

Term	Definition (2021)	Context of Use (COU)	Applicable modalities	General comments	LI-RADS specific comments	Synonyms (their use is generally less preferred)	Type of term (if used in context of LI-RADS)	Date approved
Arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)	Enhancement in arterial phase more than liver, resulting in brightness higher than liver.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>On MRI: assessment of APHE requires acquisition of precontrast as well as arterial phase (AP) images.</p> <p>On CT: in absence of prior treatment ,APHE can usually be assessed without precontrast images. The reason is that untreated observations are rarely hyperattenuating on precontrast CT.</p> <p>On CEUS: assessment of APHE requires continuous imaging during the AP.</p> <p>APHE can be seen in the entire observation or only in part(s) of the observation. If any part of the observation has APHE, then APHE is considered to be present.</p> <p>Enhancement from hypo on precontrast to iso on arterial phase does not qualify as APHE.</p> <p>On CT and MRI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHE has two main subtypes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rim APHE</li> <li>• Nonrim APHE</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>On CEUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHE has four main subtypes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rim APHE</li> <li>• Nonrim APHE</li> <li>• Spokewheel, centrifugal APHE</li> <li>• Peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Spokewheel, centrifugal APHE is suggestive but not diagnostic of FNH.</li> <li>• Peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE is diagnostic of hemangioma</li> </ul> <p>Caveat:</p> <p>Peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement is a temporal enhancement pattern that can be assessed on CT or MRI in addition to CEUS. Unlike peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE, it is not considered an APHE subtype because its assessment requires the acquisition of at least one postarterial phase and it can be assessed even if an arterial phase is not acquired. See <i>peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement</i>.</p>	<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithms, the main APHE subtypes are classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rim APHE is a LR-M feature</li> <li>• Nonrim APHE is a major feature of HCC</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn about APHE and its subtypes.</p> <p>In the LI-RADS CEUS diagnostic algorithm, the main APHE subtypes are classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rim APHE is a LR-M feature</li> <li>• Nonrim APHE is a major feature of HCC</li> <li>• Peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE, diagnostic of hemangioma</li> </ul>	Arterial hypervascularity, hypervascularity in arterial phase, increased contrast enhancement in hepatic arterial phase, increased contrast enhancement in late hepatic arterial phase, hypervascularity, high attenuation area in arterial phase, contrast uptake in arterial phase, wash in	Imaging feature, general	5/2021
Arterial phase (AP)	A postcontrast phase when:	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>On CEUS: the AP usually starts around 10-15 seconds after injection, and lasts for 10- 20 seconds.</p> <p>On CT and MRI: the AP is divided into two temporal subtypes:</p>	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about the early arterial phase.	Early phase, angiographic phase	Imaging phase	5/2021

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hepatic artery and branches are fully enhanced <b>AND</b></li> <li>Hepatic veins are not enhanced more than liver by antegrade flow.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early AP: Subtype of AP in which portal vein is not enhanced or is enhanced less than liver</li> <li>Late AP: Subtype of AP in which portal vein is enhanced more than liver</li> </ul>				
Blood pool agents (BPAs)	Contrast agents that distribute mainly in the vascular space after intravenous injection.	Broad	CEUS, MRI	<p>Blood pool agents remain in the blood with little or no distribution in the extravascular space.</p> <p>Applies mainly to CEUS microbubble agents. Can also apply to iron-based or protein-binding Gd-based MR agents with prolonged vascular dwell times, such as gadofosveset trisodium and ferumoxytol, respectively. Neither of these MR contrast agents is approved for liver imaging in the United States.</p>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> to learn more about BPAs.</p>	Intravascular contrast agents	Type of contrast agent	5/2021
Blood products in mass	Blood products in a mass, in absence of biopsy, trauma or intervention	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		<p><b>Blood products</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not enhance</li> <li>Are typically heterogeneous</li> <li>Are often amorphous or geographic in shape</li> <li>Have imaging characteristics that depend on their acuity:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CT               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute and subacute: hyperattenuating relative to liver</li> <li>Chronic: iso or hypoattenuating.</li> </ul> </li> <li>MRI               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute (hours to days): T1 hypo or iso, T2 hypo</li> <li>Subacute (days to months): T1 hyper, T2 variable</li> <li>Chronic (months to years): T1 hypo, T2 hypo.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For subacute or chronic blood products: there may be signal loss on 2nd echo of dual-gradient-echo sequence or high R2* value on R2* map (if obtained) or low T2* value on T2* map (if obtained).</p> <p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, blood products in mass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.</li> <li>Should not be applied as an ancillary feature favoring malignancy if there is history of biopsy, trauma or intervention</li> <li>Should not be applied as an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in nonsolid lesions such as hemorrhagic cysts.</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about blood products in mass and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Hematoma, hemorrhage, methemoglobin, hemosiderin	Ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular	5/2021
Capsule	Smooth, uniform, sharp border on CT or MRI around most or all of an observation.	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, capsule has two subtypes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing capsule, which is a major feature of HCC</li> <li>Nonenhancing capsule, which is an ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular</li> </ul>	Capsule appearance, pseudocapsule, tumor capsule, tumor pseudocapsule, fibrous capsule,	Imaging feature, general	5/2021

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					<p>If the capsule is enhancing, the enhancement must be most pronounced in a postarterial phase.</p> <p>If a capsule is visible as both an enhancing rim AND as a nonenhancing rim, it should be characterized as enhancing capsule, NOT as nonenhancing capsule.</p> <p>If the liver parenchyma visually consists of both nodules and fibrosis, then the capsule must be thicker or more conspicuous than the fibrotic tissue around background nodules.</p> <p>The imaging feature, capsule, refers to the imaging appearance of a capsule. Pathologically, it may represent a true tumor capsule or a pseudocapsule. Thus, an imaging capsule does not imply that there is a true capsule pathologically.</p> <p>The imaging appearance of capsule may represent a true tumor capsule or a pseudocapsule on pathology. The distinction between true capsule and pseudocapsule can only be made at pathology.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about capsule and its subtypes.</p>	fibrous pseudocapsule		
Continuous imaging	Acquisition of images without pause or interruption.	Broad	US, CEUS	<p>On US and CEUS, typically 10-20 frames/second.</p> <p>CT and MRI can also acquire images without pause or interruption, but this is not commonly performed with these modalities.</p>			Technical term	5/2021
Corona enhancement	<p>Periobservational enhancement in late arterial phase or early portal venous phase.</p> <p>The enhancement is contiguous with and surrounds all or part of the observation.</p>	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>Usually lobulated and may vary in thickness.</p> <p>Corona enhancement is thought to represent venous drainage from arterialized tumor.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, corona enhancement is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about corona enhancement and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Corona, perilesional staining	Ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021

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Delayed central enhancement	Postarterial phase pattern where inner part of observation is more enhanced than periphery.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>Delayed central enhancement is a subtype of targetoid morphology.</p> <p>The area of delayed enhancement in an observation may be central, eccentric, or heterogeneous, but not peripheral.</p> <p>The adjective "central" refers to <b>inner</b> portions of the observation but is not meant to imply that the delayed enhancement is literally in the geometric center of the observation.</p> <p>Delayed central enhancement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not apply to central scar with delayed enhancement</li> <li>Does not apply to observations that can be confidently diagnosed as hemangioma based on other features</li> </ul>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, delayed central enhancement is an LR-M feature.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about delayed central enhancement.</p>	Sustained central enhancement, concentric progressive enhancement, centripetal progressive enhancement	Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Delayed phase (DP)	A postarterial phase acquired at least 2 minutes after injection of an extracellular agent or gadobenate dimeguline when portal and hepatic veins are enhanced more than liver.	Broad	CT, MRI with ECA, MRI with gadobenate dimeguline	<p>The DP is typically acquired 2 to 5 minutes after injection of an extracellular agent or gadobenate.</p> <p>The DP does not apply to MRI performed with gadoxetate (the term "transitional phase" is used for images acquired 2 to 5 minutes after injection).</p> <p>The portal venous phase (PVP) and DP appear similar. They can be distinguished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timing after injection</li> <li>If both phases are acquired: the liver, the portal veins, and the hepatic veins are usually less enhanced in the DP than in the PVP.</li> </ul>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about the delayed phase.</p>	Interstitial phase, equilibrium phase, late dynamic phase, late venous phase	Imaging phase	5/2021
Diffusion restriction	Intensity higher than liver on diffusion-weighted images not caused only by T2 shine-through.	Broad	MRI	<p>Should be assessed on DW images acquired with at least moderate diffusion weighting (<math>b \geq 400 \text{ s/mm}^2</math>).</p> <p>If an adequate ADC map is obtained or if ADC is calculated from source images, ADC is lower than or similar to liver.</p> <p>T2 shine-through can be seen in observations with moderate to high signal intensity on T2-weighted images. To differentiate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricted diffusion: ADC (either calculated or based on the ADC map) lower or similar to liver</li> </ul>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, restricted diffusion is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A nontargetoid LR-M feature, if marked in degree</li> <li>A targetoid LR-M feature, if targetoid morphology</li> <li>An ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general, otherwise</li> </ul>	Impeded diffusion, diffusion restriction, high DWI signal	Imaging feature, Ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general, not HCC in particular	5/2021

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T2 shine-through: ADC (either calculated or based on the ADC map) higher than liver</li> </ul>	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about restricted diffusion.			
Early arterial phase (AP)	Subtype of AP on CT or MRI when portal vein is not enhanced or is enhanced less than liver.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>In the early AP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may be some enhancement of the portal vein. However, if the portal vein is enhanced more than liver, the early AP has passed.</li> <li>There should be no enhancement of the hepatic veins by antegrade flow. If there is any enhancement of the hepatic veins by antegrade flow, the early AP has passed.</li> </ul>	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about the early arterial phase.	Early phase, angiographic phase	Imaging phase	5/2021
Early washout	Subtype of washout on CEUS with early onset (< 60 s) after contrast injection.	Broad	CEUS	<p>Early washout is usually marked in degree. Early washout usually happens earlier than 60 seconds, and late washout much later.</p>	In the context of the LI-RADS CEUS algorithm, onset must be less than 60 seconds (< 60 s) after contrast injection. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> .		Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Enhancing capsule	Subtype of capsule visible as an enhancing rim in portal venous phase, delayed phase, or transitional phase.	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI algorithm, enhancing capsule is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of two defined subtypes of capsule.</li> <li>A major feature of HCC</li> </ul> <p>The enhancement of the capsule must be most pronounced in a postarterial phase.</p> <p>If there is a rim that enhances more in the arterial phase (AP) than the postarterial phases, it should be characterized as rim arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE), not as enhancing capsule.</p> <p>A border visible only as an enhancing rim in the hepatobiliary phase (HBP) should not be characterized as an enhancing capsule.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about enhancing capsule.</p>	Capsule, tumor capsule, pseudocapsule, fibrous capsule, capsular enhancement, delayed enhancing rim	Imaging feature, major	5/2021
Enhancing soft tissue in vein	Presence of enhancing soft tissue in vein, regardless of visualization of parenchymal mass.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	For terminology about vascular involvement in pediatric liver tumor imaging, refer to PRETEXT ( <a href="https://www.pedrad.org/Portals/5/Subspecialties/Abdominal%20Imaging/PRETEXT%202017.pdf">https://www.pedrad.org/Portals/5/Subspecialties/Abdominal%20Imaging/PRETEXT%202017.pdf</a> )	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CEUS and CT/MRI diagnostic algorithms, enhancing soft tissue in vein establishes the diagnosis of tumor in vein and is categorized LR-TIV.</p> <p>Tumor in vein and enhancing soft tissue in vein are related but not identical terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tumor in vein is a LI-RADS category</li> <li>Enhancing soft tissue in vein is the LI-RADS imaging criterion for tumor in vein</li> </ul>	None	Imaging feature, LR-TIV	5/2021

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Extracellular agents (ECAs)	Contrast agents with predominantly extracellular distribution after intravenous injection.	Broad	CT, MRI	For MRI, examples of FDA-approved agents (as of February, 2021, nonexhaustive list) include: gadopentetate dimeglumine, gadoteridol, gadodiamide, gadoversetamide, gadobutrol, gadoterate meglumine.	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about ECAs.	Extracellular fluid contrast agents	Type of contrast agent	5/2021
Fade	Reduction in enhancement relative to liver from hypereenhancement in an earlier phase to isoenhancement or minimal hyperenhancement in all later phases.  This can have one of the following patterns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hyper (arterial phase) → iso/min hyper (all later phases)</li><li>• hyper (portal venous phase) → iso/min hyper (all later phases)</li></ul>	Broad	CT, MRI, CEUS	<p>Fade can be assessed only if at least two contrast-enhanced phases are obtained (e.g., arterial phase followed by one or more postarterial phases) so that the reduction in enhancement over time can be assessed.</p> <p>Fade cannot be assessed if there is a single contrast-enhanced phase.</p> <p>If there is hypoenhancement relative to the liver on any postarterial phase, do not characterize as fade.</p> <p>While fade is similar to washout in that the area of interest appears to de-enhance relative to liver, fade and washout are not the same. See <i>washout</i> for detailed comparison.</p>	<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm:</p> <p>If any part of the observation has washout, then washout is considered to be present, even if other or even most parts of the observation show fade.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about fade.</p>			5/2021
Fat in mass, more than adjacent liver	More fat in a mass than in liver.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>Imaging criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observation is a mass AND</li><li>• As follows by imaging modality:</li><li>• CT:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mass or part of mass has attenuation &lt; -10 HU OR</li><li>• If unenhanced CT is available and liver is fatty, mass has attenuation less than liver on unenhanced CT</li></ul></li><li>• MRI: Mass or part of mass has any of following compared to liver:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More signal loss on OP compared to IP</li><li>• Higher fat signal on fat-only images</li><li>• Higher fat fraction on fat-fraction maps</li><li>• More signal loss on fat-suppressed compared to non-fat-suppressed images with similar or identical weighting</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Use caution in applying this feature if OP has a longer TE than IP; in this situation, signal loss on the longer echo may indicate either fat or iron.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, fat in mass, more than adjacent liver is an ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about fat in mass, more than adjacent liver and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Steatotic nodule, intralesional fat, fatty lesion, fat deposition, fatty metamorphosis, and intralesional fatty metaplasia	Ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular	5/2021
Fat sparing in solid mass	Less fat in a solid mass than in fatty liver.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>Imaging criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observation is solid mass AND</li><li>• Liver is fatty AND</li></ul>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fat sparing in solid mass is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general</li><li>• Do not apply fat sparing as an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in nonsolid lesions such as cysts or hemangiomas</li></ul>	Lesional fat sparing	Ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As follows by imaging modality:</li> <li>CT: Mass has higher attenuation than liver on unenhanced CT</li> <li>MRI: Compared to liver, mass has any of following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less signal loss on OP compared to IP</li> <li>Lower fat signal on fat-only images</li> <li>Lower fat fraction on fat-fraction maps</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Less signal loss on fat-suppressed compared to non-fat-suppressed images with similar or identical weighting.</p>	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about Iron sparing in solid mass and how it is used in LI-RADS.			
Growth	Definite size increase of a mass that cannot be explained only by technique differences, artifact, measurement error, or interval hemorrhage.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>Measure on same phase, sequence, and plane on serial exams if possible.</p> <p>Do not characterize as growth if size increase can be explained by technique differences, artifact, measurement error, or interval hemorrhage.</p> <p>There is insufficient evidence to define an absolute or percent change in size as a cut-off for establishing the presence of growth. Users should therefore use their judgement.</p>	<p>In the context of all LI-RADS diagnostic algorithms, if there is doubt about the presence of growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not characterize as growth</li> <li>Do not characterize as size stability</li> </ul> <p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applies <i>only</i> to masses; It does not apply to pseudolesions such as perfusion alterations or nonmasslike lesion such as focal fat deposition.</li> <li>Should be assessed <i>only</i> if there is a prior CT or MRI exam of sufficient quality and appropriate technique to quantify the interval growth.</li> <li>Should not be assessed by comparing to prior US or CEUS exams.</li> <li>Has two subtypes:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threshold growth (a major feature of HCC)</li> <li>Subthreshold growth (an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about growth and its subtypes.</p> <p>In the context of CEUS LI-RADS diagnostic algorithm, growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general</li> <li>Should not be assessed by comparing to prior CT or MRI exams</li> </ul> <p>LI-RADS CEUS does not classify growth into subtypes.</p>	Interval growth, progression, size increase, diameter increase	Imaging feature, general	5/2021
Hepatobiliary agents (HBAs)	Contrast agents with sufficient hepatobiliary uptake and excretion to allow hepatobiliary phase (HBP) imaging.	Broad	MRI	Applies to gadoxetate and gadobenate.	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-13-HBA.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-13-HBA.pdf</a> to learn more about HBAs.	Hepatocellular agents, biphasic agents	Type of contrast agent	5/2021
Hepatobiliary phase (HBP)	Postcontrast phase acquired with a hepatobiliary agent when	Broad	MRI with gadoxetate	The HBP is typically acquired about 20 minutes after injection of gadoxetate.	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> and	Hepatocellular phase	Imaging phase	5/2021

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	liver parenchyma is intended to be hyperintense to hepatic blood vessels.		or gadobenate	If obtained with gadobenate, the HBP is acquired 1-3 hours after injection.  Excretion of contrast into the biliary tree may or may not be present.	<a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-13-HBA.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-13-HBA.pdf</a> to learn more about HBP.			
Hepatobiliary phase (HBP) hypointensity	Intensity in the hepatobiliary phase lower than liver.	Broad	MRI with gadoxetate or gadobenate	HBP hypointensity does not qualify as washout appearance.  Compare to functional areas of parenchyma (i.e., do not compare to vessels or to parts of liver that do not take up the agent).	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HBP hypointensity can be seen in the entire observation or only in part(s) of the observation. If any part of the observation has HBP hypointensity, then HBP hypointensity is considered to be present.</li><li>• Unless in a targetoid pattern, HBP hypointensity is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general</li><li>• Targetoid HBP hypointensity is a subtype of HBP hypointensity. This subtype is a targetoid LR-M feature and not an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about HBP hypointensity and how it is used in LI-RADS.	Hepatobiliary phase hypoenhancement, hepatobiliary phase "defect"	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021
Hepatobiliary phase (HBP) isointensity	Uniform intensity in hepatobiliary phase identical or nearly identical to liver.	Broad	MRI with gadoxetate or gadobenate	HBP isointensity applies only to observations that are homogeneous in the HBP.  Compare to functional areas of parenchyma (i.e., do not compare to vessels or to parts of liver that do not take up the agent).	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, HBP isointensity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is an ancillary feature favoring benignity.</li><li>• should not be applied as an ancillary feature favoring benignity if HBP enhancement of liver is suboptimal</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about HBP isointensity and how it is used in LI-RADS.	HBP isoenhancement, occult in HBP	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021
Hyperechoic	Echogenicity higher than a reference tissue, organ, or structure	Broad	US, CEUS		In the context of the LI-RADS US and CEUS algorithms, this definition applies to observations, which should be compared to background liver. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf</a> to learn more about hyperechoic and how it is used in the US algorithm.	Echogenic	General term	5/2021
Hypoechoic	Echogenicity lower than a reference tissue, organ, or structure.	Broad	US, CEUS		In the context of the LI-RADS US and CEUS algorithms, this definition applies to observations, which should be compared to background liver. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf</a> to learn more about hypoechoic and how it is used in the US algorithm.		General term [	5/2021
Imaging phase	A time range after intravenous contrast injection with characteristic changes in enhancement of liver parenchyma,	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	The time after contrast administration is divided into discrete phases for simplicity and clinical utility.  Examples for liver imaging include:	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about imaging phases.		General term	5/2021

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	vessels, and for some agents, bile ducts.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arterial phase</li> <li>• Portal venous phase</li> <li>• Delayed phase</li> <li>• Late phase</li> <li>• Transitional phase</li> <li>• Hepatobiliary phase</li> </ul> <p>The transitional phase and hepatobiliary phase are unique to hepatobiliary agents.</p> <p>The delayed phase is unique to extracellular agents.</p> <p>The late phase is unique to blood pool agents such as those used in CEUS.</p> <p>The postarterial phase is a general term that refers to all phases after the arterial phase.</p> <p>The transition between the various phases is gradual, with exact timing dependent on patient-related and technical factors.</p> <p>Images might be acquired during a transition from one phase to the next, in which case the images might have overlapping characteristics of the two adjacent phases.</p>				
Intermittent imaging	A series of brief CEUS image acquisitions, each lasting a few seconds and repeated at intervals of about 30 to 60 seconds without any imaging in between.	Broad	CEUS				Technical term	5/2021
Iron in mass, more than liver	More iron in a mass than in liver.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>Imaging criteria (MRI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observation is a mass AND</li> <li>• Mass contains iron, i.e., any of following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower signal intensity on second echo (longer TE) compared to first echo (shorter TE) on dual-echo gradient-echo sequence</li> <li>• Abnormally low signal intensity on T2W images</li> <li>• Abnormally high R2* value on R2* maps (if obtained)</li> <li>• Abnormally low T2* value on T2* maps (if obtained) AND</li> <li>• Compared to mass, liver has less iron i.e., any of following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less signal loss on second echo (longer TE) compared to first echo (shorter TE) on dual-echo gradient-echo sequence</li> <li>• Higher signal intensity on T2W images</li> <li>• Lower R2* value on R2* maps (if obtained)</li> <li>• Higher T2* value on T2* maps (if obtained)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Use caution in applying this feature if OP has a longer TE than IP; in this situation, signal loss on the longer echo may indicate either fat or iron.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, iron in mass, more than liver is an ancillary feature favoring benignity.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about iron in mass, more than liver and how it is used in LI-RADS</p>	Siderotic nodule	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021

Term	Definition (2021)	Context of Use (COU)	Applicable modalities	General comments	LI-RADS specific comments	Synonyms (their use is generally less preferred)	Type of term (if used in context of LI-RADS)	Date approved
Iron sparing in solid mass	Less iron in a solid mass than in iron-overloaded liver.	Broad	MRI	<p>Imaging criteria (MRI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observation is solid mass AND</li> <li>Liver is iron-overloaded. Features suggesting iron overload include:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower signal intensity on second echo (longer TE) compared to first echo (shorter TE) on dual-echo gradient-echo sequence</li> <li>Abnormally low signal intensity on T2W images</li> <li>Abnormally high R2* value on R2* maps (if obtained)</li> <li>Abnormally low T2* value on T2* maps (if obtained)</li> </ul> AND</li> <li>Compared to liver, mass has less iron, i.e., any of following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less signal loss on second echo (longer TE) compared to first echo (shorter TE) on dual-echo gradient-echo sequence</li> <li>Higher signal intensity on T2W images</li> <li>Lower R2* value on R2* maps (if obtained)</li> <li>Higher T2* value on T2* maps (if obtained)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This feature cannot be reliably characterized on US or CT.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iron sparing in solid mass is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.</li> <li>Do not apply iron sparing as an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in nonsolid lesions such as cysts or hemangiomas</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about Iron sparing in solid mass and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Lesional iron sparing, lesional iron resistance	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021
Isoechoic	Echogenicity equal to a reference tissue, organ, or structure.	Broad	US, CEUS		<p>In the context of the LI-RADS US and CEUS algorithms, this definition applies to observations, which should be compared to background liver. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf</a> to learn more about isoechoic and how it is used in the US algorithm.</p>		General term	5/2021
Late arterial phase (AP)	Subtype of AP on CT or MRI when portal vein is enhanced more than liver.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>In late AP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancement of the portal vein may or may not be homogeneous.</li> <li>There may be faint enhancement of the hepatic veins by antegrade flow. However, if the hepatic veins are enhanced more than liver by antegrade flow, the late AP has passed.</li> </ul>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about the late arterial phase.</p>		Imaging phase	5/2021
Late phase (LP)	A postarterial phase on CEUS images acquired after the portal venous phase when portal and hepatic veins are enhanced but less than in portal venous phase.	Broad	CEUS	<p>LP lasts from end of portal venous phase (PVP) until there is clearance of microbubbles from the circulation at about 4-6 min.</p> <p>Liver parenchyma is enhanced but usually less than in PVP.</p>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> to learn about LP.</p>		Imaging phase	5/2021
Late washout	Subtype of washout on CEUS with late onset (> 60 s) after contrast injection.	Broad	CEUS		<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CEUS algorithm, onset of washout must be 60 seconds or more (<math>\geq 60</math> s) after contrast injection. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a>.</p>		Imaging feature, major	5/2021
Lesion	An observation that represents a pathologic abnormality.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>May be a mass or a non-masslike lesion.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about lesion.</p> <p>Examples of nonmasslike lesions:</p>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about lesion.</p>	FLL, focal liver lesion	General term	5/2021

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonmasslike fat deposition or sparing</li> <li>Nonmasslike iron deposition or sparing</li> </ul> <p>The term "lesion" should not be used interchangeably with the term "observation". A lesion is a type of observation. Although all lesions are observations, not all observations are lesions.</p> <p>If there is uncertainty about whether an observation represents a pathologic abnormality (i.e., a true lesion), the term "observation" is preferred over the term "lesion".</p>				
LI-RADS ancillary feature	Imaging feature used by LI-RADS to adjust category, increase diagnostic confidence, or detect observations difficult to visualize on other sequences	LI-RADS	CEUS, CT, MRI		<p>Ancillary features are divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favoring malignancy</li> <li>Favoring benignity</li> </ul> <p>Ancillary features favoring malignancy are subdivided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favoring malignancy in general</li> <li>Favoring HCC in particular</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about ancillary features and how they are used in LI-RADS.</p>			5/2021
LI-RADS feature of TIV	Imaging feature used by LI-RADS to assign or suggest LR-TIV category.	LI-RADS	CEUS, CT, MRI		<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, there are two types of TIV features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feature diagnostic of tumor in vein</li> <li>Feature suggestive of tumor in vein</li> </ul> <p>Feature diagnostic of tumor in vein:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In LI-RADS, there is one feature diagnostic of tumor in vein – enhancing soft tissue in vein.</li> <li>This feature is necessary and sufficient to establish the presence of tumor in vein and to categorize an observation as LR-TIV. Any observation with this feature should be categorized LR-TIV, regardless of the presence or absence of any other feature and regardless of visualization of a parenchymal mass.</li> </ul> <p>Features suggestive of tumor in vein:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In LI-RADS, there are four features suggestive of TIV:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occluded vein with ill-defined walls</li> <li>Occluded vein with restricted diffusion</li> <li>Occluded or obscured vein in contiguity with malignant parenchymal mass</li> <li>Heterogeneous vein appearance not attributable to artifact</li> </ul> </li> <li>These features suggest but do not establish the presence of TIV and cannot by themselves be used to categorize an observation as LR-TIV. If present, such features should prompt the radiologist to scrutinize the vein for enhancing soft tissue.</li> </ul>			5/2021

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					<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about LI-RADS features of TIV and how they are used in LI-RADS.</p> <p>In the context of LI-RADS CEUS diagnostic algorithm, tumor in vein is defined as unequivocal enhancing soft tissue in vein, regardless of visualization of a parenchymal mass.</p> <p>Tumor in vein should be differentiated from partially occlusive/recanalized bland thrombus. Arrival time of microbubble contrast agent to the vein helps in this differentiation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early arrival (~ same time as hepatic artery opacification): favors tumor in vein</li> <li>• Arrival several (~10) seconds after hepatic artery opacification: favors portal flow in patent portion of non-occlusive/recanalized bland thrombus</li> </ul>			
LI-RADS LR-M features	Imaging features used by LI-RADS to assign LR-M category.	LI-RADS	CEUS, CT, MRI		<p>LR-M features indicate a high probability of malignancy but are not specific for HCC.</p> <p>In context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, LR-M features are divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targetoid LR-M features</li> <li>• Nontargetoid LR-M features</li> </ul> <p>Targetoid LR-M features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rim arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)</li> <li>• Peripheral washout</li> <li>• Delayed central enhancement</li> <li>• Targetoid diffusion restriction</li> <li>• Targetoid transitional phase (TP) or hepatobiliary phase (HBP) appearance</li> </ul> <p>Nontargetoid LR-M features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infiltrative appearance</li> <li>• Marked diffusion restriction</li> <li>• Necrosis or severe ischemia</li> <li>• Other feature that in radiologist's judgment suggests non-HCC malignancy</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about LR-M features and how they are used in LI-RADS.</p> <p>In context of the LI-RADS CEUS diagnostic algorithm, LR-M features include any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rim APHE followed by any washout</li> </ul>			5/2021

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early washout onset (&lt; 1 min)</li> <li>• Marked washout degree (if seen before 2 min)</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> to learn more about LR-M features and how they are used in the CEUS LI-RADS diagnostic algorithm.</p>			
LI-RADS major feature	Imaging feature used by LI-RADS in assigning LR-3, LR-4, and LR-5 categories, reflecting the relative probability that an observation is HCC.	LI-RADS	CEUS, CT, MRI		<p>LI-RADS defines five major features on CT and MRI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonrim arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)</li> <li>• Nonperipheral washout</li> <li>• Enhancing capsule</li> <li>• Size</li> <li>• Threshold growth</li> </ul> <p>LI-RADS defines three major features on CEUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonrim APHE</li> <li>• Late and mild washout</li> <li>• Size</li> </ul>			
Locoregional therapy	A therapy that targets a specific lesion or part of the liver without physically removing it.	Broad		<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ablative therapy</li> <li>• Transcatheter therapy</li> <li>• External beam radiation</li> </ul> <p>Surgical resection physically removes part of the liver and is not considered locoregional therapy.</p> <p>Systemic administration of chemotherapeutic or biologic agents is also not considered locoregional therapy.</p>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-9-Treatment-response.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-9-Treatment-response.pdf</a> learn more about locoregional therapy.</p>		General term	5/2021
Marked T2 hyperintensity	Intensity on T2WI higher than non-iron-overloaded spleen and as high as or almost as high as simple fluid.	Broad	MRI	Characteristic imaging feature of cysts and some hemangiomas.	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, marked T2 hyperintensity is an ancillary feature favoring benignity.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about marked T2 hyperintensity and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	T2 bright, high T2 signal intensity, fluid signal, lightbulb T2 bright	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021
Marked washout	Subtype of washout on CEUS in which the observation becomes black or "punched out" while the background liver is still enhanced.	Broad	CEUS		<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CEUS algorithm, the observation must become black or "punched out" within 2 minutes from contrast injection. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a>.</p>		Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Mass	Space-occupying lesion that distorts or destroys parenchyma or other anatomic structures.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malignant neoplasms</li> <li>• Benign neoplasms</li> <li>• Hemangiomas</li> <li>• Cysts</li> </ul>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about mass.</p>		General term	5/2021

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confluent fibrosis</li> <li>• Treated lesions</li> </ul> <p>May be of any size or shape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round or oval</li> <li>• Geographic</li> <li>• Irregular</li> <li>• Diffuse</li> <li>• Confluent</li> <li>• “Infiltrative” or “permeative”</li> </ul> <p>If a mass is either oval or round in shape, it is considered a nodule. For such observations, either the term “nodule” or “mass” may be used, depending on context, user preference, and size.</p> <p>If a mass is geographic or irregular in shape or has a diffuse, confluent, or infiltrative appearance, the term “nodule” does not apply.</p>					
Mild washout	Subtype of washout on CEUS in which observation becomes less enhanced than liver, but not devoid of enhancement (i.e., some enhancement persists).	Broad	CEUS		Mild washout includes all washout appearing later than 2 minutes after contrast injection. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> .		Imaging feature, major	5/2021	
Mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity	Intensity on T2WI higher than liver, similar to or lower than non-iron-overloaded spleen, and lower than simple fluid	Broad	MRI	In patients without a spleen or with an iron-overloaded spleen, intensity should be lower than simple fluid.	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about mild-moderate T2 hyperintensity and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Slightly bright T2, mild-moderate T2 signal	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021	
Mosaic appearance	Presence of any combination of internal nodules, compartments, or septations, within a solid or mostly solid mass.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>The internal nodules or compartments differ in imaging features from each other.</p> <p>If there is a single inner nodule within a mass, the term nodule-in-nodule may be used.</p> <p>Components of a mass with mosaic appearance may be necrotic or cystic.</p> <p>The term mosaic appearance does not apply to a septated cyst.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, mosaic appearance is an ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about mosaic appearance and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Mosaic pattern, mosaic architecture	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular	5/2021	
Multiphase imaging	Acquisition of images at two or more different phases after intravenous contrast injection.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>Common examples of multiphase imaging on CT and MRI include acquisition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP (arterial phase), PVP (portal venous phase)</li> <li>• AP, PVP, and delayed phase (DP)</li> <li>• AP, PVP, transitional phase (TP), and hepatobiliary phase (HBP)</li> </ul>	<p>For diagnosis and staging of patients at risk for HCC, LI-RADS recommends acquisition of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEUS: AP, PVP, late phase</li> <li>• CT: AP, PVP, and DP</li> </ul>		Technical term	5/2021	

Term	Definition (2021)	Context of Use (COU)	Applicable modalities	General comments	LI-RADS specific comments	Synonyms (their use is generally less preferred)	Type of term (if used in context of LI-RADS)	Date approved
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRI with extracellular agent or gadobenate: Precontrast, AP, PVP, DP</li> <li>MRI with gadoxetate: Precontrast, AP, PVP, TP, and HBP</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about multiphase imaging and recommended LI-RADS technique</p>			
Nodule	Spherical or oval mass.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>A nodule is a type of mass that is either round or oval in shape, and not a cyst or abscess. If a mass is geographic or irregular in shape or has a diffuse, confluent, or infiltrative appearance, the term "nodule" does not apply.</p> <p>While there is no strict size cutoff, the term "nodule" is often reserved for small masses, generally ≤ 2 cm.</p>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about nodules.</p>		General term	5/2021
Nodule-in-nodule appearance	Presence of a smaller inner nodule within a larger outer nodule.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>The inner nodule differs in imaging features from the outer nodule or mass.</p> <p>It may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peripherally or centrally located within the outer nodule</li> <li>Small relative to the outer nodule or almost as large as the outer nodule</li> <li>Round, oval, or lobulated in shape</li> </ul> <p>Nodule-in-nodule appearance is a type of mosaic appearance.</p> <p>The inner and outer nodules must be solid. The term nodule-in-nodule appearance does not apply to a hemangioma.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, nodule-in-nodule appearance is an ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about nodule-in-nodule appearance and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Nodule-in-nodule pattern, nodule-in-nodule architecture	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular	5/2021
Nonenhancing capsule	Subtype of capsule that does not show enhancement on any image.	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI algorithm, nonenhancing capsule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is one of two defined subtypes of capsule.</li> <li>Is an ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular.</li> <li>May be seen as follows:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precontrast CT: hypoattenuating</li> <li>Precontrast T1WI: hypointense</li> <li>T2WI: hypo- or hyperintense</li> <li>DWI: hyperintense</li> <li>Contrast-enhanced CT or T1WI: nonenhancing</li> <li>Transitional phase (TP): hypointense</li> <li>Hepatobiliary phase (HBP): hypointense</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about nonenhancing capsule.</p>	Nonenhancing distinctive rim	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring HCC in particular	5/2021
Nonmasslike (adjective)	Not having the properties of a mass; without distorting or destroying parenchyma or other anatomic structures.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>May apply to lesions or pseudolesions</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonmasslike fat deposition or sparing</li> </ul>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about mass, nonmasslike, and related terms.</p>		General term	5/2021

Term	Definition (2021)	Context of Use (COU)	Applicable modalities	General comments	LI-RADS specific comments	Synonyms (their use is generally less preferred)	Type of term (if used in context of LI-RADS)	Date approved
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonmasslike iron deposition or sparing</li> <li>• Nonmasslike arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)</li> <li>• Nonmasslike heterogeneous enhancement</li> </ul>				
Nonperipheral washout	Subtype of washout that is <b>NOT</b> mainly in observation periphery.	Broad	CT, MRI, CEUS	<p>Nonperipheral washout may be homogeneous or heterogeneous; if heterogeneous, it may be focal, scattered (patchy, spotty), nodule-in-nodule, or mosaic.</p> <p>See <i>washout</i> for additional comments.</p>	<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI algorithm, nonperipheral washout is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of two defined subtypes of washout</li> <li>• A major feature of HCC</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about nonperipheral washout.</p>	<p>Washout; venous/portal venous/delayed/late phase hypoenhancement, hypoattenuation, or hypointensity; deenhancement</p>	Imaging feature, major	5/2021
Nonrim arterial hyperenhancement (nonrim APHE)	Subtype of APHE that is <b>NOT</b> mainly in observation periphery.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>Nonrim APHE is a subtype of APHE.</p> <p>Nonrim APHE may be homogeneous or heterogeneous.</p> <p>See <i>APHE</i> for additional comments.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, nonrim APHE is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of two defined subtypes of APHE</li> <li>• A major feature of HCC</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about APHE and its subtypes.</p>	<p>Arterial hypervascularity, hypervascularity in arterial phase, increased contrast enhancement in hepatic arterial phase, increased contrast enhancement in late hepatic arterial phase, hypervascularity, high attenuation area in arterial phase, contrast uptake in arterial phase, wash in</p>	Imaging feature, major	5/2021

Term	Definition (2021)	Context of Use (COU)	Applicable modalities	General comments	LI-RADS specific comments	Synonyms (their use is generally less preferred)	Type of term (if used in context of LI-RADS)	Date approved
Observation	Area distinctive compared to liver at imaging.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	Observation is a general term that includes lesion and pseudolesion. May be a true lesion (if it corresponds to a pathologic abnormality) or a pseudolesion (if it does not correspond to a pathologic abnormality).	The LI-RADS decision tree and algorithm use the generic term "observation" for simplicity. For clear communication in clinical practice, radiologists may use the most specific term for which there is certainty. For example, if a radiologist is certain that an observation is a solid nodule, then the term "nodule" is acceptable. On the other hand, if a radiologist is not certain if an observation is a true lesion or a pseudolesion, the term "observation" is preferred, as the terms "nodule" or "lesion" or "focal liver lesion" may be misleading.  See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more observation, lesion, pseudolesion, and related terms.	Lesion or pseudolesion	General term	5/2021
Observation, lesion, pseudolesion, mass, nodule	N/A	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	Observation, lesion, pseudolesion, mass, and nodule are a group of related but not identical terms.  The terms are related hierarchically.  Observation is a general term that encompasses all the other terms in this group.  Lesion and pseudolesion are types of observations.  A mass is a type of lesion.  A nodule is a type of mass.  The most specific term can be used depending on context and user preference. For example, if an observation is thought to be a true lesion, then either the term "lesion" or the term "observation" may be used. If there is uncertainty about whether an observation is a true lesion or a pseudolesion, the term "observation" is preferable.	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about observation, lesion, pseudolesion, mass, and nodule.		Group of terms	5/2021
Parallels blood pool enhancement	Temporal pattern in which enhancement approximates blood pool in all phases.	Broad	CT, MRI	In general, the following blood vessels represent the blood pool in each phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arterial phase (AP): aorta or hepatic artery</li><li>• Portal venous phase (PVP): portal vein</li><li>• Delayed (DP), transitional (TP), and hepatobiliary (HBP) phases: portal vein or hepatic vein</li></ul> This enhancement pattern is characteristic but in isolation is not diagnostic of hemangiomas. Other features (i.e. marked T2-hyperintensity and peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement) may be needed to confirm the diagnosis of hemangioma.  Note that with gadoxetate the blood pool usually becomes about isointense to liver in transitional phase and hypointense to liver in hepatobiliary phase (HBP). Therefore, care should be exercised	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, parallels blood pool enhancement is an ancillary feature favoring benignity.  See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about parallels blood pool enhancement and how it is used in LI-RADS.	Following signal/attenuation/brightness/enhancement of blood pool on all phases	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021

Term	Definition (2021)	Context of Use (COU)	Applicable modalities	General comments	LI-RADS specific comments	Synonyms (their use is generally less preferred)	Type of term (if used in context of LI-RADS)	Date approved
				when applying this feature with gadoxetate. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about the application of this feature with gadoxetate.				
Parenchymal distortion	Parenchymal area seen on ultrasound with one or more of the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ill-defined area of heterogeneity</li><li>• Refractive shadow</li><li>• Loss of normal hepatic architecture</li></ul>	Broad	US, CEUS	Loss of normal hepatic architecture includes loss of visualization of normal portal triads or hepatic veins.	In the context of the LI-RADS US surveillance algorithm, parenchymal distortion $\geq 10$ mm in size is categorized US-3 Positive. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf</a> .		General term	5/2021
Perfusion alteration	Nonmasslike change in blood supply to an area of the liver.	Broad	CT, MRI, CEUS	Often seen as a nonmasslike area of hyperenhancement in the arterial phase with isoenhancement on postarterial phases.  May be of any size.  Usually geographic, occasional round or oval in shape.  Often peripherally located.  May be caused by or be associated with a mass.  On CT and MRI, may be mistaken for a nodule, especially if round or oval in shape, or for an infiltrative mass, especially if heterogeneous.	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-15-Benign-entities.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-15-Benign-entities.pdf</a> to learn more about perfusion alterations.	THID, THAD, THED, AP shunt, perfusional abnormality, perfusion anomaly, vascular pseudolesion	General term	5/2021
Peripheral discontinuous nodular arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)	Areas of enhancement that during the arterial phase are initially round or globular in shape and distributed discontinuously along the periphery of a lesion and then rapidly expand to fill the lesion in its entirely or nearly in its entirety.	Broad	CEUS	Peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE is a temporal subtype of APHE assessable with continuous imaging during the arterial phase (AP) on CEUS.  Diagnostic imaging feature of nonsclerosed hemangiomas on CEUS.	In the LI-RADS CEUS algorithm, peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A subtype of APHE</li><li>• Diagnostic of hemangioma</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> to learn more about peripheral discontinuous nodular APHE and how it is used in CEUS LI-RADS.		Imaging feature, general	5/2021
Peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement	Areas of enhancement that in the early postcontrast phases are round or globular in shape and distributed discontinuously along the periphery of a lesion and that in subsequent phases expand and approximately parallel the blood pool in brightness.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	Peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement is a temporal enhancement pattern. Strict assessment of this feature requires acquisition of two or more phases.  As the areas of enhancement expand they may coalesce to become continuous, may fill the lesion in its entirely or nearly in its entirety, and may no longer appear round or globular.  The enhancing areas approximately parallel the blood pool in brightness. If a hepatobiliary agent is given, the enhancing areas	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about peripheral discontinuous nodular hyperenhancement and how it is used in LI-RADS.	Peripheral discontinuous globular enhancement, peripheral discontinuous puddles of enhancement, peripheral discontinuous puddling	Imaging feature, general	5/2021

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				<p>usually become iso- and then hypo-intense relative to liver in the transitional and hepatobiliary phases.</p> <p>Diagnostic imaging feature of nonsclerosed hemangiomas.</p> <p>Although strict assessment of peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement requires acquisition of two or more phases, a diagnosis of hemangioma can be made on a single postcontrast phase if the imaging features are sufficiently characteristic. In such cases, the temporal pattern is inferred.</p>				
Peripheral washout	Subtype of washout that is mainly in observation periphery.	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>Peripheral washout is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a subtype of targetoid morphology and</li> <li>• a subtype of washout.</li> </ul> <p>See <i>washout</i> for additional comments.</p>	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, the presence of peripheral washout suggests intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (ICC) or other non-HCC malignancy, but it does not exclude HCC.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about peripheral washout and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Venous/portal venous/delayed/late phase peripheral hypoenhancement, peripheral hypoattenuation, or hypointensity; peripheral deenhancement	Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Portal venous phase (PVP)	A postarterial phase acquired no more than 2 minutes after injection of a contrast agent when portal and hepatic veins are enhanced more than liver.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>On CEUS: the PVP usually starts around 30-45 seconds after injection, lasts for 90-100 seconds, and ends at around 2 minutes after injection.</p> <p>On CT and MRI: Typically PVP images are acquired around 60 seconds to 80 seconds after start of injection.</p> <p>The PVP and delayed phase (DP) appear similar. They can be distinguished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing after injection</li> <li>• If both phases are acquired: the liver, the portal veins, and the hepatic veins are usually more enhanced in the PVP than in the DP.</li> </ul> <p>In some patients, the transitional phase may begin before 2 minutes after injection of gadoxetate. If the liver is as enhanced or more enhanced than veins after injection of gadoxetate, the PVP has passed, even if the images are acquired within 2 minutes of injection.</p>	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about the portal venous phase.	Early postarterial phase, portal dominant phase	Imaging phase	5/2021
Postarterial extracellular phase (ECP)	A general term referring to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVP and DP, if an extracellular agent or gadobenate is given</li> <li>• PVP only, if gadoxetate is given</li> </ul>	Broad	CT, MRI	<p>During the postarterial extracellular phase, enhancement of the liver is mainly due to extracellular distribution of a contrast agent.</p> <p>Does not apply to blood pool agents.</p>			Imaging phase	5/2021
Postarterial phase	General term that refers to imaging after the arterial phase.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>On CEUS: the postarterial phase is divided into the portal venous phase and the late phase.</p> <p>On CT and MRI with extracellular contrast agents: the postarterial</p>		Venous phase, late phase	Imaging phase	5/2021

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				<p>phase is divided into the portal venous phase and delayed phase.</p> <p>On MRI with gadoxetate: the postarterial phase is divided into the portal venous phase, transitional phase, and hepatobiliary phase.</p> <p>On MRI with gadobenate: the postarterial phase is divided into the portal venous phase, delayed phase, and hepatobiliary phase. A transitional phase does occur but is rarely acquired.</p>				
Pseudolesion	An observation that may simulate but does not represent a pathologic abnormality.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>May be mistaken for a true lesion.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round or oval perfusion alterations</li> <li>• Some artifacts such as ghosting artifacts from aorta</li> </ul>	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-7-The-LIRADS-observation.pdf</a> to learn more about pseudolesions.</p>		General term	5/2021
Refractive shadowing	Linear shadows from the lateral edges of an observation. Observation may be well-defined or ill-defined.	Broad	US, CEUS	In some infiltrative tumors, refractive shadows may be the best sonographic finding to indicate their presence.	<p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-US-Algorithm-Portrait-2017.pdf</a>.</p>		General term	5/2021
Rim arterial phase hyperenhancement (rim APHE)	Subtype of APHE that is mainly in observation periphery.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	<p>Rim APHE is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a subtype of targetoid morphology and</li> <li>• a subtype of APHE.</li> </ul> <p>Rim APHE can be smooth or irregular. It can vary in thickness.</p> <p>Rim APHE should not be confused with peripheral discontinuous nodular enhancement, which is characteristic of hemangioma.</p> <p>See APHE for additional comments.</p>	<p>In the LI-RADS CEUS and CT/MRI algorithms, rim APHE is an LR-M feature.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> to learn more about rim APHE.</p>	Peripheral APHE, ring APHE, targetoid APHE, APHE in target pattern, rim enhancement	Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Size	Largest outer-edge-to-outer-edge dimension of an observation.	Broad	US, CEUS, CT, MRI	Pick phase, series, and plane in which margins are clearest.	<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include capsule in measurement.</li> <li>• Do not measure in arterial phase or DWI if margins are clearly visible on different series</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about size and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p> <p>The definition of "size" in LI-RADS corresponds to the definition of the "longest diameter" in RECIST. LI-RADS prefers "size" rather than "diameter" as observations may not be spherical.</p>	Diameter, dimension, long axis	<p>Imaging feature, general</p> <p>Imaging feature, major</p>	5/2021
Size reduction	Spontaneous decrease in size over time, that cannot be explained only by technique differences, artifact, or measurement error.	Broad	CT, MRI, US, CEUS		<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, size reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is an ancillary feature favoring benignity</li> <li>• Should be measured on the same phase, sequence, and plane on serial exams if possible</li> </ul>	Decreased size, shrinkage, regression	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be assessed <i>only</i> if there is a prior CT or MRI exam of sufficient quality and appropriate technique to reliably measure interval change in size, if any</li> <li>Should not be assessed by comparing to prior US or CEUS exams</li> <li>Should not be applied as an ancillary feature favoring benignity if the size reduction is due to resorption of blood products. Rationale: size reduction due to resorption of blood products can be seen in malignant tumors</li> </ul> <p>In the context of CEUS LI-RADS diagnostic algorithm, size reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is an ancillary feature favoring benignity</li> <li>Should not be assessed by comparing to prior CT or MRI exams</li> </ul> <p>LI-RADS CEUS does not classify growth into subtypes.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about size reduction and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>				
Size stability $\geq$ 2 years	No change in observation size measured on serial exams $\geq$ 2 years apart.	LI-RADS	CT, MRI, CEUS		<p>In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, size stability <math>\geq</math> 2 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is an ancillary feature favoring benignity</li> <li>Should be measured on the same phase, sequence, and plane on serial exams if possible</li> <li>Should be assessed <i>only</i> if there is a prior CT or MRI exam of sufficient quality and appropriate technique to reliably measure interval change in size, if any</li> <li>Should not be assessed by comparing to prior US or CEUS exams</li> <li>Should not be applied as an ancillary feature favoring benignity if there is any doubt about size stability</li> </ul> <p>In the context of CEUS LI-RADS diagnostic algorithm, size stability <math>\geq</math> 2 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is an ancillary feature favoring benignity</li> <li>Should not be assessed by comparing to prior CT or MRI exams</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about size stability <math>\geq</math> 2 years and how it is used in LI-RADS.</p>	Stable size, unchanged size, stable diameter, unchanged diameter	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021	
Spokewheel, centrifugal arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)	Enhancement in a lesion that during the arterial phase begins as an internal focus and then rapidly expands outward in a radial, spoke-wheel pattern.	Broad	CEUS	<p>Spokewheel, centrifugal APHE is a temporal subtype of APHE assessable with continuous imaging during the arterial phase (AP) on CEUS.</p> <p>Imaging feature suggestive of FNH on CEUS.</p>			Imaging feature, general OR Imaging feature, diagnostic of FNH	5/2021	

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Subthreshold growth	Size increase of a mass, less than threshold growth.  Any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Size increase &lt; 50% over any time period</li><li>• Any size increase over time interval &gt; 6 months</li><li>• A new mass of any size</li></ul>	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, subthreshold growth is a(n): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subtype of growth</li><li>• Ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about subthreshold growth.	Subthreshold diameter increase, subthreshold size increase, growth less than threshold	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021
Targetoid	Target-like morphology on CT or MRI. The center and periphery of a mass have different imaging characteristics.	Broad	CT, MRI		In the context of the CT/MRI LI-RADS algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Five subtypes of targetoid have been defined:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rim arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)</li><li>• Peripheral washout</li><li>• Delayed central enhancement</li><li>• Targetoid diffusion restriction</li><li>• Targetoid transitional phase (TP) or hepatobiliary phase (HBP) appearance</li></ul></li><li>• The presence of any of the targetoid subtypes suggests intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (iCCA) or other non-HCC malignancy, but it does not exclude HCC.</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about targetoid features and how they are used in LI-RADS.	Target-like, target appearance	Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Targetoid diffusion restriction	Subtype of restricted diffusion that is greatest in observation periphery.	Broad	MRI	Targetoid diffusion restriction is <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A subtype of targetoid morphology and</li><li>• A subtype of diffusion restriction</li></ul>	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, targetoid diffusion restriction is an LR-M feature  See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about targetoid diffusion restriction and how it is used in LI-RADS.	Peripheral restriction, DWI target sign/appearance, targetoid diffusion	Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Targetoid transitional phase (TP) or hepatobiliary phase (HBP) appearance	Subtype TP or HBP hypointensity where the observation periphery is more hypointense than the center.	Broad	MRI with HBA	Targetoid TP/HBP appearance is <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A subtype of targetoid morphology and</li><li>• A subtype of TP/HBP hypointensity</li></ul>	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, targetoid TP or HBP appearance is an LR-M feature.  See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about TP or HBP appearance and how it is used in LI-RADS.	HBP/TP cloud, HBP/TP target sign/appearance	Imaging feature, LR-M	5/2021
Threshold growth	Size increase of a mass by ≥ 50% in ≤ 6 months.	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, threshold growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is one of two defined subtypes of growth.</li><li>• Is a major feature of HCC.</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about threshold growth.	Growth by 50% or more, size increase by 50% or more	Imaging feature, major	5/2021

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Transitional phase (TP)	Postarterial phase acquired with an intravenous hepatobiliary contrast agent when liver vessels and hepatic parenchyma are of similar signal intensity, which occurs between the portal venous and hepatobiliary phase.	Broad	MRI with gadoxetate.  (While the TP does occur with gadobenate, TP images are usually not acquired with this agent)	During the TP, enhancement of the liver is due to both extracellular and intracellular distribution of a hepatobiliary contrast agent.  The TP is typically acquired 2 to 5 minutes after injection of gadoxetate.  Although TP images are typically acquired 2 to 5 minutes after injection of gadoxetate, the onset of the TP is variable. In some patients, the onset may be before 2 minutes after injection; in other patients, the onset may be later than 5 minutes after injection.  This phase is acquired almost exclusively with gadoxetate. While TP exists with gadobenate, it is rarely, if ever, acquired.	See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-12-Technique.pdf</a> to learn more about the TP.	Interstitial phase, equilibrium phase, late dynamic phase are often misused to indicate the transitional phase but they are not true synonyms for the transitional phase.	Imaging phase	5/2021
Transitional phase (TP) hypointensity	Intensity in the transitional phase lower than liver.	Broad	MRI with gadoxetate	TP hypointensity does not qualify as washout.  Compare to functional areas of parenchyma (i.e., do not compare to vessels or to parts of liver that do not take up the agent).	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>TP hypointensity can be seen in the entire observation or only in part(s) of the observation. If any part of the observation has TP hypointensity, then TP hypointensity is considered to be present.</li><li>Unless in a targetoid pattern, TP hypointensity is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general</li><li>Targetoid TP hypointensity is a subtype of TP hypointensity. This subtype is a targetoid LR-M feature and not an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.</li></ul> See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about TP hypointensity and how it is used in LI-RADS.	Transitional phase hypoenhancement, late dynamic phase hypointensity, late dynamic phase hypoenhancement, equilibrium phase hypointensity, interstitial phase hypointensity	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021
Treated lesion	Lesion treated by any therapy.	Broad	CEUS, CT, MRI	Lesions can be treated by locoregional therapy, resection, systemic therapy, or a combination.	LI-RADS provides guidance on assessing treatment response or recurrence after locoregional therapy or resection. See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-2018-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/LI-RADS-2018-Core.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-9-Treatment-response.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-9-Treatment-response.pdf</a> to learn more about how to assess treatment response using LI-RADS.  LI-RADS does not yet provide guidance on assessing treatment response after systemic therapy.		General term	5/2021
Undistorted vessels	Vessels traversing an observation without displacement, deformation, or other alteration.	Broad	CT, MRI	Characteristic of perfusion alteration.	In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, undistorted vessels is an ancillary feature favoring benignity.  See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about undistorted vessels.	Lack of mass effect on vessels	Ancillary feature favoring benignity	5/2021
US visibility as nodule	Unenhanced US visibility as discrete nodule or mass corresponding to CT- or MRI-detected observation.	LI-RADS	CT, MRI		In the context of the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, US visibility as nodule is an ancillary feature favoring malignancy in general.  See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> to learn more about US visibility as nodule and how it is used in LI-RADS.	US detectability as discrete nodule, sonographic visibility as discrete nodule, sonographic visibility as nodule	Imaging feature, ancillary feature favoring malignancy, not HCC in particular	5/2021

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Washout	<p>Reduction in enhancement from earlier to later phase resulting in hypoenhancement relative to liver.</p> <p>This can have one of the following patterns by modality:</p> <p>CT or MRI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyperenhancing to hypoenhancing</li> <li>Isoenhancing to hypoenhancing</li> </ul> <p>If hepatobiliary agent is given, must be assessed before the transitional phase.</p> <p>CEUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyperenhancing to hypoenhancing</li> <li>Isoenhancing to hypoenhancing</li> <li>Hypoenhancing to unequivocally more hypoenhancing</li> </ul>	Broad	CT, MRI, CEUS	<p>Washout can be assessed only if at least two contrast-enhanced phases are obtained (e.g., arterial phase followed by one or more postarterial phases) so that the reduction in enhancement over time can be assessed.</p> <p>Washout cannot be assessed if there is a single contrast-enhanced phase.</p> <p>Washout must occur in an extracellular postarterial phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For extracellular contrast agents and gadobenate: hypoenhancement in portal venous phase (PVP), delayed phase (DP), or both</li> <li>For gadoxetate: hypoenhancement in PVP only. Hypointensity in transitional phase (TP) or hepatobiliary phase (HBP) does not qualify as washout</li> </ul> <p>Washout can be assessed qualitatively (i.e., visually) relative to liver parenchyma. It does not require quantitative measurements.</p> <p>Washout applies to observations with at least some enhancement. It does not apply to nonenhancing observations.</p> <p>Reduction in enhancement from arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE) to isoenhancement does not qualify as washout.</p> <p>If APHE is present, the areas with APHE and washout do not need to coincide.</p> <p>If the liver parenchyma visually consists of both nodules and fibrosis, then compare to composite liver tissue (i.e., a visual average of the nodules and fibrosis).</p> <p>Washout can be seen in the entire observation or only in part(s) of the observation. If any part of the observation has washout, then washout is considered to be present.</p> <p>On CT or MRI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washout has two subtypes based on morphology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peripheral washout</li> <li>Nonperipheral washout</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>On CEUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washout is divided into subtypes based on time of onset and degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time of onset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early: &lt; 60 seconds after contrast injection</li> <li>Late: ≥ 60 seconds after contrast injection</li> </ul> </li> <li>Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild: less enhanced than liver, but not devoid of enhancement (i.e., some enhancement persists). If mild washout becomes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>In the LI-RADS CT/MRI diagnostic algorithm, the washout subtypes are classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peripheral washout is a LR-M feature</li> <li>Nonperipheral washout is a major feature of HCC</li> </ul> <p>In the LI-RADS CEUS diagnostic algorithm, the washout subtypes are classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early or marked washout is a LR-M feature</li> <li>Late and mild washout is a major feature of HCC</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Clinical-Resources/LIRADS/Chapter-16-Imaging-features.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf">https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/LI-RADS/CEUS-LI-RADS-2017-Core.pdf</a> to learn more about washout and its subtypes.</p>	<p>venous/portal venous/delayed/late phase hypoenhancement, hypoattenuation, or hypointensity; deenhancement</p>	Imaging feature, general	5/2021

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				<p>marked &gt; 2 minutes after contrast injection, it is still characterized as mild.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marked: virtually devoid of enhancement ("punched-out") by 2 min after contrast injection.</li> </ul> <p>While washout is similar to fade in that the area of interest appears to de-enhance relative to liver, washout and fade are not the same:</p> <p>Washout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows isoenhancement or hyperenhancement in an earlier phase (CT or MRI) or any degree of enhancement in an earlier phase (CEUS)</li> <li>Results in hypoenhancement in a later phase relative to liver</li> <li>Examples (AP = arterial phase; PVP = portal venous phase; DP = delayed phase; LP = late phase): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CT/MRI/CEUS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyper (AP) → hypo (PVP or DP/LP or both)</li> <li>Hyper (PVP) → hypo (DP/LP)</li> <li>Iso (AP) → hypo (PVP or DP/LP or both)</li> <li>Iso (PVP) → hypo (DP/LP)</li> </ul> </li> <li>CEUS only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypo (AP) → more hypo (PVP or LP or both)</li> <li>Hypo (PVP) → more hypo (LP)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Fade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows hyperenhancement in an earlier phase</li> <li>Results in iso- or minimal hyperenhancement in all later phases relative to liver</li> <li>Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CT/MRI/CEUS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyper (AP) → iso/min hyper (all later phases)</li> <li>Hyper (PVP) → iso/min hyper (all later phases)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>				