

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GADOLINIUM USAGE – (MRI orders with & without contrast)

These criteria are considered general guidelines, and are to assist in the ordering and performance of magnetic resonance imaging/MRI scans in the Department of Radiology. Specific questions regarding the use of gadolinium should be discussed with the attending radiologist and the referring clinician prior to gadolinium administration if possible.

A. BRAIN

1. All known or suspected tumors: pre-op, post-op, post radiation, post chemotherapy, r/o residual tumor, tumor recurrence, or follow up to evaluate tumor progression.
2. All known or suspected cranial nerve tumors: e.g.; acoustic, facial, optic, trigeminal, vagus pre-op, post-op, post radiation, post chemotherapy, r/o residual tumor, r/o tumor recurrence, or follow up to evaluate tumor progression.
3. Infection: AIDS, encephalitis, meningitis, known or suspected abscess
4. Metastases or metastatic disease to the brain
5. Multiple sclerosis
6. Neurofibromatosis, tuberous sclerosis

B. HEAD & NECK

1. All known or suspected face/head and neck tumors: e.g.; cheeks, orbits, nasopharynx, mandible, larynx/vocal chords, neck, thyroid, parotid, sinuses, temporal bones/IAC's, tongue.
2. Skullbase to clavicles – known or suspected tumor to evaluate tumor extension (superiorly or inferiorly).

C. SPINE

1. All known or suspected tumors: pre-op, post-op, post radiation, post chemotherapy, r/o residual tumor, r/o tumor recurrence, or follow up to evaluate tumor progression.
2. Herniated disc: post op or s/p surgery to evaluate for scar tissue versus new disc herniation.
3. Infection: meningitis, osteomyelitis and known or suspected spinal or epidural abscess.
4. Metastases
5. Multiple sclerosis