

CLINICAL ORDERING GUIDELINES: IMAGING OF THE ABDOMEN AND PELVIS

CT vs. MRI and contrast guidelines

Indication	Preferred Study	Contrast	Comments
Adrenal gland evaluation	CT Abdomen or MRI Abdomen	CT: Oral and IV with and without MRI: without	Contrast required for masses that do not meet benign criteria on pre-contrast images
Aorta	MRA or CTA	IV for evaluation of dissection/branch vessels None for evaluation of aneurysm size	3D reconstruction required for CT
Appendicitis Diverticulitis	CT Abdomen /Pelvis	Oral and IV	IV contrast increases sensitivity and specificity
Cancer	CT Abdomen/Pelvis (+/- Chest CT)	Oral and IV	-----
Focal organ pathology *Specify organ of concern	CT Abdomen (+/- Pelvis)	Varies with organ	-----
Non-focal pain	CT Abdomen/Pelvis	Oral, IV for solid organ disease	No contrast for kidney stone evaluation
Painful hematuria, kidney stone evaluation	CT Abdomen/Pelvis	None	If negative, consider f/u CT abd/pelvis with contrast to r/o tumor
Painless hematuria	CT Abdomen/Pelvis	IV with and without	-----
Pelvic symptoms	MRI for uterus and adnexa and prostate evaluation	IV with and without (IV with for prostate cancer staging)	-----
	CT for bowel pathology or pelvic pain if symptoms are confined to lower quadrant	Oral and IV	If symptoms are confined to upper quadrant, then order CT Abdomen
Renal mass	CT Abdomen (+/- MRI if CT is indeterminate)	IV with and without	Useful for indeterminate cysts and lesions on US