MRI arthrogram

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MR11

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

60 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?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an imaging method that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of different parts of the body. MRI does not involve exposure to ionising radiation (X-rays).

Purpose of the examination

An MRI arthrogram involves injecting an MRI contrast agent called Gadolinium directly into the joint space to distend the joint, followed immediately by MRI imaging. This technique increases the visibility of internal joint structures and helps detect abnormalities that may not be seen on Xray or standard MRI.

The contrast acts as a marker, allowing for a more detailed assessment of cartilage, ligaments, tendons, joint lining and surrounding soft tissues and bone.

An MRI arthrogram may be recommended to:

- evaluate joint pain, inflammation, or reduced mobility
- detect subtle soft tissue or cartilage tears
- assess damage related to recurrent joint dislocations
- investigate joint instability or impingement
- look for loose bodies within the joint

Patient preparation

The is no preparation required prior to the examination.

Pre-scan procedure

On arrival for your appointment, you will be asked to complete an MRI safety questionnaire as well as an enterogram related questionnaire. If you prefer, you may complete the safety questionnaire online before your appointment via bensonradiology.com.au/mrisafety

Due to the strong magnetic fields used in MRI, you will be asked to change into a gown and remove your watch. Underwear and socks may be worn. All valuables will be securely stored in your private change room during the examination.

What will happen during the examination

This examination consists of two-parts.

Part 1: Contrast Injection

Xray, CT, or Ultrasound imaging will be used to assist the doctor in guiding a small needle into the joint.

Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution before the injection. A Gadolinium MRI contrast will then be injected into the joint space. You may experience a sensation of pressure or fullness, but it should not be painful.

Part 2: MRI Scan

After the injection, you will be taken to the MRI scanner for imaging of the joint.

The MRI scanner produces loud noises during scanning. You will be provided with headphones, and additional hearing protection such as earplugs are available on request. You will also be given a call buzzer, which you can press at any time to alert the MRI radiographer if you need assistance.

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Other considerations

You may receive a small dose of Xray radiation during administration of the Gadolinium contrast; please advise the radiographer if you are or think you may be pregnant.

After the examination

Once the examination is complete, the MRI radiographer will assist you from the examination table.

You may experience mild swelling or discomfort in the injected joint for one to two hours following the procedure. This should resolve quickly. If needed, a mild analgesic, such as paracetamol can be taken to relieve discomfort. 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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