The image word count is an estimate of the space a figure would inhabit on a printed journal page.

An array such as this will ultimately count as 400 words toward the total AJNR word count (text + images). As a general rule, a block of three images, in whatever configuration, will count as 200 words.
For figure components uploaded individually in Manuscript Central (i.e., not arranged in an array), a good rule of thumb is to count every two brain scans or like-sized images as 100 words.

The word count for the images at the left would come to 200 words.
Graphs such as the one below should be counted as 100 words.
Essentially, this array is made up of two 100-word images (SEE: slide 2), even though there are four figure components. Thus, the total word count comes to 200.
Remember that the sum of your text word count and your image word count must not exceed the limitations for your category of submission. The regular word count limit for Original Research submissions is 4500; the paid limit is 5500. For Clinical Reports, these limits are 3500 and 4500, respectively, and the word limit for Review Articles is 6100.

Determining the image word count for your manuscript may not be intuitive because there are many different types of images, and printed display can vary. When in doubt, consider patient photos and other types of single images not outlined in this presentation as 100 words; assume larger arrays of six images or more to be 400 words. Accounting for figures in this manner will decrease the chance of your submission exceeding the word count limitations and being sent back for further editing prior to review.

Any questions regarding image submission can be directed to the Assistant Managing Editor, Laura Wilhelm, at lwilhelm@asnr.org or (630) 574-0220, ext 240.