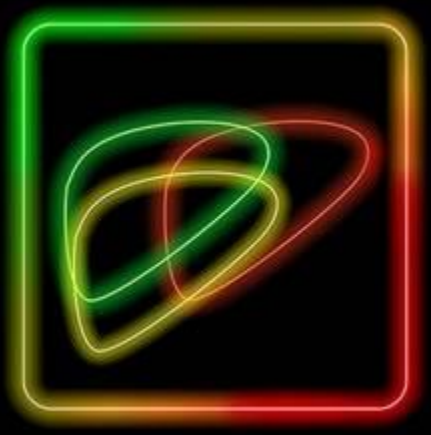
American College of Radiology™

LI-RADS® CT/MRI Nonradiation TRA v2024 Core



LI-RADS® CT/MRI Nonradiation TRA v2024 Core

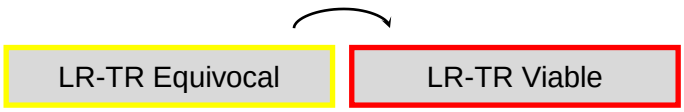
Observation treated by nonradiation-based LRT or at surgical margin after resection, imaged with multiphase CT/MRI in at-risk patient

Step 1. Apply nonradiation TRA decision tree to assess for masslike enhancement (any degree, any phase) in treated lesion, along treated lesion margin, or along surgical margin

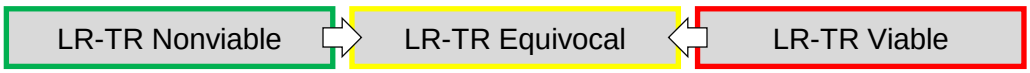
- Presence of masslike enhancement cannot be assessed due to image degradation or omission → LR-TR Nonevaluable
- No masslike enhancement present* → LR-TR Nonviable
- Uncertainty about masslike enhancement (presence or morphology) → LR-TR Equivocal
- Masslike enhancement (any degree, any phase) → LR-TR Viable

Step 2 (Optional). Apply ancillary features (AFs) favoring viability to upgrade from LR-TR Equivocal to LR-TR Viable:

- What: diffusion restriction or mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity
- Where: in area of uncertain masslike enhancement



Step 3. Apply tiebreaking rules if needed: if unsure between two TRA categories, choose category reflecting lower certainty (i.e., LR-TR Equivocal)



Step 4. Final check.
After steps 1, 2 and 3 – Consider if the assigned TRA category is reasonable and appropriate.

- **Key concept for nonradiation TRA**: tumor response should be immediate.
- New or untreated observations outside treatment zone: apply **CT/MRI Dx Algorithm.**
- Lesions treated by radiation-based LRT: apply **radiation TRA algorithm**.
- In combination with systemic therapy: apply **TRA algorithms with caution**.

- **No masslike enhancement – examples include:**
complete lesion disappearance, no lesional enhancement, smooth perilesional enhancement, or parenchymal perfusional changes without masslike enhancement

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For more detailed information, supporting materials and FAQs, please refer to the LI-RADS® CT/MRI Treatment Response manual.

What's New in LI-RADS® CT/MRI TRA v2024?

Two Cores

- The CT/MRI TRA system now has two separate Cores:
  - Nonradiation TRA Core for assessing TRA after nonradiation-based LRT or surgical resection
  - Radiation TRA Core for assessing TRA after radiation-based LRT
- Both TRA were previously included in a single TRA algorithm.

New algorithm for TRA after radiation-based locoregional therapies (LRTs)

- Incorporating latest advances in knowledge, the updated CT/MRI TRA system includes a new algorithm for TRA after internal and external beam radiation-based LRTs, such as transarterial radioembolization (TARE) and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), respectively.
- It previously included a single algorithm for TRA after radiation- and nonradiation-based LRTs.

Single feature for LR-TR Viable

- Incorporating latest advances in knowledge, the updated CT/MRI TRA system now has a single feature of viability.
- It previously had three major features for viability.

v2017 Three features of viability:
- Nodular, masslike, or thick irregular tissue with arterial phase hyperenhancement, washout or enhancement similar to pretreatment

v2024 Single feature for nonradiation TRA:
- Masslike enhancement (any degree, any phase)

Addition of ancillary features

- Incorporating latest advances in knowledge, the updated CT/MRI TRA system has added ancillary features favoring viability to enable optional (at user's discretion) upgrade from LR-TR Equivocal to LR-TR Viable or from LR-TR Nonprogressing to LR-TR Viable.

- For nonradiation TRA: The following ancillary features can be used optionally to upgrade from LR-TR Equivocal to LR-TR Viable:
  - What: diffusion restriction (any degree) or mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity
  - Where: in area of uncertain enhancement

LI-RADS® CT/MRI TRA v2024

✓ **Apply in high-risk patients to assess response for path-proven or presumed (LR-4, LR-5, LR-M) HCC after locoregional treatment**
High-risk patients are those with cirrhosis **OR** Chronic hepatitis B viral infection even in absence of cirrhosis **OR** current or prior HCC, including adult liver transplant candidates and recipients posttransplant

✓ **Apply to treated lesions imaged with post-treatment multiphase CT or MRI.**
This includes CT or MRI with extracellular contrast agents (ECA) and MRI with hepatobiliary contrast agents (HBA)

✓ **Apply nonradiation TRA algorithm after nonradiation-based LRT:**

- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)
- Microwave ablation (MWA)
- Cryoablation
- Percutaneous ethanol ablation (PEA)
- Transarterial embolization (TAE)
- Conventional transarterial chemoembolization (cTACE)
- Drug-eluding bead transarterial chemoembolization (DEB-TACE)

✓ **Apply nonradiation TRA algorithm in postsurgical patients when assessing recurrence at the surgical margin**

✓ **Apply radiation TRA algorithm after radiation-based LRT:**
- Stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT)
- Transarterial radioembolization (TARE)

✗ **Do NOT apply in patients imaged with noncontrast or single-phase CT or MRI**

✗ **Do NOT apply in new or untreated lesions outside treatment zone**

✗ **Do NOT apply in postsurgical patients for observations away from surgical margin**

✗ **Do NOT apply in patients treated with systemic therapy alone. Apply with caution to patients on combination systemic therapy and LRT**

LI-RADS® CT/MRI TRA Reporting

Treated lesion	Recommended report content
LR-TR Nonevaluable	• Pretreatment category and size • Current response category (Nonevaluable) • Causative technical limitations or artifacts, and work-up suggestions
LR-TR Nonviable	• Pretreatment category and size, and current response category (Nonviable) • Change since prior
LR-TR Equivocal	• Pretreatment category and size • Current response category (Equivocal) • Size (page 5) of largest masslike enhancing component (or range if in aggregate) • Change since prior
LR-TR Viable	• Pretreatment category and size, current response category (Viable) • Size (page 5) of largest masslike enhancing component (or range if in aggregate) • Ancillary features if applied • Change since prior

Reporting requirement: TRA categories must be reported in Findings and Impression for all observations. These may be summarized in aggregate for clarity.

Recommendation: For all individually reported observations and treated lesions, include

- **Identifier:** sequential number or other unique identifier, kept fixed on all exams.
- **Series & image number where size is measured**. If possible, also save key images on PACS.

- New or untreated observations outside treatment zone: refer to **CT/MRI Diagnostic Core**

CT/MRI TRA Reporting Templates

Sample report: template A

Treated lesion [#] – A lesion in segment [Couinaud segment] (series [#], image [#]), pretreatment category LR [category from preprocedure diagnostic report] [dated], was treated with [treatment type: RFA/MWA/cryoablation/PEA/TAE/DEB-TACE/cTACE/TARE/SBRT]. The posttreatment follow-up shows a [size] [mm/cm] lesion [with/without/uncertain/not accessible masslike enhancement]. Ancillary features include: [none/ list positive ancillary features: diffusion restriction, mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity]. [Additional comments/descriptions]. LR-TR category (v2024): [Nonevaluable/Nonviable/Equivocal/Non-progressing/Viable].

Sample report: template B

Treated lesion #:	1/2/3/4/5
Location:	Segment I/II/III/IVa/IVb/V/VI/VII/VIII
Pretreatment category	[Uncertain/Not seen/Remote treatment/LR-5/LR-4/LR-3/TIV/LR-M/Biopsy HCC/Biopsy iCC/Biopsy cHCC-CCA]
Type of most recent treatment:	[RFA/MWA/cryoablation/PEA/TAE/DEB-TACE/cTACE/TARE/SBRT/Unknown]
Date of most recent treatment:	[MM-DD-YYYY/Unknown]
Masslike enhancement:	[Yes/No/Uncertain/Not assessable]
Size of largest masslike enhancing component:	[size] [mm/cm] (series # [ ] /image [ ]) [new/increased/stable/decreased in size] since prior
Diffusion restriction:	[Yes/No/Not applicable] [new/increased/stable/decreased in size] since prior MRI
Mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity:	[Yes/No/Not applicable] [new/increased/stable/decreased in size] since prior MRI
LR-TR category:	[Nonevaluable/Nonviable/Equivocal/Nonprogressing/ Viable]

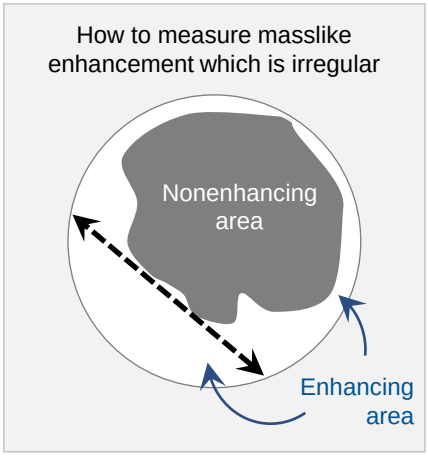
Notes:

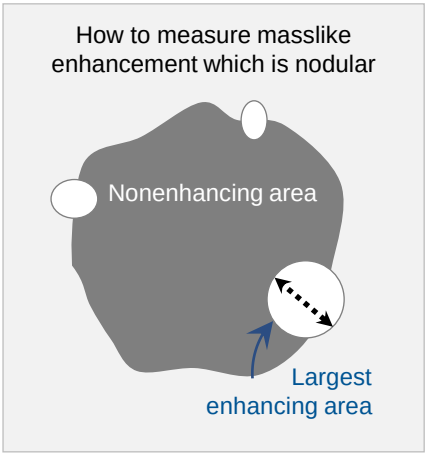
- The above sample reports are meant as a guidance. The report elements, order of report elements, terminology, and other details should be customized to match institutional preference.
- LI-RADS measurements are given in mm, but each institution should utilize units according to local standards and use them consistently.
- Observations may be treated sequentially by different types of therapies. Use your judgment to select the appropriate TRA algorithm in such cases (see page 2).
- You may not know which therapy was used. If the type of therapy can be inferred from imaging features, apply the appropriate TRA algorithm.

Reference: Roudenko A et al, *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2023

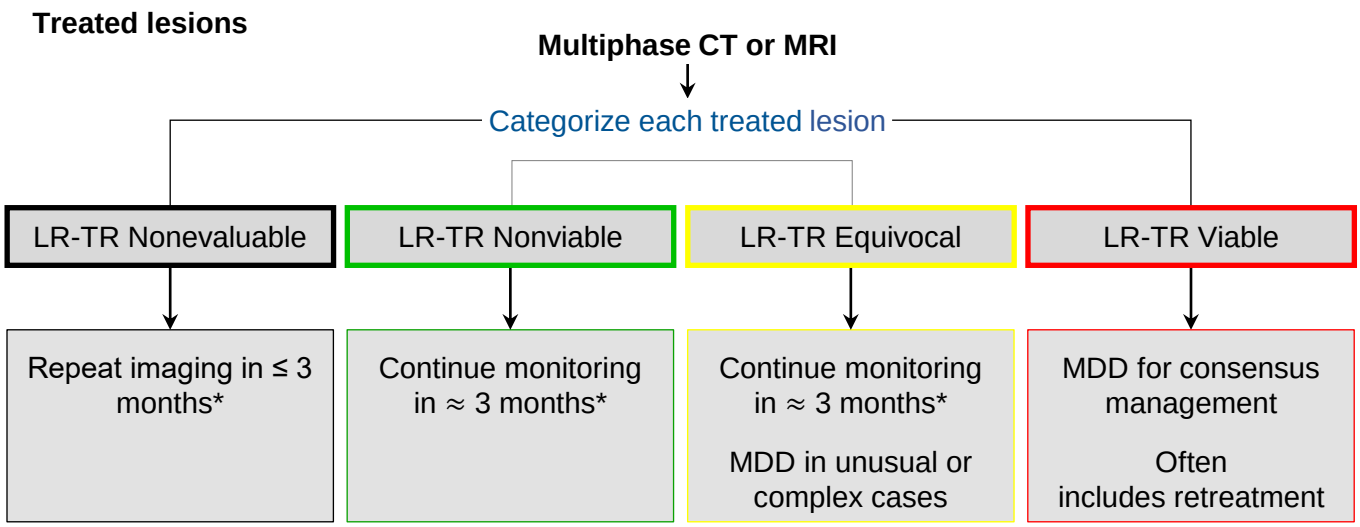
Treatment Response Measurements

Treated lesions categorized as **LR-TR Viable, LR-TR Equivocal, or LR-TR Nonprogressing** should be reported with a single dimension measurement of the area of masslike enhancement in the lesion or along its margin, excluding intervening nonenhancing areas. Measurements can be performed on any phase and in any standard orthogonal imaging plane.





LI-RADS® TRA-Based Management



* Using same modality or different modality as appropriate.

LI-RADS® Treatment Response Features

Viability	Presence of live tumor cells within or along margin of treated lesion. Radiologic viability is not synonymous with pathologic viability as imaging is not sensitive to microscopic or small foci of residual tumor.
Major feature of viability	Imaging feature that by itself can be used to assign LR-TR Viable category. In the LI-RADS TRA v2024 system, there is **ONE** major feature of viability: masslike enhancement.
Masslike enhancement 	Enhancing area (any degree, any phase) that occupies space. Examples of masslike enhancement: • nodular enhancement • irregular peripheral enhancement • thick rim of enhancement

Comments:

Masslike enhancement is the major feature of viability after LRT or surgical resection.

It is interpreted as follows:

- After nonradiation-based LRT or surgical resection:
  - If there is masslike enhancement in a treated lesion, along treated lesion margin, or along surgical margin after resection, it is interpreted as viable tumor
  - if there is uncertainty about masslike enhancement (presence, morphology), it is interpreted as equivocal for viable tumor

- After radiation-based LRT:
  - if there is masslike enhancement, which is new or increased over time after treatment, in a treated lesion or along treated lesion margin, it is interpreted as viable tumor
  - if there is masslike enhancement, which is stable or decreased over time after treatment, in a treated lesion or along treated lesion margin, it is interpreted as nonprogressing tumor

LI-RADS® Treatment Response Features

Ancillary features favoring viability

Imaging features that can be used optionally (at user's discretion) to upgrade from LR-TR Equivocal to LR-TR Viable or from LR-TR Nonprogressing to LR-TR Viable.

In the LI-RADS TRA v2024 system, there are **TWO** ancillary features favoring viability: diffusion restriction (any degree) and mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity.

Comments:

Both features favoring viability apply only to MRI. There are no ancillary features favoring viability applicable to CT. There are no ancillary features favoring nonviability.

Diffusion restriction (any degree)

Intensity higher than liver on diffusion-weighted images not caused only by T2 shine-through.

Mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity

Intensity on T2WI higher than liver, similar to or lower than non-iron-overloaded spleen, and lower than simple fluid.

Comments:

Diffusion restriction (any degree) and mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity are ancillary features favoring viability after LRT or surgical resection.

They can be used optionally (at user's discretion) to upgrade from LR-TR Equivocal to LR-TR Viable or from LR-TR Nonprogressing to LR-TR Viable as follows:

- After nonradiation-based LRT or surgical resection:
  - if one or both ancillary features is present in an area of uncertain masslike enhancement, the category can be upgraded from LR-TR Equivocal to LR-TR Viable.
- After radiation-based LRT:
  - if one or both ancillary features is new or increased over time after treatment in an area of stable or decreased masslike enhancement, the category can be upgraded from LR-TR Nonprogressing to LR-TR Viable.

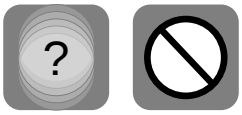
LI-RADS® Treatment Response Features

Examples of absent masslike enhancement	There are many potential examples of absent masslike enhancement. **FOUR** such examples are listed and defined below.
Complete lesion disappearance 	Nonvisualization of treated lesion on posttreatment multiphase CT or MRI, despite inclusion of required images, adequate image quality, and proper timing of late arterial phase
No lesional enhancement 	Absence of enhancement within treated lesion or along its margin
Smooth perilesional enhancement 	Smooth rim of enhancement along margin of treated lesion.
Parenchymal perfusional changes 	Treatment-related nonmasslike enhancement of hepatic parenchyma around treated lesion, ablation needle track, or surgical margin Examples: • linear enhancement around hypoenhancing needle track after thermal or chemical ablation • geographic enhancement peripheral to treated lesion after intra-arterial embolization • geographic enhancement in surrounding radiation-treated lesion • geographic enhancement along surgical margin after resection

Comments:

Complete lesion disappearance, no lesional enhancement, smooth perilesional enhancement, and parenchymal perfusion changes are examples of absence of masslike enhancement. These features are commonly encountered after locoregional therapy or surgical resection, alone or in combination, and should not be interpreted as viable tumor.

LR-TR Nonevaluable



Conceptual definition:

Treatment response cannot be meaningfully evaluated due to inappropriate imaging technique or inadequate imaging quality.

Criterion:

Presence of masslike enhancement cannot be assessed due to image degradation or omission.

Potential causes:

Motion or other artifacts, absence of one or more required contrast-enhanced phases, failure of contrast injection, gross arterial phase mistiming (too early or too late).

- Do NOT assign LR-TR Nonevaluable evaluable if the recommended contrast phases were acquired and are of acceptable quality, including proper late arterial phase timing.
- Do NOT assign LR-TR Nonevaluable for treated lesions in which response categorization is challenged only by unusual imaging features.

Management options

Continue posttreatment monitoring with same modality in ≤ 3 months.
- Preferred option if the nonevaluability was due to a correctable technical error or artifact.

Continue posttreatment monitoring with alternative modality in ≤ 3 months.
- Suggested option if imaging with a different modality or contrast agent would confer diagnostic advantage.

LR-TR Nonviable

Conceptual definition:

Low likelihood of clinically significant viable tumor after treatment.

Criterion:

After nonradiation-based LRT or at surgical margin after resection:
No masslike enhancement in treated lesion, along treated lesion margin, or along surgical margin.

After radiation-based LRT:
No masslike enhancement in treated lesion or along its margin.

Examples:
Complete lesion disappearance, no intralesional enhancement, smooth perilesional enhancement, parenchymal perfusional changes without masslike enhancement.

If unsure	LR-TR Nonviable vs. LR-TR Equivocal → LR-TR Equivocal LR-TR Nonviable vs. LR-TR Nonprogressing → LR-TR Nonprogressing
Management options	Continue posttreatment monitoring with same modality in ≈ 3 months. • Preferred option in most cases. Continue posttreatment monitoring with alternative modality in ≈ 3 months. • Suggested option if imaging with a different modality or contrast agent would confer diagnostic advantage. MDD in unusual or complex cases.

LR-TR Equivocal

Conceptual definition:

Uncertain likelihood of clinically significant viable tumor after treatment with nonradiation-based LRT or surgical resection.

Criterion:

Uncertainty about masslike enhancement (presence or morphology) in treated lesion, along treated lesion margin, or along surgical margin.

⚠ Applies only to nonradiation TRA algorithm: i.e., for lesions treated by nonradiation-based LRTs such as thermal ablation (RFA, MWA, cryoablation), chemical ablation (PEA), or intra-arterial embolization (TAE, cTACE, DEB-TACE), or to observations at the surgical margin after resection.

If unsure	LR-TR Equivocal vs. LR-TR Nonviable → LR-TR Equivocal LR-TR Equivocal vs. LR-TR Viable → LR-TR Equivocal
Management options	Continue posttreatment monitoring with <u>same</u> modality in ≈ 3 months. • Preferred option in most cases. Continue posttreatment monitoring with <u>alternative</u> modality in ≈ 3 months. • Suggested option if imaging with a different modality or contrast agent would confer diagnostic advantage. MDD in unusual or complex cases.

LR-TR Viable

Conceptual definition:

High likelihood of clinically significant viable tumor after treatment

Criterion:

After nonradiation-based LRT or at surgical margin after resection:

- Masslike enhancement* (any degree, any phase) in treated lesion, along treated lesion margin, or along surgical margin **OR**
- Uncertain masslike enhancement* (presence or morphology) plus mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity or diffusion restriction (any degree) in area of uncertain masslike enhancement

After radiation-based LRT:

- Masslike enhancement* (any degree, any phase), which is new or increased in size over time after LRT in lesion or along margin **OR**
- Masslike enhancement (any degree, any phase) which is stable or decreased in size over time, plus mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity or diffusion restriction (any degree) in area of stable or decreasing masslike enhancement

* May be nodular, smooth, or irregular

If unsure	LR-TR Viable vs. LR-TR Equivocal → LR-TR Equivocal LR-TR Viable vs. LR-TR Nonprogressing → LR-TR Nonprogressing
Management options	MDD for consensus management. Often includes retreatment.

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