

Calcium Removal

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET US06



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

The procedure will take up to 45 minutes and performed under local anaesthesia without sedation.

Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

benzonradiology.com.au

What is a Calcium removal?

When calcium build up in a tendon - the tissue that connects muscle to bone, it can cause acute and debilitating pain. This condition is called calcific tendinitis. There are instances where the calcification can also affect the subacromial bursa. This is referred to as calcific bursitis.

Calcium removal, also known as barbotage, involves using a needle guided with ultrasound into the deposit of calcium. This deposit is agitated with saline to flush out any soft particles of calcium and to encourage the body's natural response to resorb the irritant. A combination of corticosteroid and anaesthetic is also applied to the region to reduce localised inflammation.

Your referring doctor will determine if this treatment is appropriate for you.

This procedure is typically performed in instances where you have not responded to conservative measures.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required.

What will happen during the examination?

The procedure is well tolerated. A sterile technique with ultrasound guidance is employed. There are typically no stitches required as there is a small hole in the skin at the needle entry site.

You should have a driver on hand to assist post procedure.

Are there any risks?

The most common risk is flare up of pain and swelling post procedure. This is to be expected due to the agitation of the build up of calcium. As with any procedure there is a possible risk of infection and bleeding, however complications are rare.

There is the possibility of nerve and tendon injury, this is remote.

If there is pain, redness, swelling, general unwellness, fever - persisting symptoms that are worsening please consult your doctor.

After the examination

After the procedure swelling and pain can be expected. This can be treated with oral paracetamol or over the counter pain medications that are prescribed by your doctor.

We recommend no heavy lifting for the first week, normal daily activity is fine as tolerated. Your doctor will be able to provide more instructions regarding aftercare and exercises.