# Radionuclide arthrogram

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET NM12

## Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic 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
- 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 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.

## After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our nuclear medicine specialist. 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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