

MRI Brain Routine (and Fast Stroke)

Updated 07/04/24

Reviewed 05/14/25

Routine Brain:

Pulse Sequence	PACS Name	plane	fat sat	slice (mm)	gap (mm)	first slice
T1	T1 SAG	sag	no	5	2	left
T2	T2 FS AX	ax	yes	5	1.5	base
T1	T1 AX	ax	no	5	1.5	base
*T1	T1 COR	cor	no	5	1.5	back
FLAIR	FLAIR AX	ax	no	5	1.5	base
**SWI	SWI AX	ax	no	5	1.5	base
DWI	DWI AX	ax	yes	5	1.5	base

CONTRAST - 2 mL/sec standard dose gadolinium (0.2 mL/kg Clariscan or 0.1 mL/kg Gadavist) followed by 20 mL saline flush.

T1	T1 POST AX	ax	no	5	1.5	base
T1	T1 POST COR	cor	no	5	1.5	back
T1	T1 POST SAG	sag	no	5	2	left
***3D T1 FSPGR/MPRAGE	AX THINS	ax	no	1	none	base

*Add the T1 COR pre contrast if the indication is hydrocephalus and/or NPH.

**GRE if SWI is not available.

***Add the 3D T1 brain lab sequence in the following patients: known, suspected or previously treated brain mass; known cancer or metastatic workup and patients with headache.

For the 3D T1 brain lab sequence: no angulation, anterior nose to posterior skull (front/back coverage) and top of skull to bottom of mandible (top/bottom coverage).

Fast Stroke Protocol:

FLAIR	FLAIR AX	ax	no	5	1.5	base
**SWI	SWI AX	ax	no	5	1.5	base
DWI	DWI AX	ax	yes	5	1.5	base

**GRE if SWI is not available.