

**American College of Radiology  
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®**

**Nonvariceal Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding**

**Variant 1: Endoscopy reveals nonvariceal upper gastrointestinal arterial bleeding source.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arteriography visceral	Usually appropriate	Strong	⊕⊕⊕ 1-10 mSv		9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

References	Study Quality
38 (11265883)	2
39 (16303580)	4
50 (18346688)	4
51 (18363055)	2
52 (18755604)	2
53 (16613304)	3
54 (15126653)	2
33 (17620467)	4
57 (19328425)	2
61 (11698624)	2
40 (22563285)	4
35 (23023268)	4
44 (21288512)	2
55 (23152041)	2
56 (21571546)	2
58 (23101916)	3
60 (21610434)	4
59 (19214287)	4

6 (24622075)	4
8 (22206746)	4
12 (24226292)	4
31 (23492985)	4
32 (21852908)	4
36 (20232200)	4
37 (22468082)	4
41 (24728537)	2
42 (25440922)	4
43 (20590769)	4
45 (22992399)	2
47 (24657087)	2
48 (24499081)	4
49 (23892235)	4
46 (21941189)	3
3 (26303132)	4
34 (104564)	4

CTA abdomen with IV contrast	Usually appropriate	Strong	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv		7	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
96 (12954894)	4
99 (20400333)	3
69 (16484350)	3
93 (15888619)	4
66 (18227546)	3
33 (17620467)	4
94 (18480529)	4
95 (14736676)	4
97 (17954618)	2
91 (17639378)	4
64 (18351347)	3



References	Study Quality
63 (23407907)	3
74 (16517235)	4
65 (20712058)	M
3 (26303132)	4
82 (21757912)	4
78 (22302119)	4
80 (18763283)	3
81 (14600875)	3
84 (26815272)	4
85 (15672055)	3
77 (-3100685)	3
79 (-3100686)	3
83 (8122642)	4
76 (12029216)	3
75 (16252149)	4

Fluoroscopy upper GI series	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv	☹☹☹ 0.3-3 mSv [ped]	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
2 (21721196)	4
26 (22198774)	4
3 (26303132)	4

**Variant 2: Endoscopy confirms nonvariceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding without a clear source.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations									
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Arteriography visceral	Usually appropriate	Limited	☹☹☹ 1-10 mSv		9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
References			Study Quality													

89 (24381048)	4
40 (22563285)	4
4 (20083829)	4
31 (23492985)	4
86 (21184902)	4
87 (21944419)	4
88 (23361570)	2

CTA abdomen with IV contrast	Usually appropriate	Strong	☻☻☻ 1-10 mSv		8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
96 (12954894)	4
99 (20400333)	3
69 (16484350)	3
93 (15888619)	4
66 (18227546)	3
33 (17620467)	4
94 (18480529)	4
95 (14736676)	4
97 (17954618)	2
91 (17639378)	4
64 (18351347)	3
92 (17171511)	3
2 (21721196)	4
98 (20621429)	2
102 (19843738)	3
103 (21412091)	2
101 (19588146)	2
62 (23192375)	M
90 (18811756)	M
100 (25782338)	4





2 (21721196)	4
71 (21642417)	2
70 (23789659)	4
113 (22098076)	2
72 (21460027)	3
114 (22270143)	3

CT abdomen without IV contrast	May be appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼☼ 3-10 mSv [ped]	4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
98 (20621429)	2

RBC scan abdomen and pelvis	May be appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv		4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
63 (23407907)	3
115 (302010)	4
116 (6331732)	3
117 (1854241)	4
118 (6283673)	3
74 (16517235)	4
119 (8233227)	4

CT abdomen without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼☼ 10-30 mSv	☼☼☼☼☼ 10-30 mSv [ped]	3	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
98 (20621429)	2

CT abdomen with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate	Limited	☼☼☼ 1-10 mSv	☼☼☼☼ 3-10 mSv [ped]	3	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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References	Study Quality
98 (20621429)	2





## **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).