

# O-RADS™ Risk Categorization and Management Quick Reference

**Table 1. O-RADS™ Ultrasound Risk Stratification and Management System for Classic Benign Lesions (O-RADS™ 2)**

Lexicon	Descriptors and Definitions For any atypical features on initial or follow-up exam, use other lexicon descriptors (e.g., unilocular, multilocular, solid, etc.).	Management If sonographic features are only suggestive, and overall assessment is uncertain, consider follow-up US within 3 months.
Typical Hemorrhagic Cyst	<p>Unilocular cyst, <b>no internal vascularity*</b>, <u>and at least one</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reticular pattern (fine, thin intersecting lines representing fibrin strands)</li> <li>• Retractable clot intracystic component with straight, concave, or angular margins</li> </ul>	<p>Imaging<sup>†</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premenopausal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ≤5 cm: None</li> <li>○ &gt;5 cm but &lt;10 cm: Follow-up US in 2-3 months</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Postmenopausal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ &lt;10 cm, options to confirm include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow-up US in 2-3 months</li> <li>▪ US specialist (if available)</li> <li>▪ MRI (with O-RADS MRI score)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Clinical: Referral to a Gynecologist**</p> <p>Note: Hemorrhagic cysts typically do not occur in post-menopausal people. If this is the case for your person, consider recategorizing the lesion with other lexicon descriptors.</p>

Lexicon	<b>Descriptors and Definitions</b> For any atypical features on initial or follow-up exam, use other lexicon descriptors (e.g., unilocular, multilocular, solid, etc.).	<b>Management</b> If sonographic features are only suggestive, and overall assessment is uncertain, consider follow-up US within 3 months.
<b>Typical Dermoid Cyst</b>	Cystic lesion with $\leq 3$ locules, <b>no internal vascularity*</b> , <u>and at least one</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyperechoic component(s) (diffuse or regional) with shadowing</li> <li>• Hyperechoic lines and dots</li> <li>• Floating echogenic spherical structures</li> </ul>	Imaging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\leq 3</math> cm: May consider follow-up US in 12 months***</li> <li>• <math>&gt;3</math> cm but <math>&lt;10</math> cm: If not surgically excised, follow-up US in 12 months***</li> </ul> Clinical: Referral to a Gynecologist**
<b>Typical Endometrioma</b>	Cystic lesion with $\leq 3$ locules, <b>no internal vascularity*</b> , homogeneous low-level/ground glass echoes, and smooth inner walls/septation(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\pm</math> Peripheral punctate echogenic foci in wall</li> </ul>	Imaging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premenopausal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <math>&lt;10</math> cm: If not surgically excised, follow-up US in 12 months***</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Postmenopausal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <math>&lt;10</math> cm and <u>initial exam</u>, options to confirm include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow-up US in 2-3 months</li> <li>▪ US specialist (if available)</li> <li>▪ MRI (with O-RADS MRI score)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> Then, if not surgically excised, recommend follow-up US in 12 months*** Clinical: Referral to a Gynecologist**
<b>Typical Paraovarian Cyst</b>	Simple cyst separate from the ovary	Imaging: None Clinical: None

<b>Lexicon</b>	<b>Descriptors and Definitions</b> For any atypical features on initial or follow-up exam, use other lexicon descriptors (e.g., unilocular, multilocular, solid, etc.).	<b>Management</b> If sonographic features are only suggestive, and overall assessment is uncertain, consider follow-up US within 3 months.
<b>Typical Peritoneal Inclusion Cyst</b>	Fluid collection with ovary at margin or suspended within that conforms to adjacent pelvic organs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ± Septations (representing adhesions)</li> </ul>	
<b>Typical Hydrosalpinx</b>	Anechoic, fluid-filled tubular structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ± Incomplete septation(s) (representing adhesions)</li> <li>• Endosalpingeal folds (short, round projections around the inner walls)</li> </ul>	Imaging: None  Clinical: Referral to a Gynecologist**

MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; US = ultrasound

\*Excludes vascularity in walls or intervening septation(s)

\*\*As needed for management of clinical issues

\*\*\*There is currently a paucity of evidence for defining the need, optimal duration, or interval of timing for surveillance. If stable, consider US follow-up at 24 months from initial exam, then as clinically indicated. Specifically, evidence does support an increasing risk of malignancy in endometriomas following menopause and those present greater than 10 years. See [O-RADS US Risk Stratification and Management System: A Consensus Guideline from the ACR O-RADS Committee](#) for additional information.

+The recommendation differs from O-RADS™ v2022.

**Table 2. O-RADS™ Ultrasound Risk Stratification and Management System Adapted for the Ontario Healthcare Context**

O-RADS™ Score	Risk Category	Lexicon Descriptors		Management	
				Premenopausal	Postmenopausal
0	Incomplete Evaluation [N/A]	Lesions features relevant for risk stratification cannot be accurately characterized due to technical factors		Repeat US study or MRI	
1	Normal Ovary [N/A]	No ovarian lesion		None	
		Physiologic cyst: follicle (≤3 cm) or corpus luteum (typically ≤3 cm)			
2	Almost certainly benign [ $<1\%$ ]	Simple Cyst	≤3 cm	N/A (see follicle)	None
			>3 to 5 cm	None	Follow-up US in 12 months*
			>5 to <10 cm	Follow-up US in 12 months*	
		Unilocular, smooth, non-simple cyst, smooth (internal echoes and/or incomplete septations) Bilocular, smooth cyst	≤3 cm	None	Follow-up US in 12 months*
			>3 cm to <10 cm	Follow-up US in 6 months*	
		Typical benign ovarian lesion (Table 1)	<10 cm	See Table 1 (Classic Benign Lesions) for descriptors and management	
		Typical benign extraovarian lesion (Table 1)	Any size		
		3	Low Risk Malignancy [1 - <10%]	Typical benign ovarian lesion (Table 1), ≥10 cm	
Uni- or bilocular cyst, smooth, ≥10 cm					
Unilocular cyst, irregular, any size					
Multilocular cyst, smooth, <10 cm, CS <4					
Solid lesion, ± shadowing, smooth, any size, CS = 1					
Solid lesion, shadowing, smooth, any size, CS 2-3					

O-RADS™ Score	Risk Category	Lexicon Descriptors		Management	
				Premenopausal	Postmenopausal
4	Intermediate Risk [10 - <50%]	Bilocular cyst without solid component(s)	Irregular, any size, any CS	<div>Imaging:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Options include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>US specialist (if available)</li><li>MRI (with O-RADS MRI score)***</li></ul></li></ul> <div>Clinical: Referral to a gynecologist with gyne-oncologist consultation <u>or</u> solely by gyne-oncologist</div>	
		Multilocular cyst without solid component(s)	Smooth, ≥10 cm, CS <4		
			Smooth, any size, CS = 4		
			Irregular, any size, any CS		
		Unilocular cyst with solid component(s)	<4 pps or solid component(s) not considered a pp, any size		
		Bi- or multilocular cyst with solid component(s)	Any size, CS = 1-2		
5	High Risk [≥50%]	Solid lesion, non-shadowing	Smooth, any size, CS = 2-3	<div>Imaging: While referral pending, may consider ordering a staging CT (chest, abdomen, pelvis)<sup>+</sup></div> <div>Clinical: Direct urgent referral to a gyne-oncologist<sup>+</sup></div>	
		Unilocular cyst, ≥ 4 pps, any size, any CS			
		Bi- or multilocular cyst with solid component(s), any size, CS = 3-4			
		Solid lesion, ± shadowing, smooth, any size, CS = 4			
		Solid lesion, irregular, any size, any CS			
Ascites and/or peritoneal nodules****					

CS = colour score; gyne = gynecologic; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; N/A = not applicable;

US = ultrasound; pps = papillary projections

\* Shorter imaging follow-up may be considered in some scenarios (e.g., clinical factors). If smaller (≥10 – 15% decrease in average linear dimension), consider follow-up US at 12 and 24 months from initial exam, then management per gynecology. For changing morphology, reassess using lexicon descriptors. Clinical management with gynecology as needed.

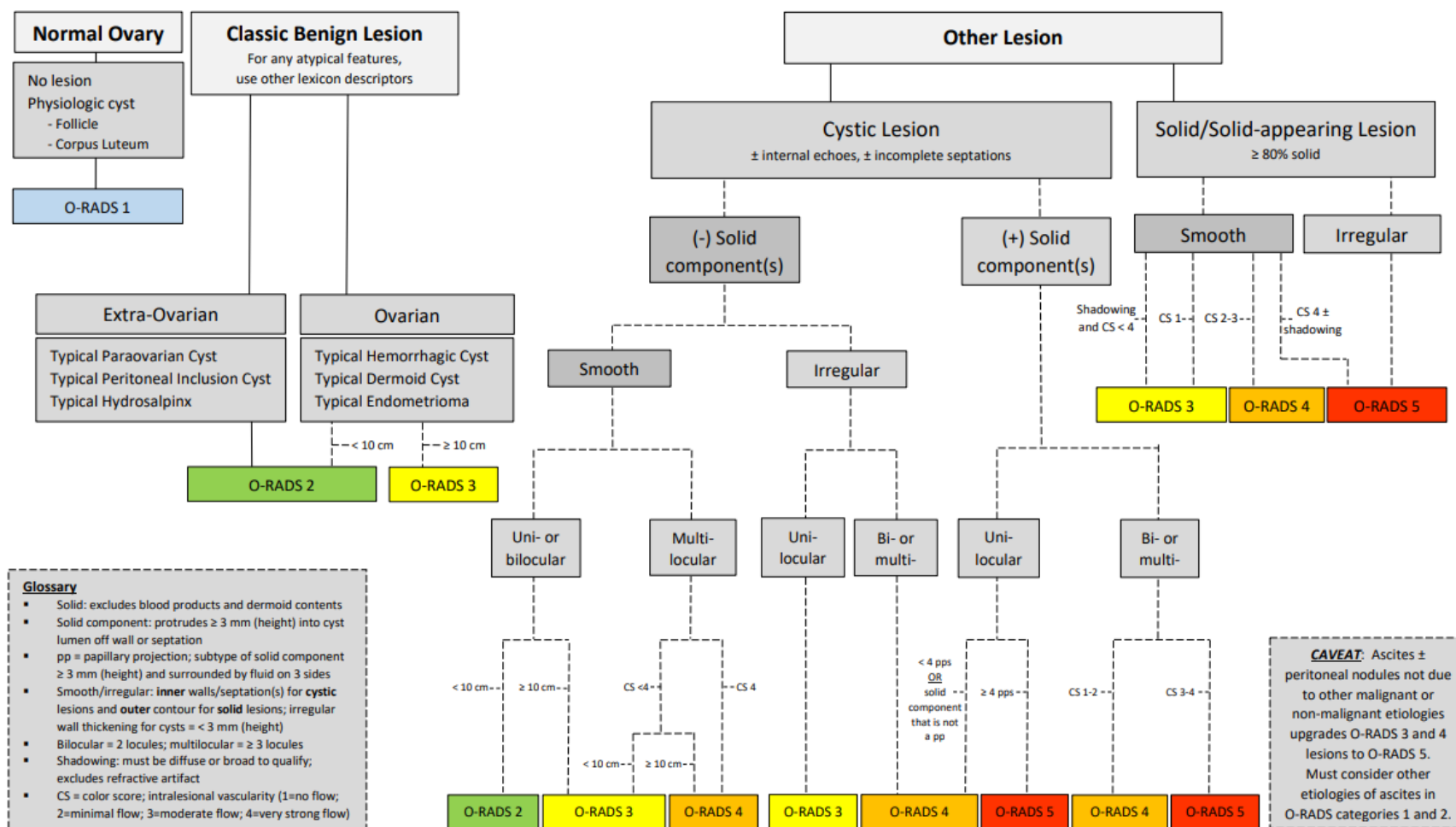
\*\* There is a paucity of evidence for defining the optimal duration or interval for imaging surveillance. Shorter follow-up may be considered in some scenarios (e.g., clinical factors). If stable, follow-up at 12 and 24 months from initial exam, then as clinically indicated. For changing morphology, reassess using lexicon descriptors.

\*\*\* MRI with contrast has higher specificity for solid lesions, and cystic lesions with solid component(s).

\*\*\*\* Not due to other malignant or non-malignant etiologies; specifically, must consider other etiologies of ascites in categories 1-2.

+The recommendation differs from O-RADS™ v2022.

Figure 1. O-RADS™ Ultrasound v2022 Assessment Categories Algorithm



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