

## CT / MRI Quick Reference

Head/Neck		
Brain	Acute trauma - bleeds or skull fractures	CT without contrast
	Ataxia or dementia	MRI without contrast
	Epilepsy	MRI without and with contrast
	Headache	MRI without and with contrast, or CT without contrast
	Hearing loss	MRI without and with contrast
	Infections	MRI without and with contrast
	Neuroendocrine	MRI without and with contrast
	Primary tumors, metastases	MRI without and with contrast
	Stroke or focal neurological defects	MRI without and with contrast, or CT without contrast
	Vertigo	MRI without and with contrast
	Vision loss	MRI without and with contrast
Carotid arteries		MRA or CTA without and with contrast
Intracranial vasculature		MRA without contrast
Neck	Masses	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
	Larynx/Pharynx	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
	Lymph nodes	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
	Salivary glands	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
	Sialolithiasis	CT without contrast
Orbits	Masses	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
	Optic neuritis	MRI without and with contrast
	Scleritis	MRI without and with contrast
	Uveitis	MRI without and with contrast
	Vision loss with pain	MRI without and with contrast
Paranasal sinuses	Allergic/Infectious conditions	CT without contrast
	Masses	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
Temporal bones	Conductive hearing loss	MRI without and with contrast, or CT without contrast
	Congenital anomalies	MRI without and with contrast, or CT without contrast
	Masses	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
Temporomandibular joints		MRI without contrast

Spine		
Bone marrow		MRI without and with contrast
Brachial plexopathy, infections or metastases		MRI without and with contrast
Discs		MRI without contrast
Facet joint arthritis		MRI or CT without contrast
Nerve		MRI without and with contrast
Paraspinal soft tissue		MRI with and without contrast
Postoperative C-spine		MRI without contrast
Post-op C-spine/L-spine	R/o bone graft pseudoarthrosis or hardware failure	CT without contrast
Post-op L-Spine	Recurrent HNP vs. epidural scarring	MRI without and with contrast
Roots		MRI without and with contrast
Spinal cord		MRI without and with contrast
Spinal stenosis		MRI or CT without contrast
Trauma		CT without contrast

Chest		
Aorta	Aneurysms or dissection	MRA or CTA without and with contrast
Coronary arteries		CTA without and with contrast
Heart	Function, myocardium or valves	MRI without and with contrast
Lung parenchyma	Bronchiectasis/fibrosis, infiltrates, or masses	CT without contrast
Mediastinum/hila	Masses or Lymphadenopathy	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
Pulmonary arteries	Emboli	CTA without and with contrast

Abdomen		
Adrenals		MRI without contrast, or CT without and with contrast
Arteries	Aorta, Renal or Superior Mesenteric	CTA without and with contrast
General evaluation	Acute pain, cancer survey, inflammation	CT with contrast
GI tract	Crohns disease, diverticulitis	CT with contrast
Liver	Biliary pathology, cirrhosis, masses	MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
Pancreas		MRI without and with contrast, or CT with contrast
Urinary tract	General or renal masses	MRI or CT without and with contrast
	Stone disease	CT without contrast

Pelvis		
General		CT with contrast
Gynecologic	Adenomyosis, Endometrium/endometriosis, ovarian tumors	MRI without and with contrast

Musculoskeletal		
Bone marrow	Avascular necrosis, bone infarcts, or myeloproliferative disorders	MRI without and with contrast
Bone tumors	Primary and metastatic	MRI without and with contrast
Calcifications	Joint bodies or myositis ossifications	CT without contrast
Fractures	Alignment & healing, subtle cortical avulsion fx, sacral insufficiency fx	CT without contrast
Inflammation & infection	Diabetic feet, myositis, osteomyelitis, or septic arthritis	MRI without and with contrast
Joints	Articular cartilage, capsules, ligaments, menisci, synovium, tendons	MRI without contrast
Soft tissue masses		MRI without and with contrast
Stress fractures		MRI without contrast

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