

## Crohn's Disease

Crohn disease (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/crohns-disease>) (CD) is a chronic condition caused by inflammation of the bowel. The small bowel, the colon, or both can be involved. Individuals may have periods with frequent flare-ups and periods of remission. CD is usually diagnosed by colonoscopy along with clinical symptoms, laboratory tests, and imaging. Imaging is helpful to evaluate the extent of involvement on initial diagnosis, to evaluate for residual inflammation, or to monitor response to treatment.

For individuals without a prior diagnosis of CD or individuals with known CD with a suspected flare-up, CT abdomen and pelvis (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/abdominact>) with intravenous (IV) contrast, CT enterography (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/ctenterography>), or MR enterography (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/mrenterography>) is usually appropriate. For enterography, whether done under CT or MR, the individual has to consume approximately 1 to 1.5 L of a special liquid to help fill the small bowel. For individuals with known CD under surveillance or monitoring for treatment, MR enterography is preferred because of its lack of radiation dose.

Other imaging tests may be appropriate including MRI abdomen and pelvis (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/mri-abdomen-pelvis>) without and with IV contrast when an individual is acutely ill and cannot tolerate a large volume of liquid to drink. CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast, fluoroscopy small-bowel follow-through (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/small-bowel-follow-thru>), and MRI abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast can be performed in different situations but yield less information than CT enterography or MR enterography.

For more information, see the *Crohn's Disease* page (<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/crohns-disease>).

— By Kristin Jordan Moore and Tasneem Lalani, MD. This information originally appeared in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*.

### Disclaimer

This information is copied from the RadiologyInfo Web site (<http://www.radiologyinfo.org>) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality information. To ensure that, each section is reviewed by a physician with expertise in the area presented. All information contained in the Web site is further reviewed by an ACR (American College of Radiology) - RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) committee, comprising physicians with expertise in several radiologic areas.

However, it is not possible to assure that this Web site contains complete, up-to-date information on any particular subject. Therefore, ACR and RSNA make no representations or warranties about the suitability of this information for use for any particular purpose. All information is provided "as is" without express or implied warranty.

Please visit the RadiologyInfo Web site at <http://www.radiologyinfo.org> to view or download the latest information.

**Note:** Images may be shown for illustrative purposes. Do not attempt to draw conclusions or make diagnoses by comparing these images to other medical images, particularly your own. Only qualified physicians should interpret images; the radiologist is the physician expert trained in medical imaging.

### Copyright

This material is copyrighted by either the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), 820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251 or the American College of Radiology (ACR), 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4397. Commercial reproduction or multiple distribution by any traditional or electronically based reproduction/publication method is prohibited.

Copyright © 2023 Radiological Society of North America, Inc.

