CT Arthrogram

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET INT03

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

The examination time will be up to one hour.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is a CT Arthrogram?

Using Computed Tomography (CT) technology, CT Arthrography is an excellent way of imaging the internal structure of joints, including the cartilage, ligaments, joint lining and the structures around the joint, including the tendons, muscles and bones.

Prior to the CT scan being performed, an injection into the joint, of x-ray opaque contrast fluid, is required. This contrast coats the structures of the joint. CT translates x-ray attenuation through the joint into detailed cross-sectional images using sophisticated CT programs.

Why should I have this test?

Any of the above-mentioned components of a joint can be injured by trauma, infection, overuse or arthritis. CT Arthrography can show these injuries and help your doctor decide the best management.

What preparation is required?

Please let us know if you are taking any blood thinning medication (Warfrin, Dabigatran etc). You may need to have a blood clotting test before the procedure and have your medication adjusted by your Doctor. Also please advise the staff of any known allergies.

What will happen during the examination?

CT Arthrography is a two-part procedure.

First a radiographer will take you to an x-ray room cubicle where you may need to remove some clothing and put on a gown. A radiologist will meet you in the x-ray room and explain the procedure.

Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution, and a small needle will be placed into the joint by the doctor using x-ray or ultrasound guidance.

Iodine contrast fluid is injected into the joint. The amount injected is determined by the size of the joint. You may feel some pressure and fullness in the joint, but it should not be painful.

For the second part of the procedure, you will be taken into the CT room where a scan of the joint will be performed. You are then free to go.

How long does the whole procedure take?

You should allow up to one hour for the whole procedure to be completed and for you to be dressed and ready to leave.

Are there any risks?

You will receive a small dose of x-ray radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are believed to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose. **However, please advise the radiographer if you are, or think you may be pregnant.**

After the examination

Benson radiology

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Please turn

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You may experience some swelling and discomfort of the injected joint for one to two hours after the injection. This should quickly resolve. A mild analgesic, such as paracetamol, may be taken if necessary.

If pain persists beyond 24 hours, please consult your doctor.

The images will be reviewed and reported by our radiologist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician. For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff. It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our clinics or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

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