Imaging Protocol

An imaging protocol is a standardized set of instructions and parameters used to perform a medical imaging study (e.g., MRI, CT, PET, ultrasound) for a specific clinical purpose, ensuring:

Consistent image quality

Diagnostic reliability

Patient safety

Reproducibility across institutions or sessions

U What It Typically Includes Imaging modality (e.g., MRI, CT)

Anatomic region (e.g., brain, spine, thorax)

Technical parameters:

Slice thickness

Field of view

Contrast agent use (type, dose, timing)

Timing sequences (e.g., T1, T2, FLAIR in MRI)

Radiation dose or scan settings in CT

Patient positioning

Pre-scan preparation (e.g., fasting, hydration, sedation)

Post-processing steps

Why Imaging Protocols Matter

Ensure diagnostic accuracy (e.g., detecting stroke, tumors, perfusion defects)

Allow comparability over time (follow-ups)

Minimize radiation or contrast risks

Help technologists and radiologists follow best practices

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