American College of Radiology
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

Suspected Liver Metastases

Variant 1: Suspected liver metastases. Initial imaging test following detection of primary tumor.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CT abdomen with IV contrast	Usually appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI abdomen without and with IV contrast	Usually appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI abdomen without IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In-111 somatostatin receptor scintigraphy	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv		5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen without IV contrast	May be appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US abdomen	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Variant 2: Suspected liver metastases. Surveillance following treatment of primary tumor.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CT abdomen with IV contrast	Usually appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI abdomen without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	6	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI abdomen without IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In-111 somatostatin receptor scintigraphy	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv		5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen without IV contrast	May be appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US abdomen	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Variant 3: Presurgical assessment of liver metastases.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MRI abdomen without and with IV contrast	Usually appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen with IV contrast	Usually appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US abdomen intraoperative	Usually appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI abdomen without IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	6	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	6	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv	☢☢☢☢☢ 10-30 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT abdomen without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢☢ 3-10 mSv [ped]	3	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US abdomen	Usually not appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	3	n/a	0	0	0	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.**