



Choosing CT or MRI

ABDOMEN & PELVIS

| Area of Concern | Body Part | CT | MRI |
|---|--------------------|---|---|
| Abdomen & Pelvis  | Abdomen/ Pelvis | For generalized screening of abdominal pain, order CT Abdomen and Pelvis either W/ or W/O contrast. For more specific concerns, see individual organs below. | |
| | Liver/Biliary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT Abdomen W/WO contrast for workup of the liver for known mass, lesion, or other abnormality. Consider MRI first. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a known liver lesion or biliary system lesion, it is best to order an MRI Abdomen. If MRI is contraindicated, order CT Abdomen W/WO contrast. |
| | Pancreas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For workup of the pancreas for known mass or worsening pancreatitis, order a CT Abdomen W/WO contrast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRI/MRCP of Abdomen W/WO for cystic or solid pancreatic lesions. |
| | Spleen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is no known abnormality but there is concern and a general screen is needed, order a CT Abdomen W/ contrast. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a known spleen lesion it is best to order an MRI Abdomen W/WO contrast. |
| | Kidneys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/O contrast if there is concern for renal stone. CT Abdomen W/WO for characterization of a known renal mass CT Abdomen /Pelvis W/WO (Urogram) for full evaluation of the collecting system, ureters, and bladder in case of hematuria (adult only) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRI Abdomen W/WO if there is a known renal lesion for which characterization is required. |
| | Adrenal Glands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If MRI is contraindicated, CT Abdomen W/WO is recommended. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRI Abdomen W/WO for evaluation of known adrenal gland pathology. |
| | Bowel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT Abdomen/Pelvis Enterography (W/ or W/O) for evaluation of small bowel focal or diffuse pathology. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRI Enterography is an alternative. |
| | Uterus/ Ovaries | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If US of pelvis with transvaginal imaging finds suspicious lesions, MRI of the pelvis W/WO contrast for evaluation of the uterus and ovaries. |
| | Bladder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/WO (Urogram) for evaluation of the collecting system, ureters, and bladder pathology (adult only). | |



CT Scheduling Guide

ABDOMEN & PELVIS

| Area of Concern | Body Part | Reason for Exam | IV Contrast | Exam to be Ordered | CPT Code |
|--|-----------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Abdomen  | Abdomen General | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No IV contrast specifically requested by physician History of contrast allergy GFR <40 ml/min <u>Acute evaluation for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retroperitoneal hemorrhage or follow-up hematoma, hemorrhage Renal Stones Hernia Abdominal pain Diverticulitis Appendicitis Colitis | No | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/O contrast | 74176 |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdominal pain Weight loss Appendicitis Diverticulitis Injury Colitis Bowel perforation Anastomotic leak Fever, including FUO Metastatic survey and follow-up Lymphoma Suspected intra-abdominal mass, non-localized Intra-abdominal abscess or fluid collection | Yes | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/ contrast | 74177 |
| | Liver | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCC surveillance Cirrhosis Hepatitis Characterization of a focal liver lesion or mass seen on US or routine CT (<i>consider MRI first, order CT only if MRI is contraindicated</i>) Post-transplant evaluation Pre-op liver transplant and segmental liver resection | Yes | CT Abdomen W/WO contrast | 74170 |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal LFT's Splenic lesion (<i>consider MRI if known splenic lesion</i>) | Yes | CT Abdomen W/WO contrast | 74170 |
| | Pancreas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute pancreatitis Known pancreatic mass Known pancreatic neuro-endocrine (<i>islet cell</i>) tumor | Yes | CT Abdomen W/WO contrast | 74170 |

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|---|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| Abdomen & Pelvis  | Bowel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspected small bowel tumor Crohn's disease (IBD) Celiac sprue Unexplained iron deficiency anemia Suspected small bowel ischemia Malabsorption | Yes | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/ contrast (Enterography) | 74177 |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-specific GI symptoms Change in bowel habits Irritable Bowel Syndrome Bowel obstruction Diarrhea Constipation Gastric Mass Distention/bloating | Yes | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/ contrast | 74177 |
| Genitourinary (Kidney, Bladder, Adrenal)  | Renal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known renal mass Post-partial nephrectomy follow-up Characterization of focal renal mass, complex cyst or indeterminate lesion seen on US or routine abdominal or chest CT | Yes | CT Abdomen W/WO contrast | 74170 |
| | Renal stone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renal stone Post-lithotripsy follow-up Flank pain suspected stone disease | No | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/O contrast | 74176 |
| | Adrenal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterization of an adrenal nodule Adrenal hemorrhage Pheochromocytoma Conn's syndrome | Yes | CT Abdomen W/WO contrast | 74170 |
| | Urinary System (Kidneys to Bladder) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bladder Cancer Microscopic or gross hematuria Evaluation for urinary tract anomalies Post cystectomy evaluation | Yes | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/WO contrast (Urogram) | 74178 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pyelonephritis Renal abscess Psoas abscess | | Yes | CT Abdomen/Pelvis W/ contrast | 74177 | |

CT Premedication for Patients with Contrast Allergy

REQUIRES PREMEDICATION

MILD REACTION HISTORY: Patients with history of mild prior allergic reaction to iodinated contrast (*such as hives, rash, pruritis, itchy or scratchy throat*) must be pre-medicated prior to IV contrast CT scan.

Required premedication protocol - for mild reactions only; Must be ordered by referring/primary medical provider.

- **Prednisone:**

40 mg PO to be taken 12 hours, and 2 hours prior to exam (two doses, 80 mg total)

NO PREMEDICATION REQUIRED

PHYSIOLOGIC REACTION HISTORY: Patients with prior history of physiologic reactions to iodinated contrast (*such as nausea, vomiting, isolated chest pain, vasovagal reaction, or dizziness*) and patients with history of shellfish allergy do not require premedication.

MAY NOT BE SEEN AT IMAGING HEALTHCARE SPECIALISTS

SEVERE LIFE THREATENING REACTION HISTORY (ANAPHYLAXIS): For patients with prior history of severe life-threatening reaction to iodinated contrast (*such as anaphylactic shock, laryngeal edema, severe swelling*); speak with a radiologist before ordering the exam. Consider non contrast CT, or alternate imaging modality. **Patients with known severe reactions will not be seen for a contrast exam at IHS.**

Imaging Healthcare Specialists

CT Locations

1 Oceanside (Tri-City)

3601 Vista Way
Ste 101
Oceanside, CA 92056

2 Encinitas

477 N. El Camino Real,
Bldg A, Ste 102
Encinitas, CA 92024

3 Poway

12620 Monte Vista Road
Ste A
Poway, CA 92064

4 La Jolla (Golden Triangle)

4150 Regents Park Row
Ste 195
La Jolla, CA 92037

5 San Diego (Alvarado)

6386 Alvarado Court
Ste 121
San Diego, CA 92120

6 Hillcrest

150 W. Washington Street
San Diego, CA 92103

7 Chula Vista

333 H Street
Ste 1095
Chula Vista, CA 91910

