

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

Staging and Disease Monitoring of Colon Cancer and Appendiceal Cancer

Variant: 1 Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	Relative Radiation Level
CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast	Usually Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT chest with IV contrast	Usually Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast	May Be Appropriate	○
CT chest without IV contrast	May Be Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh	May Be Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿
MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	○
MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	○
CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT chest without and with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
FDG-PET/MRI skull base to mid-thigh	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿

Variant: 2 Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	Relative Radiation Level
CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast	Usually Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT chest with IV contrast	Usually Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast	May Be Appropriate	○
CT chest without IV contrast	May Be Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh	May Be Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿
MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	○
MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	○
CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT chest without and with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
FDG-PET/MRI skull base to mid-thigh	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿

Variant: 3 Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	Relative Radiation Level
CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast	Usually Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
CT chest with IV contrast	Usually Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast	May Be Appropriate	○
CT chest without IV contrast	May Be Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿
FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh	May Be Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿
MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	○
MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	○
CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	⦿⦿⦿

CT chest without and with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	☢☢☢
FDG-PET/MRI skull base to mid-thigh	Usually Not Appropriate	☢☢☢
CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast	Usually Not Appropriate	☢☢☢☢

Panel Members

Elena K. Korngold, MD^a; Avinash R. Kambadakone, MD^b; Jordan Berlin, MD^c; Brooks D. Cash, MD^d; Bari Dane, MD^e; Nader Hanna, MD^f; Natally Horvat, 9; A. Tuba Karagulle Kendi, MD^h; David H. Kim, MDⁱ; Yun Rose Li, MD, PhD^j; Peter S. Liu, MD^k; Jason A. Pietryga, MD^l; Gary M. Plant, MD^m; Cynthia S. Santillan, MDⁿ; Steven D. Wexner, MD, PhD^o; Kathryn J. Fowler, MD^p.

Summary of Literature Review

Introduction/Background

The local treatment of colon cancer relies primarily on the resection of involved colon (partial colectomy), with removal of the associated mesentery and regional nodes. The use of selective adjuvant chemotherapy is dictated by lymph node positivity and extramural lymphovascular invasion on pathologic specimen. There is increasing use of targeted agents based on molecular subgroups, such as microsatellite-unstable, BRAF-mutant, or RAS-mutant colon cancers (identified via pathology rather than imaging), with impressive response at surgery; however, surgery remains the standard initial local treatment of colon cancer.

The role of preoperative imaging to predict T stage and N stage is an area of ongoing investigation, given that neoadjuvant therapy has not yet been shown to significantly improve overall survival over surgery (radical resection) with postoperative adjuvant treatment. The large randomized controlled Fluoropyrimidine, Oxaliplatin, and Targeted-Receptor pre-Operative Therapy (FOxTROT) trial found that preoperative (neoadjuvant) chemotherapy for operable colon cancer produces marked histopathologic downstaging, fewer incomplete resections, and better 2-year disease control than adjuvant therapy alone, and it may predict lower postoperative recurrence based on regression after neoadjuvant therapy [1].

Despite the growing interest in identifying colon cancers that might benefit from neoadjuvant chemotherapy before resection, preoperative imaging of colon cancer appears to be of most benefit in identifying distant metastases, regardless of its ability to predict T stage and N stage. Given the limited role of locoregional staging, the imaging variant discussion for colon cancer will primarily focus on evaluation of distant metastases.

Appendiceal cancers have different biological behavior despite their morphological resemblance to colon cancer, and therefore the eighth edition of American Joint Committee on Cancer staging manual classified appendiceal carcinomas independently and separate from colon cancer [2-4]. In view of different management strategies for appendiceal tumors, they are considered separately from colon cancer in this narrative. Appendiceal epithelial neoplasms are rare, with a broad range of initial presentations ranging from a localized appendiceal mucocoele to an aggressive malignancy with peritoneal spread [5]. Appendiceal adenocarcinoma can be either mucinous or nonmucinous. Metastatic disease is most commonly peritoneal disease within the abdomen and pelvis, with diffuse peritoneal mucinous involvement in the form of pseudomyxoma peritonei, an

uncommon malignancy most frequently arising from a ruptured appendiceal mucocoele/epithelial neoplasm. The primary treatment for peritoneal disease from appendiceal carcinoma is cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). There are no formal surveillance guidelines for after appendectomy [6,7], and typically postoperative surveillance is individualized in these situations according to tumor presentation, pathology, and prior treatment [5].

Discussion of Procedures by Variant

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

In this clinical scenario, a patient has been recently diagnosed with colon cancer and presents for the evaluation of the primary lesion and metastatic disease in the chest, abdomen, and pelvis.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

A. CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

Abdominal/pelvic CT with IV contrast has a high negative predictive value of 90% for ruling out distant metastases [8]. The false-positive rate of CT in a prospective study by Valls et al [9] was 3.9% (10 of 257 findings: 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.9-7.1), with intraoperative ultrasound (US) and histopathology serving as the reference standard. Most studies show comparable or improved sensitivity for the detection of colorectal liver metastases with intravenous (IV) conventional extracellular gadolinium agent-enhanced MRI compared with CT [10,11]. An important determinant of CT performance is technique. The use of multidetector CT (MDCT), multiphase imaging, appropriate IV contrast bolus and timing, and optimal imaging parameters significantly narrows the differential between CT and MRI [12,13]. In studies evaluating the IV contrast-enhanced optimized CT technique, detection rates for liver metastases range from 85% to 91% [9,14]. CT may show more limited sensitivity in detecting metastases in the setting of fatty liver and following neoadjuvant therapy compared with MRI [10,11]. Particularly in this setting of serial imaging, MDCT has proven to be an effective tool in the assessment of the extent of liver disease in addition to providing a comprehensive assessment of extrahepatic disease. Recent studies have also noted CT morphologic criteria of responses in liver metastasis that have proven to be excellent predictors of overall survival and disease-free survival [15,16].

In local staging, CT demonstrates suboptimal evaluation in early (T1-2) and locally advanced (T3-4) stage tumors, with frequent errors of both T- and N-based assessment [17-24], suggesting that it remains primarily useful in the assessment of metastatic disease. There is some evidence showing that nodal assessment may be more sensitive based on pathologic mismatch repair or microsatellite instability status [25,26], and that CT may be effective at the local assessment of extramural vascular invasion/speculation [27-29]. In the evaluation of retroperitoneal (ascending or descending) colon cancer, CT demonstrated an 80% accuracy in predicting pathological circumferential margin [30].

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

B. CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast

There is no specific evidence to support performing CT of both the abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast, rather than with IV contrast alone.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

C. CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast

There is no relevant literature to support the use of CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

D. CT chest with IV contrast

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recommends that patients with newly diagnosed colorectal cancer undergo staging chest CT because staging chest CT has been shown to detect more lung metastases than chest radiography [31]. In a series of 74 patients with newly diagnosed rectal cancer who underwent both chest CT and chest radiography, 37% of patients with a normal chest radiograph had a lesion visible only on the chest CT, and 17% of these patients were found to have at least 1 pulmonary metastasis [31]. Among patients with potentially resectable liver metastases and a negative initial chest PET, additional imaging with a chest CT revealed pulmonary metastases in 5% of patients [32]. A potential pitfall of chest CT is the detection of small indeterminate pulmonary nodules that are not metastases [33]. In pooled studies, approximately 15% patients had incidental pulmonary nodules on initial staging CT [34]; one-fourth to one-fifth of the indeterminate lesions on preoperative CT ultimately developed into metastases and 1 in 10 into other lung malignancies [35]. Because of limited sensitivity of MRI for lung nodules, a chest CT can be used in addition to abdominal MRI for complete staging.

Chest CT examinations performed to evaluate for pulmonary metastases were typically performed with IV contrast material [33,36,37], given its role in simultaneous detection evaluation of abdominopelvic lesions. Lung nodules can be identified with or without IV contrast.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

E. CT chest without and with IV contrast

There is no specific evidence for performing CT both without and with IV contrast, instead of with IV contrast alone.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

F. CT chest without IV contrast

The NCCN recommends that patients with newly diagnosed colorectal cancer undergo staging chest CT because staging chest CT has been shown to detect more lung metastases than chest radiography [31]. In a series of 74 patients with newly diagnosed rectal cancer who underwent both chest CT and chest radiography, 37% of patients with a normal chest radiograph had a lesion visible only on the chest CT, and 17% of these patients were found to have at least 1 pulmonary metastasis [31]. Among patients with potentially resectable liver metastases and a negative initial chest PET, additional imaging with a chest CT revealed pulmonary metastases in 5% of patients [32]. A potential pitfall of chest CT is the detection of small indeterminate pulmonary nodules that are not metastases [33]. In pooled studies, approximately 15% of patients had pulmonary nodules on initial staging CT [34]; one-fourth to one-fifth of the indeterminate lesions on preoperative CT ultimately developed into metastases and 1 in 10 developed into other lung malignancies [35]. Because of the limited sensitivity of MRI for lung nodules, a chest CT can be used in addition to abdominal MRI for complete staging.

Chest CT examinations performed to evaluate for pulmonary metastases were typically performed with IV contrast material [33,36,37], given its role in the detection evaluation of abdominopelvic lesions. Lung nodules can; however, be identified with or without IV contrast, and noncontrast CT chest may be indicated when performed separately from abdominopelvic CT.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

G. FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh

PET/CT is useful for determining overall stage and identifying patients with metastatic disease (sensitivity of 89% and specificity of 64%); however, the accuracy on a lesion-by-lesion basis is relatively low compared with IV contrast-enhanced CT and MRI for liver metastases (55% versus 89% in a study comparing PET/CT with MDCT) [38,39]. PET/CT may help to exclude other sites of disease beyond the liver [40] or, in complex cases, to improve staging accuracy. PET/CT, in addition to traditional CT or MRI staging, has been shown to result in a change in management in up to 8% to 11% of patients [38,41-43]; however, randomized controlled and nonrandomized trials, or meta-analysis, did not demonstrate any difference in recurrence rates or long-term survival based on these changes in management [44-46]. Caution should be exercised, because the findings of PET/CT may be nonspecific and could result in a negative impact on patient care in up to 9% of patients [38]. Per the American Society of Colorectal Surgeons, PET/CT is generally not recommended for routine colon cancer staging but may be useful in surgical decision making in patients with stage IV disease [47].

PET/CT may add influence in the positive predictive value of avid lymph nodes because it has a higher specificity than other modalities. The sensitivity of detecting nodal metastases is variable, ranging from 43% to 88%, with a specificity of 60% to 80%, and again size is not a helpful characteristic [48].

Limitations of PET include decreased sensitivity in detecting small colonic lesions ≤ 10 mm in diameter and decreased fluorine-18-2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose (FDG) uptake by mucinous tumors [39].

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

H. FDG-PET/MRI skull base to mid-thigh

Multiple small studies have demonstrated high diagnostic performance of FDG-PET/MRI in the detection of primary lesions and metastases in staging and restaging of patients with colorectal cancer, including a meta-analysis of 1,534 patients with a pooled sensitivity of 94% and specificity of 89% for the detection of tumor, lymph nodes, and metastases, with the highest sensitivity for M staging at 97% [49]. PET/MRI demonstrated a pooled sensitivity of 81% and specificity of 89% for the detection of lymph node metastases [50]. However, at this time there is little indication for this examination as the primary initial staging modality, and it is not commonly performed outside of specific clinical problem-solving scenarios. Regarding pulmonary metastases, both MRI and PET are considered to have a limited role in detecting small pulmonary nodules, and in a trimodality PET/CT and MRI protocol there was limited detection of nodules < 1 cm by MRI compared with CT [51,52].

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

I. MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

There are no recent publications addressing MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast (ie, excluding the precontrast images). In practice, MRI is rarely if ever done solely postcontrast, particularly given the numerous range of sequences that do not involve contrast-enhancement.

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

J. MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast

This variant includes MRI for the assessment of hepatic metastatic disease, as well as MRI of the abdomen and pelvis for local staging and extrahepatic metastatic disease.

Most studies show comparable or improved sensitivity for the detection of colorectal liver metastases with IV conventional extracellular gadolinium agent-enhanced MRI compared with CT [10,11]. MRI is more accurate than CT in detecting liver metastases in the setting of fatty liver and following neoadjuvant therapy [10,11,53]. Many recent studies focus on the benefit of hepatobiliary contrast agent-enhanced MRI and diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) [54-61]. In a retrospective study of 242 patients undergoing surgical resection for colorectal liver metastases (n = 92 with prechemotherapy and presurgical MRI with a hepatobiliary IV contrast agent and n = 150 without both prechemotherapy and presurgical hepatobiliary IV contrast agent-enhanced MRI), patients who underwent hepatobiliary MRI both prechemotherapy and presurgically had significantly lower rates of intrahepatic recurrence (48% versus 65%; $P = .04$) and fewer repeat hepatectomies (13% versus 25%; $P = .03$) [56]. On the basis of the results of this study, the authors suggested that a hepatobiliary IV contrast agent-enhanced MRI may improve outcomes in the era of highly active neoadjuvant chemotherapy and disappearing lesions. In a study of 28 patients with pathologically proven metastatic cancer who underwent gadolinium-ethoxybenzyl (Gd-EOB) MRI and MDCT imaging, per-lesion sensitivity in the detection of liver metastases was higher with Gd-EOB MRI (90%-96%) compared to MDCT (72%-75%) [62]. DWI-MRI is also more accurate than MDCT for the detection of liver metastases, with 100% sensitivity and specificity for DWI-MRI and 87.5% sensitivity and 95.5% specificity for MDCT [63].

MRI with DWI has become an increasingly accepted modality for the evaluation of peritoneal disease in patients who may benefit from cytoreductive surgery/HIPEC [64-69], predicting overall survival and disease-free survival, with increased detection of extraperitoneal findings over CT [70]. In a population based study, whole-body MRI was compared with standard staging with CT (followed by PET or liver MRI as needed) and revealed that whole-body MRI demonstrated a 4% improvement in sensitivity and 2% improvement in specificity for metastatic disease over conventional staging, with improved staging efficiency [71,72].

Because of limited sensitivity of MRI for lung nodules, a chest CT can be used in addition to abdominal MRI for complete staging.

Given the limitations of local staging by CT, MRI may present a more sensitive and specific option for preoperative T and N stage assessment. Multiple recent studies demonstrate improved nodal and local tumor evaluation based on enhancement and DWI/ADC findings; however, this remains investigational [48,73-77].

Variant 1: Adult. Staging of colon cancer.

K. MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast

There is no relevant literature to support the use of MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast in the initial staging of colon cancer.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

In this clinical scenario, a patient with colon cancer has been treated either surgically or nonsurgically (chemotherapy, radiation, liver-directed therapy including ablation, chemo- or radioembolization) and presents for the evaluation of metastatic disease in the chest, abdomen, and pelvis. Because the metastatic pattern of colon cancer is similar in the initial staging and follow-up evaluations, the recommendations are similar to the initial staging.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

A. CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

Abdominal/pelvic CT with IV contrast has a high negative predictive value of 90% for ruling out distant metastases [8].

The false-positive rate of CT in a prospective study by Valls et al [9] was 3.9% (10 of 257 findings: 95% CI, 1.9-7.1), with intraoperative US and histopathology serving as the reference standard. Most studies show comparable or improved sensitivity for the detection of colorectal liver metastases with IV conventional extracellular gadolinium agent-enhanced MRI compared with CT [10,11]. Although CT may have diminished sensitivity compared with MRI in the detection of liver lesions, an important determinant of its accuracy is the CT technique. The use of MDCT, multiphase imaging, appropriate IV contrast bolus and timing, and optimal imaging parameters significantly narrows the differential between CT and MRI [12,13]. In studies evaluating the IV contrast-enhanced optimized CT technique, detection rates for liver metastases range from 85% to 91% [9,14]. CT may show more limited sensitivity in detecting metastases in the setting of fatty liver and following neoadjuvant therapy compared with MRI [10,11]. Particularly in this setting of serial imaging, MDCT has proven to be an effective tool in the assessment of the extent of liver disease in addition to providing a comprehensive assessment of extrahepatic disease. Recent studies have also noted CT morphologic criteria of responses in liver metastasis that have proven to be excellent predictors of overall survival and disease-free survival [15,16].

Given the performance of CT of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis with IV contrast in the detection of liver and lung metastases, this remains the standard modality for follow-up of patients after curative or palliative/neoadjuvant treatment of colon cancer [78].

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

B. CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast

There is no specific evidence to support performing CT of both the abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast, rather than with IV contrast alone.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

C. CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast

There is no relevant literature to support the use of CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast in the initial staging of colon cancer.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

D. CT chest with IV contrast

Lung metastases occur in approximately 25% of patients with resected colon cancer [79] and because of the frequency of follow-up abdominopelvic CT, chest CT is included as part of routine contrast-enhanced CT chest, abdomen, and pelvis.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

E. CT chest without and with IV contrast

There is no specific evidence for performing CT both without and with IV contrast, instead of with IV contrast alone.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

F. CT chest without IV contrast

The NCCN recommends that patients with treated colorectal cancer undergo chest CT because

staging chest CT has been shown to detect more lung metastases than chest radiography [31]. Among patients with potentially resectable liver metastases and a negative initial chest PET, additional imaging with a chest CT revealed pulmonary metastases in 5% of patients [32]. A potential pitfall of chest CT is the detection of small indeterminate pulmonary nodules that are not metastases [33]. In pooled studies, approximately 15% of patients had pulmonary nodules on initial staging CT [34]; one-fourth to one-fifth of the indeterminate lesions on preoperative CT ultimately developed into metastases, and 1 in 10 developed into other lung malignancies [35]. Because of a limited sensitivity of MRI for lung nodules, a chest CT can be used in addition to an abdominal MRI for complete staging.

Chest CT examinations performed to evaluate for pulmonary metastases were typically performed with IV contrast material [33,36,37], given its role in the detection evaluation of abdominopelvic lesions. Lung nodules can; however, be identified with or without IV contrast, and noncontrast CT chest may be useful when performed separately from abdominopelvic CT.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

G. FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh

PET/CT is useful for determining overall stage and identifying patients with metastatic disease (sensitivity of 89% and specificity of 64%); however, the accuracy on a lesion-by-lesion basis is relatively low compared with IV contrast-enhanced CT and MRI for liver metastases (55% versus 89% in a study comparing PET/CT with MDCT) [38,39]. PET/CT may help to exclude other sites of disease beyond the liver or, in complex cases, to improve staging accuracy, in which it has been shown to result in a change in management in up to 8% to 11% of patients [38,41-43]. Caution should be exercised; however, as the findings of PET/CT may be nonspecific and could result in a negative impact on patient care in up to 9% of patients [38]. Additionally, PET/CT has further reduced sensitivity for lesions in the setting of neoadjuvant therapy and should be used in conjunction with IV contrast CT or MRI for presurgical planning of liver metastases [80]. PET/CT may add influence in the positive predictive value of avid lymph nodes because it has a higher specificity than other modalities. The sensitivity of detecting nodal metastases is only 43%, with a specificity of 80%, and again size is not a helpful characteristic.

PET/CT in the postoperative setting of patients with pathological stage III colon cancer resulted in the modified management of 13% of patients, with 11% demonstrating metastatic disease not identified on preoperative staging, and 38% of those upstaged patients undergoing curative treatment based on the PET/CT [81]. There is also a potential role for PET/CT in restaging colorectal cancer after chemoradiation therapy by measuring the pretreatment and posttreatment standardized uptake value and assessing response by decreasing standardized uptake value [82]. Limitations of PET include decreased sensitivity in detecting small colonic lesions ≤ 10 mm in diameter and decreased FDG uptake by mucinous tumors [39,83].

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

H. FDG-PET/MRI skull base to mid-thigh

In a small trial of PET/MRI versus standard of care imaging in treated patients with colorectal cancer, PET/MRI changed clinical management in 36% of patients, with upstaging in 21% and downstaging in 14%, and outperformed conventional posttreatment evaluation in oncologic restaging [84], prompting further evaluation in this area. However, at this time there is little indication for this examination as the primary restaging or surveillance modality, and it is not commonly performed outside of specific clinical problem-solving scenarios. PET-MRI has limited

sensitivity for lung nodules, and a chest CT should be performed in addition to PET/MRI if used in restaging.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

I. MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

There are no recent publications addressing MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast (excluding the precontrast images). In practice, MRI is rarely, if ever, done solely postcontrast, particularly given the numerous ranges of sequences that do not involve contrast enhancement.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

J. MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast

This variant includes MRI for the assessment of hepatic metastatic disease, as well as MRI of the abdomen and pelvis for extrahepatic metastatic disease.

Most studies show comparable or improved sensitivity for the detection of colorectal liver metastases with IV conventional extracellular gadolinium agent-enhanced MRI compared with CT [10,11]. MRI is more accurate than CT in detecting liver metastases in the setting of fatty liver and following neoadjuvant therapy [10,11,53]. Many recent studies focus on the benefit of hepatobiliary contrast agent-enhanced MRI and DWI [54-61]. In a retrospective study of 242 patients undergoing surgical resection for colorectal liver metastases (n = 92 with prechemotherapy and presurgical MRI with a hepatobiliary IV contrast agent and n = 150 without both prechemotherapy and presurgical hepatobiliary IV contrast agent-enhanced MRI), patients who underwent hepatobiliary MRI both prechemotherapy and presurgically had significantly lower rates of intrahepatic recurrence (48% versus 65%; $P = .04$) and fewer repeat hepatectomies (13% versus 25%; $P = .03$) [56]. On the basis of the results of this study, the authors suggested that a hepatobiliary IV contrast agent-enhanced MRI may improve outcomes in the era of highly active neoadjuvant chemotherapy and disappearing lesions. In a study of 28 patients with pathologically proven metastatic cancer who underwent Gd-EOB MRI and MDCT imaging, per-lesion sensitivity in the detection of liver metastases was higher with Gd-EOB MRI (90%-96%) compared with MDCT (72%-75%) [62]. DWI-MRI is also more accurate than MDCT for the detection of liver metastases, with 100% sensitivity and specificity for DWI-MRI and 87.5% sensitivity and 95.5% specificity for MDCT [63]. Compared with CT, gadoxetic acid-enhanced liver MRI demonstrates higher per-patient liver lesion detection, particularly in patients treated with chemotherapy, in subcapsular lesions, and in peribiliary metastases [62].

MRI with DWI has become an increasingly accepted modality for evaluation of peritoneal disease [64-69], with increased detection of extraperitoneal findings over CT [70]. In a population-based study, whole-body MRI was compared with standard staging with CT (followed by PET or liver MRI as needed) and revealed that whole-body MRI demonstrated a 4% improvement in sensitivity and 2% improvement in specificity for metastatic disease over conventional staging, with improved staging efficiency [71,72].

Because of limited sensitivity of MRI for lung nodules, a chest CT can be used in addition to abdominal MRI for complete staging.

Variant 2: Adult. Colon cancer. Posttreatment evaluation.

K. MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast

There is no recent evidence to support MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast in the

posttreatment evaluation for colon cancer.

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

In this variant, a patient has been diagnosed with appendiceal cancer/neoplasm based on appendectomy or, less commonly, colonoscopy. Metastatic disease from appendiceal epithelial neoplasm is most commonly peritoneal disease within the abdomen and pelvis, with diffuse peritoneal mucinous involvement in the form of pseudomyxoma peritonei, an uncommon malignancy most frequently arising from a ruptured appendiceal mucocoele/epithelial neoplasm. The primary treatment for peritoneal disease from appendiceal carcinoma is cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC. A thorough evaluation of imaging recommendations for staging and follow-up of peritoneal disease in the more common setting of ovarian cancer is provided in the ACR Appropriateness Criteria[®] topic on "[Staging and Follow-up of Ovarian Cancer](#)" [85].

There are no formal surveillance guidelines for after appendectomy [6,7], and typically postoperative surveillance is individualized in these situations according to tumor presentation, pathology, and previous treatment [5].

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

A. CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

Areas in the abdomen and pelvis, which are poorly evaluated by laparoscopy, may be better assessed by CT (intrahepatic or other solid organ parenchymal metastases and metastases to the porta or lesser sac). In addition, there are multiple bowel and peritoneal findings on CT, which can guide surgical approach or predict surgical outcome [86]. CT demonstrates little success in the differentiation of benign from malignant disease [87,88].

The sensitivity of CT in detecting peritoneal implants was influenced by lesion size. Sensitivity for small nodules (<0.5 cm) was 11%, which is in contrast to 94% with nodules >5 cm. Radiological (CT) peritoneal cancer index (PCI) scores significantly underestimate intraoperative PCI ($P < .001$) [89]. In a separate study of all peritoneal disease, CT PCI score had a sensitivity of 76%, a specificity of 69%, a positive predictive value of 85%, and a negative predictive value of 56% when compared with the surgical PCI [90]. The US HIPEC collaborative demonstrated correlation of CT-PCI of 55% to 70% with intraoperative PCI [91].

Postcytoreduction, CT or MRI of the abdomen and pelvis appears to be appropriate follow-up for low-grade pseudomyxoma peritonei [6,92,93].

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

B. CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast

There is no specific evidence to support performing CT both without and with IV contrast, instead of with IV contrast alone.

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

C. CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast

There is no specific evidence to support performing CT without contrast.

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

D. CT chest with IV contrast

In higher-grade appendiceal neoplasm, or neuroendocrine appendiceal cancer, CT of the chest is useful to supplement abdominopelvic imaging [6].

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

E. CT chest without and with IV contrast

There is no specific evidence for performing CT both without and with IV contrast, instead of with IV contrast alone.

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

F. CT chest without IV contrast

In higher-grade appendiceal neoplasm, or neuroendocrine appendiceal cancer, CT of the chest is useful to supplement abdominopelvic imaging [6].

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

G. FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh

Multiple studies have shown that PET/CT is insensitive for the evaluation of peritoneal disease and mucinous disease, both of which are primary characteristics of appendiceal cancer [94,95]. PET/CT coregistered with IV contrast-enhanced CT is more accurate than PET/CT alone, but it does not improve detection more than CT with IV contrast alone [96]. PET is not useful for patients with peritoneal cancer of appendiceal origin. In the rare case of neuroendocrine appendiceal cancer, PET may be used for poorly differentiated tumors [97].

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

H. FDG-PET/MRI skull base to mid-thigh

Although there have been some small investigational studies on the role of PET/MRI in gastrointestinal malignancies, including colorectal cancer, there is not recent evidence supporting the role of routine PET/MRI in appendiceal cancer staging or restaging [98,99], and it is likely that further knowledge will be inferred from the assessment of other malignancies that tend to spread similarly (ovarian, peritoneal, and signet ring gastric cancers).

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

I. MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

There are no recent publications addressing MRI abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast (excluding the precontrast images). In practice, MRI is rarely, if ever, done solely postcontrast, particularly given the numerous ranges of sequences that do not involve contrast enhancement.

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

J. MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast

Delayed postcontrast-enhanced MRI coupled with DWI has been shown to have high sensitivity for the detection of small peritoneal implants and is potentially helpful for differentiation of acellular

mucin from more cellular disease [97,100]. In evaluating peritoneal carcinomatosis index with CT and MRI, MRI is more sensitive and specific than CT [91,97] and there was improved sensitivity when both CT and MRI were used together as compared with CT or MRI alone [101]. Surveillance MRI demonstrates improved performance (91% sensitivity, 95% specificity) over serial tumor markers [102].

Postcytoreduction, CT or MRI of the abdomen and pelvis appears to be appropriate follow-up for low-grade PMP [6,92,93] given its low rate of local recurrence.

Variant 3: Adult. Appendiceal cancer. Disease monitoring during treatment or posttreatment evaluation.

K. MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast

Given the demonstrated role of IV gadolinium in the evaluation of liver disease and the assessment of other potential sites of disease, MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast is not generally useful.

Summary of Highlights

This is a summary of the key recommendations from the variant tables. Refer to the complete narrative document for more information.

- **Variant 1 and 2:** For the initial staging and imaging of treated/resected colon cancer, CT of the chest with IV contrast and CT of the abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast are recommended, primarily to assess for distant metastatic disease. MRI of the abdomen may be useful, primarily for the detection of liver metastases, with increasing use of hepatobiliary IV contrast agents, which demonstrate improved performance for this indication compared with conventional gadolinium agents. Noncontrast chest CT may be indicated when performed separately from abdominal/pelvic CT or MRI. FDG-PET/CT is complementary and may be appropriate in combination with diagnostic CT or MRI to provide metabolic information.
- **Variant 3:** For the initial staging and imaging of treated/resected appendiceal cancer, CT of the abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast is recommended, primarily to assess for distant metastatic disease, most commonly peritoneal disease. CT of the chest with IV contrast is useful to supplement abdominopelvic imaging if there is concern for thoracic metastatic disease. MRI of the abdomen and pelvis may be useful, primarily for the detection of peritoneal or liver metastases. Noncontrast chest CT may be indicated when performed separately from abdominal/pelvic CT or MRI. FDG-PET/CT is complementary and may be appropriate in combination with diagnostic CT or MRI to provide metabolic information.

Supporting Documents

The evidence table, literature search, and appendix for this topic are available at <https://acsearch.acr.org/list>. The appendix includes the strength of evidence assessment and the final rating round tabulations for each recommendation.

For additional information on the Appropriateness Criteria methodology and other supporting documents, please go to the ACR website at <https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/Clinical-Tools-and-Reference/Appropriateness-Criteria>.

Gender Equality and Inclusivity Clause

The ACR acknowledges the limitations in applying inclusive language when citing research studies that predates the use of the current understanding of language inclusive of diversity in sex, intersex, gender, and gender-diverse people. The data variables regarding sex and gender used in the cited literature will not be changed. However, this guideline will use the terminology and definitions as proposed by the National Institutes of Health.


Appropriateness Category Names and Definitions





Appropriateness Category Name	Appropriateness Rating	Appropriateness Category Definition
Usually Appropriate	7, 8, or 9	The imaging procedure or treatment is indicated in the specified clinical scenarios at a favorable risk-benefit ratio for patients.
May Be Appropriate	4, 5, or 6	The imaging procedure or treatment may be indicated in the specified clinical scenarios as an alternative to imaging procedures or treatments with a more favorable risk-benefit ratio, or the risk-benefit ratio for patients is equivocal.
May Be Appropriate (Disagreement)	5	The individual ratings are too dispersed from the panel median. The different label provides transparency regarding the panel's recommendation. "May be appropriate" is the rating category and a rating of 5 is assigned.
Usually Not Appropriate	1, 2, or 3	The imaging procedure or treatment is unlikely to be indicated in the specified clinical scenarios, or the risk-benefit ratio for patients is likely to be unfavorable.

Relative Radiation Level Information

Potential adverse health effects associated with radiation exposure are an important factor to consider when selecting the appropriate imaging procedure. Because there is a wide range of radiation exposures associated with different diagnostic procedures, a relative radiation level (RRL) indication has been included for each imaging examination. The RRLs are based on effective dose, which is a radiation dose quantity that is used to estimate population total radiation risk associated with an imaging procedure. Patients in the pediatric age group are at inherently higher risk from exposure, because of both organ sensitivity and longer life expectancy (relevant to the long latency that appears to accompany radiation exposure). For these reasons, the RRL dose estimate ranges for pediatric examinations are lower as compared with those specified for adults (see Table below). Additional information regarding radiation dose assessment for imaging examinations can be found in the ACR Appropriateness Criteria® [Radiation Dose Assessment Introduction](#) document.

Relative Radiation Level Designations

Relative Radiation Level*	Adult Effective Dose Estimate Range	Pediatric Effective Dose Estimate Range
0	0 mSv	0 mSv
	<0.1 mSv	<0.03 mSv

	0.1-1 mSv	0.03-0.3 mSv
	1-10 mSv	0.3-3 mSv
	10-30 mSv	3-10 mSv
	30-100 mSv	10-30 mSv

*RRL assignments for some of the examinations cannot be made, because the actual patient doses in these procedures vary as a function of a number of factors (e.g., region of the body exposed to ionizing radiation, the imaging guidance that is used). The RRLs for these examinations are designated as “Varies.”

References

1. Morton D, Seymour M, Magill L, et al. Preoperative Chemotherapy for Operable Colon Cancer: Mature Results of an International Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2023;41:1541-52.
2. Edge SB, Compton CC. The American Joint Committee on Cancer: the 7th edition of the AJCC cancer staging manual and the future of TNM. *Annals of Surgical Oncology*. 17(6):1471-4, 2010 Jun.
3. Hanna N, Hanna AN, Hanna DN. AJCC Cancer Staging System Version 9: Appendiceal Adenocarcinoma. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2024;31:2177-80.
4. Khan F, Vogel RI, Diep GK, Tuttle TM, Lou E. Prognostic factors for survival in advanced appendiceal cancers. *Cancer Biomark* 2016;17:457-62.
5. Glasgow SC, Gaertner W, Stewart D, et al. The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Appendiceal Neoplasms. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2019;62:1425-38.
6. Govaerts K, Chandrakumaran K, Carr NJ, et al. Single centre guidelines for radiological follow-up based on 775 patients treated by cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC for appendiceal pseudomyxoma peritonei. *Eur J Surg Oncol*. 44(9):1371-1377, 2018 09.
7. Smeenk RM, van Velthuysen ML, Verwaal VJ, Zoetmulder FA. Appendiceal neoplasms and pseudomyxoma peritonei: a population based study. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2008;34:196-201.
8. Kulemann V, Schima W, Tamandl D, et al. Preoperative detection of colorectal liver metastases in fatty liver: MDCT or MRI? *Eur J Radiol* 2011;79:e1-6.
9. van Kessel CS, van Leeuwen MS, van den Bosch MA, et al. Accuracy of multislice liver CT and MRI for preoperative assessment of colorectal liver metastases after neoadjuvant chemotherapy. *Dig Surg*. 2011; 28(1):36-43.
10. Cance WG, Cohen AM, Enker WE, Sigurdson ER. Predictive value of a negative computed tomographic scan in 100 patients with rectal carcinoma. *Dis Colon Rectum*. 1991;34(9):748-751.
11. Valls C, Andia E, Sanchez A, et al. Hepatic metastases from colorectal cancer: preoperative detection and assessment of resectability with helical CT. *Radiology* 2001;218:55-60.
12. Numminen K, Isoniemi H, Halavaara J, et al. Preoperative assessment of focal liver lesions: multidetector computed tomography challenges magnetic resonance imaging. *Acta Radiol* 2005;46:9-15.
13. Onishi H, Murakami T, Kim T, et al. Hepatic metastases: detection with multi-detector row CT, SPIO-enhanced MR imaging, and both techniques combined. *Radiology* 2006;239:131-

14. Soyer P, Pocard M, Boudiaf M, et al. Detection of hypovascular hepatic metastases at triple-phase helical CT: sensitivity of phases and comparison with surgical and histopathologic findings. *Radiology* 2004;231:413-20.
15. Brouquet A, Abdalla EK, Kopetz S, et al. High survival rate after two-stage resection of advanced colorectal liver metastases: response-based selection and complete resection define outcome. *J Clin Oncol*. 2011;29(8):1083-1090.
16. Shindoh J, Loyer EM, Kopetz S, et al. Optimal morphologic response to preoperative chemotherapy: an alternate outcome end point before resection of hepatic colorectal metastases. *J Clin Oncol* 2012;30:4566-72.
17. Malmstrom ML, Brisling S, Klausen TW, et al. Staging with computed tomography of patients with colon cancer. *Int J Colorectal Dis*. 33(1):9-17, 2018 Jan.
18. Rollven E, Blomqvist L, Oistamo E, Hjern F, Csanaky G, Abraham-Nordling M. Morphological predictors for lymph node metastases on computed tomography in colon cancer. *Abdom Radiol*. 44(5):1712-1721, 2019 05.
19. Fernandez LM, Parlade AJ, Wasser EJ, et al. How Reliable Is CT Scan in Staging Right Colon Cancer?. *Dis Colon Rectum*. 62(8):960-964, 2019 08.
20. Olsen ASF, Gundestrup AK, Kleif J, Thanon T, Bertelsen CA. Accuracy of preoperative staging with multidetector computed tomography in colon cancer. *Colorectal Dis*. 23(3):680-688, 2021 Mar.
21. Hong EK, Landolfi F, Castagnoli F, et al. CT for lymph node staging of Colon cancer: not only size but also location and number of lymph node count. *Abdom Radiol*. 46(9):4096-4105, 2021 09.
22. Komono A, Kajitani R, Matsumoto Y, et al. Preoperative T staging of advanced colorectal cancer by computed tomography colonography. *Int J Colorectal Dis*. 36(11):2489-2496, 2021 Nov.
23. Kim S, Huh JW, Lee WY, et al. Oncologic outcomes of pathologic T4 and T3 colon cancer patients diagnosed with clinical T4 stage disease using preoperative computed tomography scan. *Surg Oncol*. 41:101749, 2022 May.
24. Wetterholm E, Rosen R, Rahman M, Ronnow CF. CT is unreliable in locoregional staging of early colon cancer: A nationwide registry-based study. *Scand J Surg*. 112(1):33-40, 2023 Mar.
25. Kim YT, Min JH, Choi KH, Kim H. Colon cancer microsatellite instability influences computed tomography assessment of regional lymph node morphology and diagnostic performance. *Eur J Radiol*. 154:110396, 2022 Sep.
26. Hong EK, Chalabi M, Landolfi F, et al. Colon cancer CT staging according to mismatch repair status: Comparison and suggestion of imaging features for high-risk colon cancer. *Eur J Cancer*. 174:165-175, 2022 10.
27. Horvat N, Raj A, Liu S, et al. CT Colonography in Preoperative Staging of Colon Cancer: Evaluation of FOxTROT Inclusion Criteria for Neoadjuvant Therapy. *AJR Am J Roentgenol*. 212(1):94-102, 2019 01.
28. Ao T, Kajiwarra Y, Yamada K, et al. Cancer-induced spiculation on computed tomography: a

significant preoperative prognostic factor for colorectal cancer. *SURG. TODAY*. 49(7):629-636, 2019 Jul.

29. Guan Z, Zhang XY, Li XT, et al. Correlation and prognostic value of CT-detected extramural venous invasion and pathological lymph-vascular invasion in colon cancer. *Abdom Radiol*. 47(4):1232-1243, 2022 04.
30. Seo N, Lim JS, Chung T, Lee JM, Min BS, Kim MJ. Preoperative computed tomography assessment of circumferential resection margin in retroperitonealized colon cancer predicts disease-free survival. *Eur Radiol*. 33(4):2757-2767, 2023 Apr.
31. O'Leary MP, Parrish AB, Tom CM, MacLaughlin BW, Petrie BA. Staging Rectal Cancer: The Utility of Chest Radiograph and Chest Computed Tomography. *Am Surg*. 82(10):1005-1008, 2016 Oct.
32. Kronawitter U, Kemeny NE, Heelan R, Fata F, Fong Y. Evaluation of chest computed tomography in the staging of patients with potentially resectable liver metastases from colorectal carcinoma. *Cancer* 1999;86:229-35.
33. Grossmann I, Avenarius JK, Mastboom WJ, Klaase JM. Preoperative staging with chest CT in patients with colorectal carcinoma: not as a routine procedure. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2010;17:2045-50.
34. van den Broek JJ, van Gestel T, Kol SQ, van Geel AM, Geenen RWF, Schreurs WH. Dealing with indeterminate pulmonary nodules in colorectal cancer patients; a systematic review. *Eur J Surg Oncol*. 47(11):2749-2756, 2021 Nov.
35. Christoffersen MW, Bulut O, Jess P. The diagnostic value of indeterminate lung lesions on staging chest computed tomographies in patients with colorectal cancer. *Dan Med Bull* 2010;57:A4093.
36. Choi DJ, Kwak JM, Kim J, Woo SU, Kim SH. Preoperative chest computerized tomography in patients with locally advanced mid or lower rectal cancer: its role in staging and impact on treatment strategy. *J Surg Oncol* 2010;102:588-92.
37. McQueen AS, Scott J. CT staging of colorectal cancer: what do you find in the chest? *Clin Radiol* 2012;67:352-8.
38. Ramos E, Valls C, Martinez L, et al. Preoperative staging of patients with liver metastases of colorectal carcinoma. Does PET/CT really add something to multidetector CT? *Ann Surg Oncol* 2011;18:2654-61.
39. Shin SS, Jeong YY, Min JJ, Kim HR, Chung TW, Kang HK. Preoperative staging of colorectal cancer: CT vs. integrated FDG PET/CT. [Review] [41 refs]. *Abdom Imaging*. 33(3):270-7, 2008 May-Jun.
40. Wong GYM, Kumar R, Beeke C, et al. Survival Outcomes for Patients With Indeterminate 18FDG-PET Scan for Extrahepatic Disease Before Liver Resection for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer: A Retrospective Cohort Study Using a Prospectively Maintained Database to Analyze Survival Outcomes for Patients With Indeterminate Extrahepatic Disease on 18FDG-PET Scan Before Liver Resection for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. *Annals of Surgery*. 267(5):929-935, 2018 05.
41. Briggs RH, Chowdhury FU, Lodge JP, Scarsbrook AF. Clinical impact of FDG PET-CT in patients with potentially operable metastatic colorectal cancer. *Clin Radiol*. 66(12):1167-74,

2011 Dec.

42. Eglinton T, Luck A, Bartholomeusz D, Varghese R, Lawrence M. Positron-emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) in the initial staging of primary rectal cancer. *Colorectal Dis* 2010;12:667-73.
43. Llamas-Elvira JM, Rodriguez-Fernandez A, Gutierrez-Sainz J, et al. Fluorine-18 fluorodeoxyglucose PET in the preoperative staging of colorectal cancer. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging* 2007;34:859-67.
44. Baik H, Lee SM, Seo SH, et al. Prognostic value of positron emission tomography/computed tomography for adjuvant chemotherapy of colon cancer. *ANZ J Surg.* 88(6):587-591, 2018 Jun.
45. Daza JF, Solis NM, Parpia S, et al. A meta-analysis exploring the role of PET and PET-CT in the management of potentially resectable colorectal cancer liver metastases. *Eur J Surg Oncol.* 45(8):1341-1348, 2019 Aug.
46. Serrano PE, Gu CS, Moulton CA, et al. Effect of PET-CT on disease recurrence and management in patients with potentially resectable colorectal cancer liver metastases. Long-term results of a randomized controlled trial. *J Surg Oncol.* 121(6):1001-1006, 2020 May.
47. Vogel JD, Felder SI, Bhama AR, et al. The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Colon Cancer. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2022;65:148-77.
48. Guney IB, Teke Z, Kucuker KA, Yalav O. A prospective comparative study of contrast-enhanced CT, contrast-enhanced MRI and 18F-FDG PET/CT in the preoperative staging of colorectal cancer patients. *Ann Ital Chir.* 91:658-667, 2020.
49. Mirshahvalad SA, Hinzpeter R, Kohan A, et al. Diagnostic performance of [18F]-FDG PET/MR in evaluating colorectal cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [Review]. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.* 49(12):4205-4217, 2022 Oct.
50. Ren Q, Chen Y, Shao X, Guo L, Xu X. Lymph nodes primary staging of colorectal cancer in 18F-FDG PET/MRI: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [Review]. *Eur J Med Res.* 28(1):162, 2023 May 04.
51. Kersjes W, Mayer E, Buchenroth M, Schunk K, Fouda N, Cagil H. Diagnosis of pulmonary metastases with turbo-SE MR imaging. *Eur Radiol.* 1997; 7(8):1190-1194.
52. de Galiza Barbosa F, Geismar JH, Delso G, et al. Pulmonary nodule detection in oncological patients - Value of respiratory-triggered, periodically rotated overlapping parallel T2-weighted imaging evaluated with PET/CT-MR. *Eur J Radiol* 2018;98:165-70.
53. Berger-Kulemann V, Schima W, Baroud S, et al. Gadoteric acid-enhanced 3.0 T MR imaging versus multidetector-row CT in the detection of colorectal metastases in fatty liver using intraoperative ultrasound and histopathology as a standard of reference. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2012;38:670-6.
54. Hammerstingl R, Huppertz A, Breuer J, et al. Diagnostic efficacy of gadoteric acid (Primovist)-enhanced MRI and spiral CT for a therapeutic strategy: comparison with intraoperative and histopathologic findings in focal liver lesions. *Eur Radiol* 2008;18:457-67.

55. Kim YK, Park G, Kim CS, Yu HC, Han YM. Diagnostic efficacy of gadoxetic acid-enhanced MRI for the detection and characterisation of liver metastases: comparison with multidetector-row CT. *Br J Radiol.* 85(1013):539-47, 2012 May.
56. Knowles B, Welsh FK, Chandrakumaran K, John TG, Rees M. Detailed liver-specific imaging prior to pre-operative chemotherapy for colorectal liver metastases reduces intra-hepatic recurrence and the need for a repeat hepatectomy. *HPB (Oxford)* 2012;14:298-309.
57. Koh DM, Collins DJ, Wallace T, Chau I, Riddell AM. Combining diffusion-weighted MRI with Gd-EOB-DTPA-enhanced MRI improves the detection of colorectal liver metastases. *Br J Radiol* 2012;85:980-9.
58. Macera A, Lario C, Petracchini M, et al. Staging of colorectal liver metastases after preoperative chemotherapy. Diffusion-weighted imaging in combination with Gd-EOB-DTPA MRI sequences increases sensitivity and diagnostic accuracy. *Eur Radiol.* 23(3):739-47, 2013 Mar.
59. Kim SH, Lee JM, Hong SH, et al. Locally advanced rectal cancer: added value of diffusion-weighted MR imaging in the evaluation of tumor response to neoadjuvant chemo- and radiation therapy. *Radiology* 2009;253:116-25.
60. Koh DM, Collins DJ. Diffusion-weighted MRI in the body: applications and challenges in oncology. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 2007;188:1622-35.
61. Sugita R, Ito K, Fujita N, Takahashi S. Diffusion-weighted MRI in abdominal oncology: clinical applications. *World J Gastroenterol* 2010;16:832-6.
62. Granata V, Fusco R, de Lutio di Castelguidone E, et al. Diagnostic performance of gadoxetic acid-enhanced liver MRI versus multidetector CT in the assessment of colorectal liver metastases compared to hepatic resection. *BMC Gastroenterol.* 19(1):129, 2019 Jul 24.
63. Koh FHX, Tan KK, Teo LLS, Ang BWL, Thian YL. Prospective comparison between magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography in colorectal cancer staging. *ANZ J Surg.* 88(6):E498-E502, 2018 Jun.
64. Kim HJ, Lee SS, Byun JH, et al. Incremental value of liver MR imaging in patients with potentially curable colorectal hepatic metastasis detected at CT: a prospective comparison of diffusion-weighted imaging, gadoxetic acid-enhanced MR imaging, and a combination of both MR techniques. *Radiology* 2015;274:712-22.
65. Zhang H, Dai W, Fu C, et al. Diagnostic value of whole-body MRI with diffusion-weighted sequence for detection of peritoneal metastases in colorectal malignancy. *Cancer Biol Med* 2018;15:165-70.
66. van 't Sant I, van Eden WJ, Engbersen MP, et al. Diffusion-weighted MRI assessment of the peritoneal cancer index before cytoreductive surgery. *Br J Surg.* 106(4):491-498, 2019 03.
67. Dresen RC, De Vuysere S, De Keyzer F, et al. Whole-body diffusion-weighted MRI for operability assessment in patients with colorectal cancer and peritoneal metastases. *Cancer Imaging* 2019;19:1.
68. Engbersen MP, Aalbers AGJ, Van't Sant-Jansen I, et al. Extent of Peritoneal Metastases on Preoperative DW-MRI is Predictive of Disease-Free and Overall Survival for CRS/HIPEC Candidates with Colorectal Cancer. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 27(9):3516-3524, 2020 Sep.
69. Engbersen MP, Rijsemus CJV, Nederend J, et al. Dedicated MRI staging versus surgical

staging of peritoneal metastases in colorectal cancer patients considered for CRS-HIPEC; the DISCO randomized multicenter trial. *BMC Cancer*. 21(1):464, 2021 Apr 26.

70. van 't Sant I, Nerad E, Rijseumus CJV, et al. Seeing the whole picture: Added value of MRI for extraperitoneal findings in CRS-HIPEC candidates. *European Journal of Surgical Oncology*. 48(2):462-469, 2022 Feb.
71. Taylor SA, Mallett S, Beare S, et al. Diagnostic accuracy of whole-body MRI versus standard imaging pathways for metastatic disease in newly diagnosed colorectal cancer: the prospective Streamline C trial. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 4(7):529-537, 2019 07.
72. Taylor SA, Mallett S, Miles A, et al. Whole-body MRI compared with standard pathways for staging metastatic disease in lung and colorectal cancer: the Streamline diagnostic accuracy studies. *Health Technol Assess*. 23(66):1-270, 2019 12.
73. Park SY, Cho SH, Lee MA, et al. Diagnostic performance of MRI- versus MDCT-categorized T3cd/T4 for identifying high-risk stage II or stage III colon cancers: a pilot study. *Abdom Radiol*. 44(5):1675-1685, 2019 05.
74. Bonifacio C, Vigano L, Felisaz P, et al. Diffusion-weighted imaging and loco-regional N staging of patients with colorectal liver metastases. *Eur J Surg Oncol*. 45(3):347-352, 2019 03.
75. Liu LH, Lv H, Wang ZC, Rao SX, Zeng MS. Performance comparison between MRI and CT for local staging of sigmoid and descending colon cancer. *Eur J Radiol*. 121:108741, 2019 Dec.
76. Song Y, Wang Y, An J, Fu P. Local Staging of Colon Cancer: A Cross-Sectional Analysis for Diagnostic Performance of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and by Experience. *Cancer Invest*. 39(5):379-389, 2021 May.
77. Rafaelsen SR, Dam C, Vagn-Hansen C, et al. CT and 3 Tesla MRI in the TN Staging of Colon Cancer: A Prospective, Blind Study. *Curr. oncol.*. 29(2):1069-1079, 2022 02 13.
78. Wille-Jorgensen P, Syk I, Smedh K, et al. Effect of More vs Less Frequent Follow-up Testing on Overall and Colorectal Cancer-Specific Mortality in Patients With Stage II or III Colorectal Cancer: The COLOFOL Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA*. 319(20):2095-2103, 2018 05 22.
79. Figueredo A, Rumble RB, Maroun J, et al. Follow-up of patients with curatively resected colorectal cancer: a practice guideline. *BMC Cancer* 2003;3:26.
80. Spatz J, Holl G, Sciuk J, Anthuber M, Arnholdt HM, Markl B. Neoadjuvant chemotherapy affects staging of colorectal liver metastasis--a comparison of PET, CT and intraoperative ultrasound. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2011;26:165-71.
81. Moore A, Ulitsky O, Ben-Aharon I, et al. Early PET-CT in patients with pathological stage III colon cancer may improve their outcome: Results from a large retrospective study. *Cancer Med*. 7(11):5470-5477, 2018 11.
82. Capirci C, Rubello D, Pasini F, et al. The role of dual-time combined 18-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography and computed tomography in the staging and restaging workup of locally advanced rectal cancer, treated with preoperative chemoradiation therapy and radical surgery. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2009;74:1461-9.
83. Borello A, Russolillo N, Lo Tesoriere R, Langella S, Guerra M, Ferrero A. Diagnostic

performance of the FDG-PET/CT in patients with resected mucinous colorectal liver metastases. *Surgeon Journal of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh & Ireland*. 19(5):e140-e145, 2021 Oct.

84. Amorim BJ, Hong TS, Blaszkowsky LS, et al. Clinical impact of PET/MR in treated colorectal cancer patients. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*. 46(11):2260-2269, 2019 Oct.
85. Kang SK, Reinhold C, Atri M, et al. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Staging and Follow-Up of Ovarian Cancer. *J Am Coll Radiol* 2018;15:S198-S207.
86. Sugarbaker PH, Sardi A, Brown G, Dromain C, Rousset P, Jelinek JS. Concerning CT features used to select patients for treatment of peritoneal metastases, a pictorial essay. *Int J Hyperthermia* 2017;33:497-504.
87. Lim HK, Lee WJ, Kim SH, Kim B, Cho JM, Byun JY. Primary mucinous cystadenocarcinoma of the appendix: CT findings. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 1999;173:1071-4.
88. Wang H, Chen YQ, Wei R, et al. Appendiceal mucocoele: A diagnostic dilemma in differentiating malignant from benign lesions with CT. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 2013;201:W590-5.
89. Koh JL, Yan TD, Glenn D, Morris DL. Evaluation of preoperative computed tomography in estimating peritoneal cancer index in colorectal peritoneal carcinomatosis. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2009;16:327-33.
90. Flicek K, Ashfaq A, Johnson CD, Menias C, Bagaria S, Wasif N. Correlation of Radiologic with Surgical Peritoneal Cancer Index Scores in Patients with Pseudomyxoma Peritonei and Peritoneal Carcinomatosis: How Well Can We Predict Resectability? *J Gastrointest Surg* 2016;20:307-12.
91. Lee RM, Zaidi MY, Gamboa AC, et al. What is the Optimal Preoperative Imaging Modality for Assessing Peritoneal Cancer Index? An Analysis From the United States HIPEC Collaborative. *Clin Colorectal Cancer* 2020;19:e1-e7.
92. Guaglio M, Sinukumar S, Kusamura S, et al. Clinical Surveillance After Macroscopically Complete Surgery for Low-Grade Appendiceal Mucinous Neoplasms (LAMN) with or Without Limited Peritoneal Spread: Long-Term Results in a Prospective Series. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2018;25:878-84.
93. Solomon D, Bekhor E, Leigh N, et al. Surveillance of Low-Grade Appendiceal Mucinous Neoplasms With Peritoneal Metastases After Cytoreductive Surgery and Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy: Are 5 Years Enough? A Multisite Experience. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2020;27:147-53.
94. Rohani P, Scotti SD, Shen P, et al. Use of FDG-PET imaging for patients with disseminated cancer of the appendix. *Am Surg* 2010;76:1338-44.
95. Dromain C, Leboulleux S, Auperin A, et al. Staging of peritoneal carcinomatosis: enhanced CT vs. PET/CT. *Abdom Imaging* 2008;33:87-93.
96. Sommariva A, Evangelista L, Pintacuda G, Cervino AR, Ramondo G, Rossi CR. Diagnostic value of contrast-enhanced CT combined with 18-FDG PET in patients selected for cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). *Abdom Radiol (NY)* 2018;43:1094-100.
97. Squires MH 3rd, Volkan Adsay N, Schuster DM, et al. Octreoscan Versus FDG-PET for

Neuroendocrine Tumor Staging: A Biological Approach. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 22(7):2295-301, 2015 Jul.

98. Paspulati RM, Partovi S, Herrmann KA, Krishnamurthi S, Delaney CP, Nguyen NC. Comparison of hybrid FDG PET/MRI compared with PET/CT in colorectal cancer staging and restaging: a pilot study. *Abdom Imaging* 2015;40:1415-25.
99. Kang B, Lee JM, Song YS, et al. Added Value of Integrated Whole-Body PET/MRI for Evaluation of Colorectal Cancer: Comparison With Contrast-Enhanced MDCT. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 2016;206:W10-20.
100. Low RN, Sebrechts CP, Barone RM, Muller W. Diffusion-weighted MRI of peritoneal tumors: comparison with conventional MRI and surgical and histopathologic findings--a feasibility study. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 2009;193:461-70.
101. Dohan A, Hoeffel C, Soyer P, et al. Evaluation of the peritoneal carcinomatosis index with CT and MRI. *Br J Surg* 2017;104:1244-49.
102. Low RN, Barone RM, Lee MJ. Surveillance MR imaging is superior to serum tumor markers for detecting early tumor recurrence in patients with appendiceal cancer treated with surgical cytoreduction and HIPEC. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 20(4):1074-81, 2013 Apr.
103. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education; Committee on National Statistics; Committee on Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation. Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation. In: Becker T, Chin M, Bates N, eds. *Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US) Copyright 2022 by the National Academy of Sciences. All rights reserved.; 2022.
104. American College of Radiology. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Radiation Dose Assessment Introduction. Available at: <https://edge.sitecorecloud.io/americancoldf5f-acrorgf92a-productioncb02-3650/media/ACR/Files/Clinical/Appropriateness-Criteria/ACR-Appropriateness-Criteria-Radiation-Dose-Assessment-Introduction.pdf>.

Disclaimer

The ACR Committee on Appropriateness Criteria and its expert panels have developed criteria for determining appropriate imaging examinations for diagnosis and treatment of specified medical condition(s). These criteria are intended to guide radiologists, radiation oncologists and referring physicians in making decisions regarding radiologic imaging and treatment. Generally, the complexity and severity of a patient's clinical condition should dictate the selection of appropriate imaging procedures or treatments. Only those examinations generally used for evaluation of the patient's condition are ranked. Other imaging studies necessary to evaluate other co-existent diseases or other medical consequences of this condition are not considered in this document. The availability of equipment or personnel may influence the selection of appropriate imaging procedures or treatments. Imaging techniques classified as investigational by the FDA have not been considered in developing these criteria; however, study of new equipment and applications should be encouraged. The ultimate decision regarding the appropriateness of any specific radiologic examination or treatment must be made by the referring physician and radiologist in light of all the circumstances presented in an individual examination.

^aOregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon. ^bMassachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. ^cVanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee; American Society of Clinical Oncology. ^dUniversity of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and McGovern Medical School, Houston, Texas; American Gastroenterological Association. ^eNYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, New York. ^fThomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Society of Surgical Oncology. ^g ^hMayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota; Commission on Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. ⁱUniversity of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, Wisconsin. ^jCity of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, Duarte, California; Commission on Radiation Oncology. ^kCleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio. ^lUniversity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. ^mMadras Medical Group, Madras, Oregon; American Academy of Family Physicians. ⁿUniversity of California San Diego, San Diego, California. ^oCleveland Clinic Florida, Weston, Florida; American College of Surgeons. ^pSpecialty Chair, University of California San Diego, San Diego, California.