

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

Chronic Ankle Pain

Variant 1: Chronic ankle pain. Initial imaging.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Radiography ankle	Usually appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT ankle with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT ankle without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT ankle without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI ankle without IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI ankle without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tc-99m bone scan ankle	Usually not appropriate		⊕⊕⊕ 1-10 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US ankle	Usually not appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Variant 2: Chronic ankle pain. Multiple sites of degenerative joint disease in the hindfoot detected by ankle radiographs. Next study.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MRI ankle without IV contrast	Usually appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT arthrography ankle	May be appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		6	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MR arthrography ankle	May be appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	6	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tc-99m bone scan with SPECT/CT ankle	May be appropriate (Disagreement)		⊕⊕⊕ 1-10 mSv		5	4	4	1	1	4	4	3	0	0	0
CT ankle without IV contrast	May be appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		4	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Image-guided anesthetic injection ankle	Usually not appropriate		Varies	Varies	3	3	8	0	1	3	4	1	0	0	0
CT ankle with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CT ankle without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
US ankle	Usually not appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radiography ankle stress views	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MRI ankle without and with IV contrast	Usually not appropriate		○ 0 mSv	○ 0 mSv [ped]	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
X-ray arthrography ankle	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Variant 4: Chronic ankle pain. Ankle radiographs normal or nonspecific, suspected tendon abnormality. Next study.

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.