ARIA MRI examples and radiographic severity grading





MRI FINDINGS SEEN IN AMYLOID-RELATED IMAGING ABNORMALITIES (ARIA) are a

consequence of the presence of amyloid in blood vessel walls (cerebral amyloid angiopathy [CAA]).1 CAA can cause spontaneous ARIA in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD).¹ The risk of ARIA is increased with the use of monoclonal antibodies that remove amyloid plaque in patients with AD.1-3 In these cases, surveillance MRIs can be used to monitor for ARIA^{1,3}

ARIA MRI FINDINGS

ARIA is subdivided into ARIA-edema/effusion (ARIA-E) or ARIA-hemosiderin/hemorrhage (ARIA-H)¹⁻³ MRI images data on file

ARIA-E



VASOGENIC EDEMA³ FLAIR hyperintense; parenchymal edema

SULCAL EFFUSION³ FLAIR hyperintense; sulcal abnormalities



SUPERFICIAL SIDEROSIS⁴ T2*GRE hypointense abnormalities

MICROHEMORRHAGES³

Punctate foci of signal void on T2*GRE in an area of parenchymal edema

Intracerebral hemorrhage (also termed macrohemorrhage) is a rare lobar intracerebral hemorrhage occurs spontaneously in AD and with monoclonal antibodies that remove amyloid, related to underlying CAA^{1,4}

ARIA-H

ARIA-E SEVERITY GRADING (IMAGING CASES)⁴

ARIA-E can be categorized by radiographic severity (mild to severe) based on the following criteria:4

	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE	
ARIA-E Sulcal and/or cortical/ subcortical FLAIR hyperintensity	1 location <5 cm	1 location 5–10 cm OR >1 location each <10 cm	≥1 location >10 cm	
APIA is graded as the basis of treatment exercise (Adapted from Consult) at al (2002)				

ARIA is graded on the basis of treatment-emergent events. 4 Adapted from Cogswell et al (2022)

The parenchymal signal abnormalities can range from being subtle in a single region, to being multi-focal, or nearly pan-hemispheric. Sulcal effusions occur in the leptomeningeal or sulcal space, in isolation or near gray matter disturbances¹ MRI images data on file



Mild ARIA-E: the red circle shows a T2-FLAIR hyperintensity (sulcal effusion) measuring <5 cm in diameter and mono-focal (single region). On follow-up, ARIA-E resolved

Moderate ARIA-E: the red circle shows new T2-FLAIR hyperintensity (parenchymal edema) in two areas measuring 5-10 cm measuring 5-10 cm

SEVERE ARIA-E

Axial T2-FLAIR images acquired pre- and post-treatment with monoclonal antibodies that remove amyloid plaque MRI images data on file



Severe ARIA-E: Severe ARIA-E: the red circle shows an extensive T2-FLAIR hyperintense signal (parenchymal edema) measuring >10 cm (severe ARIA-E). Negative DWI differentiates ARIA-E from acute ischemia or other cause of cytotoxic edema4

ARIA-H SEVERITY GRADING (IMAGING CASES)⁴

ARIA-H microhemorrhage and ARIA-H superficial siderosis are each categorized by radiographic severity (mild to severe) based on the following criteria4:

	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE
ARIA-H Superficial siderosis	1 focal area	2 focal areas	>2 focal areas
Number of new microhemorrhages	≤4	5–9	≤10

ARIA is graded on the basis of treatment-emergent events. For ARIA-H, this count includes cumulative new microhemorrhages or regions of siderosis compared with the baseline, pretreatment examination. Adapted from Cogswell et al (2022)



Axial T2*-GRE imaging acquired pre- and post-treatment with monoclonal antibodies that remove amyloid plaque

Mild ARIA-H, microhemorrhage (red circle): this patient had one treatment-emergent microhemorrhage in the left occipital lobe MRI images data on file

Axial T2*-GRE imaging acquired post-treatment with monoclonal antibodies that remove amyloid plaque

Severe ARIA-H, microhemorrhage (red circles): ≥ 10 microhemorrhages in the left and right parietal lobe

MRI images data on file

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ABBREVIATIONS:

AD, Alzheimer's disease: ADC, apparent diffusion coefficient; ARIA, amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (includes ARIA-E and H); ARIA-E, ARIA-edema/effusion; ARIA-H, ARIA-hemosiderin/hemorrhage; CAA, Cerebral amyloid angiopathy; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; FLAIR, fluid-attenuated inversion recovery; GRE, gradient recalled echo; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging.





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