

An orthopaedic specialist has requested that you have an arthrogram of one of your joints. This involves injecting fluid into your joint and taking detailed images of the inside of your joint. This gives us additional useful information (e.g. tears of soft tissue structures within the joint) that we cannot get from a scan on its own.

Please note: you should not drive yourself home after the procedure.

There are two stages to the test:

1) Joint injection. This takes place in a room with an X ray or UltraSound machine. The injection itself usually only takes a few minutes, however, you may be in the room for 15-20 minutes as we need to complete a safety questionnaire and prepare the equipment. You will meet the radiologist or radiographer and have the opportunity to ask any questions.

The radiographer or radiologist will ask you to lie on an X ray or ultrasound table and expose the area around the joint. They will clean the skin, and use a local anaesthetic to numb the area. This will initially feel sharp and will sting for a few moments. They then pass a fine needle into the joint using X ray or ultrasound guidance, and inject some fluid (contrast medium – dye) to check the needle is successfully in the joint, and to distend the joint itself. We will then transfer you to the MRI scanner on a chair or trolley.

2) MRI scan.

Before your MRI Scan

For your own safety and to avoid a wasted journey it is essential you fill in the enclosed MRI Safety Checklist Questionnaire. Please bring the completed questionnaire with you. If you have any questions about being suitable for a MRI scan please contact the department (see contact details on the back page).

You cannot have a MRI scan if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac Pacemaker
- Cochlear (ear) Implant
- A metal aneurysm clip in the brain
- Metallic fragments in the eye
- Certain Mechanical Implants.

Diabetes

If you are diabetic please continue to take any medication as usual.

Female Patients

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant please contact the department (see contact details on the back page).

If you are breastfeeding please contact the department as you may need an injection of contrast agent (dye) which means you will be unable to breastfeed for a period of time after your MRI, usually 24 hours.

Do I need to prepare?

No. There is no special preparation.

You can eat and drink as normal and take any prescribed medicines, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

We may ask you to change into a hospital gown. We may ask you to remove dentures, jewellery, hearing aids, hairpins and eye makeup.

Please do not bring any valuables to your scan.

MRI Scan

We will ask you to lie on a comfortable couch, which we then move into the magnet.

We will ask you to keep your body perfectly still.

You will not experience any discomfort, but during the scan you may hear some buzzing or tapping noises, which are perfectly harmless.

The radiographer operating the scanner will be able to see and hear you throughout the scan. You will also have a buzzer which you can press if you have any problems and the radiographer will talk to you.

You may bring a CD to listen to during the scan.

How long does the scan last?

The scan may take between 30 minutes and 2 hours. You can leave immediately after the MRI Scan.

What are the risks or complications?

It is not uncommon to have a little bruising at the site of the injection and the area may be slightly tender or stiff for a day or so. Any adverse reaction to the injected anaesthetic or fluid is very rare. However, if this was to happen it would occur immediately (while you are still with the doctor).

There is a slight risk of infection of the joint (studies quote around 1 in 1000 chance) and we take appropriate action to minimise this risk. If infection was to occur, this is usually a few days after the procedure. The joint would become more painful than usual, you might find your movements are limited, and the area can become hot and inflamed. You may also feel generally unwell and feverish. **If you think the joint is infected then you should attend your local Accident and Emergency department or GP immediately or contact NHS 24 and explain that you have had an MRI arthrogram.**

After the procedure

You should not drive home after the procedure and must make other travel arrangements (e.g. ask a relative or friend to accompany you who can drive you home). After the procedure the joint will feel slightly unusual until the body has drained away all the injected fluid. We recommend that you do not drive or exercise for 24 hours after the procedure.

When will I know the results?

A radiologist (a specialised doctor) will review your scans and send the results to the person who referred you for the test. Your referrer will make arrangements to tell you the result.

Any other questions?

Please ask a member of the team in the Imaging Department.

Your appointment

Please

- Do not bring any valuables with you
- Call us if you need advice

If you can't make this appointment please tell us as soon as possible – we can arrange another appointment and give your appointment to another patient.

Contact Centre Telephone Number

0141 347 8379

www.nhsgg.org.uk

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