

Arthrogram

Patient Information

Overview

An arthrogram is a study of any joint space (wrist, elbow, shoulder, ankle, knee, or hip) by injecting x-ray dye into that space and then imaging it. The purpose is to evaluate the joint for torn cartilage, ligaments, or capsules in the affected joint. Please bring a driver with you if you are having an ankle arthrogram study.

Preparation for the exam:

Please do not eat or drink anything for 2 hours prior to this test. All arthrogram patients must be accompanied by a driver.

Appointment time:

Your appointment will be scheduled ahead of time by your doctors' office through the hospital scheduling service. If you are unsure of your appoint time, need to reschedule, or cancel your appointment, please contact your doctors' office or the hospital scheduling service at 770-538-7666 Menu Option 1. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your exam, as you will be required to register, visit our billing office and fill out other necessary forms. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will get to your study as quickly as possible.

Your Arthrogram:

You will be escorted into the exam room by a radiologic technologist. You will have to change into a hospital gown, and if you have not brought any plain films with you, an initial or "scout" film will be taken of the appropriate joint. The technologist and radiologist will enter the room and take a brief history from you so that they will be able to perform an accurate study for you. It is important to know about any allergies that you may have, and of any previous reactions to iodinated contrast (X-ray dye) that you may have had in the past. Patients who are allergic to x-ray dye (iodine contrast) need premedication prior to having contrast injections. It is also important to know of any medications you may be taking at this time. The radiologist or technologist will describe what to expect during the exam and ask you to sign a consent form. You will be asked to lie on the x-ray table. The radiologist will sterilize the skin over your joint and numb it with a local anesthetic. Your joint space will then be injected with contrast material and several x-rays will be taken using a real-time x-ray camera called a fluoroscope. The test will take approximately 1 hour. If an MRI of the joint is to follow, you will be directed to the MRI department.

The conclusion of your exam:

You will receive written, take-home instructions at the conclusion of your exam. You may eat and drink immediately following your exam. You may have some discomfort in the joint for several hours after the test.

Results:

The radiologist will interpret your exam and the results of your exam will be sent to your doctor.

