

Radionuclide arthrogram

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination

A radionuclide arthrogram is performed in two parts. The total duration is up to five hours.

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:

bensonradiology.com.au

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What is a radionuclide arthrogram?

This examination is performed to determine whether your prosthesis (usually knee or hip replacement) is loose.

Patient preparation

No preparation is required and you can take medication as normal.

What will happen during the examination?

This procedure requires a small amount of radioactive tracer to be injected into the joint space around your prosthesis.

To accurately locate the joint space, either ultrasound or x-ray fluoroscopy is used. You will be positioned on an ultrasound or x-ray table and a picture of your prosthesis will be taken. A small amount of local anaesthetic is then injected under your skin. Once the anaesthetic has taken effect, a fine needle is inserted into the space between the joint and the prosthesis.

A small amount of radioactive tracer is injected into this space; it has no side effects. In some cases, if requested by your doctor, some fluid may be drained from the joint and sent off to be reviewed by a pathologist.

Following the joint injection you will be moved into another room for more images.

These pictures will be taken by the gamma camera, which can detect the injection you were given previously. Images of your joint are taken at 30 minutes and then four hours after the injection for approximately

30 minutes on each occasion. At the completion of the examination you will be free to leave the department.

Are there any risks?

This procedure has no associated side effects.

Pregnant, breast feeding patients and carers of infants

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 12 hours after the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 12 hours.

For some examinations it may be required to avoid prolonged close contact with infants and young children. If you have any queries regarding this please speak with our technical staff on the day of your appointment.

After the examination

A nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your imaging. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day.

Alternatively your doctor may request that you wait or return later to collect the imaging and report.