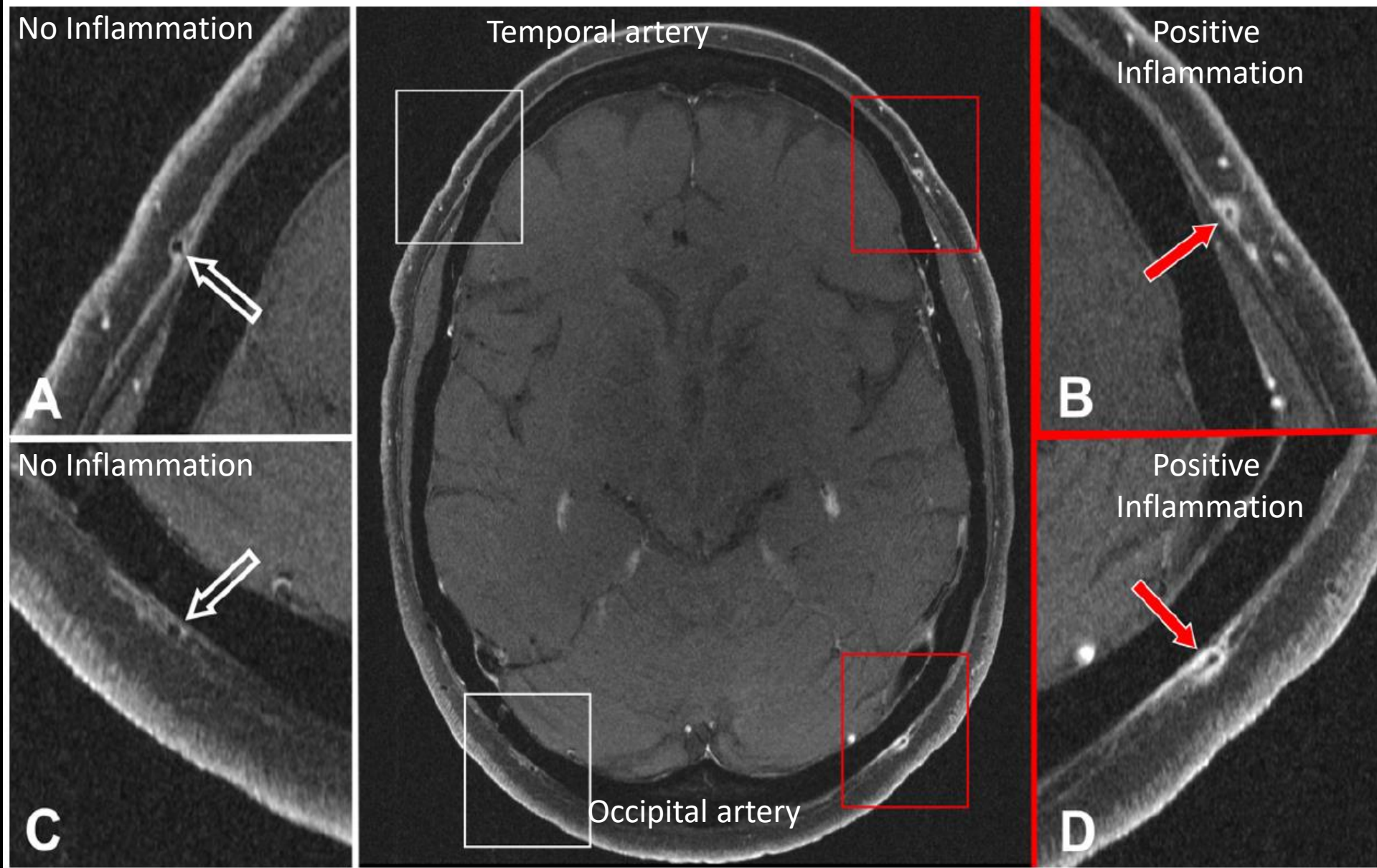


# GCA Scalp MRA Example: Evaluate for superficial temporal (TA) & occipital arteries (OA)



## Indications:

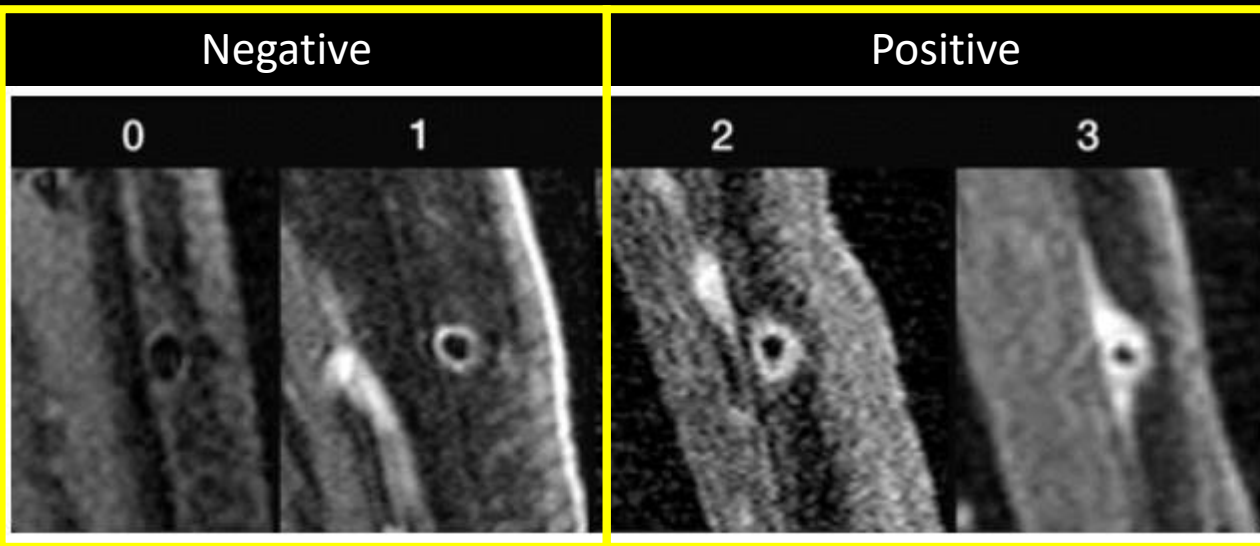
Diagnostic MRA can be performed before or after TA biopsy. Post-Bx, can eval occipital artery.

TAB considered reference standard for GCA diagnosis. ([Table 2, Arthritis & Rheum, 2021](#)).

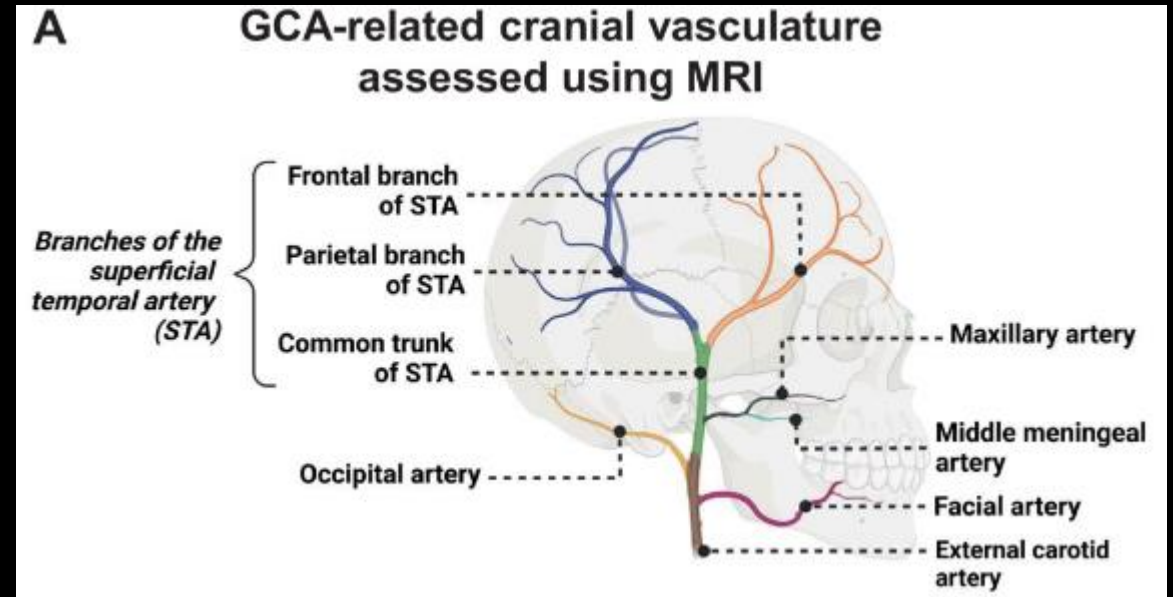
MR Reference: [Scalp MRI GCA Dx Accuracy Multicenter Study \(Radiology, 2014\)](#)

[Jae Song, MD;  
Work-in-progress, 3/27/2024]

# Scalp Artery Vessel Wall Assessment



Reference: [Scalp MRI GCA Dx Accuracy Multicenter Study \(Fig 2B from Radiology, 2014\)](#)



Reference: [MRI GCA Dx Disease Activity \(Fig 1 from ACR Rheum, 2024\)](#)

## Interpretation Pitfalls:

- Extracranial arteries can have vasa vasorum, which can lead to minimal vessel wall enhancement without much wall thickening (e.g., Compare Grade 1 vs Grades 2-3)
- Check if patient has been on steroid treatment already, which can confound the interpretation.