American College of Radiology
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

Penetrating Neck Injury

Variant 1: Penetrating neck injury. Clinical soft injury signs.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CTA neck with IV contrast	Usually appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv	☢☢☢ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radiography neck	Usually appropriate		☢☢ 0.1-1mSv		7	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US neck	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRA neck without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arteriography neck	May be appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv		5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fluoroscopy biphasic esophagram	May be appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv		5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRA neck without IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Variant 2: Penetrating neck injury. Normal or equivocal CTA. Concern for vascular injury.

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
Arteriography neck	Usually appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv		8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRA neck without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US neck	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRA neck without IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Variant 3: Penetrating neck injury. Normal or equivocal CTA. Concern for aerodigestive injury.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fluoroscopy single contrast esophagram	Usually appropriate		☢☢☢ 1-10 mSv		8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI neck 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
MRI neck without and with IV contrast	May be appropriate		O 0 mSv	O 0 mSv [ped]	5	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.**