													
		56 (32048719)		4													
		54 (26250565)		4													

MRI complete spine without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	2	0	1	4	7	1	1	0	0
DOTATATE PET/MRI brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv		3	3	7	1	6	1	1	0	0	0	0
DOTATATE PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv		2	2	7	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
CT head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
CT head without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗⊗ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI functional (fMRI) head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	11	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
MR spectroscopy head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI complete spine without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	11	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
FDG-PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗⊗ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	10	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI head without IV contrast with DTI	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
MRI complete spine with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	10	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
MRI head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fluciclovine PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗⊗ 10-30 mSv		1	1	10	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

		76 (27502247)			Good											
DOTATATE PET/CT brain	May be appropriate	Strong	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv			6	6	0	0	1	1	6	4	3	1	0
		References			Study Quality											
		11 (35854930)			4											
		15 (35661809)			2											
		66 (35885570)			4											
		69 (32442855)			4											
		77 (31868239)			2											
		78 (31898311)			4											
FDG-PET/MRI brain	May be appropriate	Strong	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv			6	6	0	0	0	2	6	3	5	0	0
		References			Study Quality											
		7 (28341716)			2											
		35 (30519867)			4											
		76 (27502247)			Good											
DOTATATE PET/MRI brain	May be appropriate	Strong	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv			6	6	0	0	1	1	6	4	3	1	0
		References			Study Quality											
		11 (35854930)			4											
		15 (35661809)			2											
		66 (35885570)			4											
		69 (32442855)			4											
		77 (31868239)			2											
		78 (31898311)			4											
MRI head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	○ 0 mSv		○ 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	1	0	4	9	2	0	0	0
		References			Study Quality											
		54 (26250565)			4											
		56 (32048719)			4											

MR spectroscopy head without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	0	0	1	1	7	4	2	1	0
		References	Study Quality												
		1 (28332014)	4												
MRI head without IV contrast with DTI	May be appropriate	Strong	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	5	1	1	1	5	8	0	0	0	0
		References	Study Quality												
		40 (26471274)	Good												
		81 (26450533)	2												
Fluciclovine PET/CT brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	⊗⊗⊗⊗ 10-30 mSv		3	3	5	1	3	2	4	1	0	0	0
		References	Study Quality												
		10 (37055222)	4												
		79 (36577872)	4												
Fluciclovine PET/MRI brain	Usually not appropriate	Limited	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv		3	3	5	1	3	2	4	1	0	0	0
		References	Study Quality												
		10 (37055222)	4												
		79 (36577872)	4												
CT head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
CT head without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	⊗⊗⊗ 1-10 mSv	⊗⊗⊗⊗ 3-10 mSv [ped]	1	1	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI functional (fMRI) head without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
MRI complete spine without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

MRI complete spine without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	0.0 mSv	0.0 mSv [ped]	1	1	12	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
MRI complete spine with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	0.0 mSv	0.0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
MRI head with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Expert Consensus	0.0 mSv	0.0 mSv [ped]	1	1	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

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.