MRI arthrogram

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET INT16

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

The examination will take up to 90 minutes

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 an MRI arthrogram

Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology, MRI 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.

MRI uses magnetic fields and radiofrequency pulses to create detailed cross-sectional images of the area being scanned.

Prior to the MRI scan being performed, an injection into the joint of contrast fluid, is required. This contrast coats the structures of the joint.

Why should I have this test?

The structure of joints can be injured by trauma, infection, overuse or arthritis. MRI arthrography can help highlight these injuries and help your doctor decide the best management.

Patient preparation

Please let us know if you are taking any blood thinning medication (Warfarin, 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?

This examination involves a two-part procedure.

First, a radiographer will take you to an examination room where you may need to remove some clothing and put on a gown.

A radiologist will meet you in the examination 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.

A small amount of 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 MRI suite where a scan of the joint will be performed. You are then free to go.

Are there any risks?

You will need to fill in a safety questionnaire confirming that you are safe to enter the MRI suite. You may receive a small dose of x-ray radiation during administration of the gadolinium contrast; please advise the radiographer if you are or think you may be pregnant.

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Please turn

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After the examination

Following the examination, 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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