

Arthography

What is it?

An arthrogram is a study in which contrast material (dye) is instilled into a joint before undergoing CT or MRI in order to determine what is causing your symptoms (usually joint pain). Common joints examined with arthrography include the shoulder, elbow, hip and knee.

Before the procedure

Your doctor will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions that you may have about the procedure. Risks include, but are not limited to, the following: bleeding, infection, discomfort/bruising at the injection site, and allergic reaction to the dye. Most complications require only additional observation, although administration of fluids, medications or blood products may rarely be needed.

Arthrography may be contraindicated in patients with bleeding disorders or active infection.

You will be asked to sign a consent giving permission to undergo the procedure.

Inform the doctor if you have a bleeding disorder or if you take an anticoagulant (blood thinner), aspirin, ibuprofen, or any other medication that may affect blood clotting. In some cases, these medications may need to be temporarily discontinued prior to undergoing this procedure. Additional lab work may be required to ensure your blood is not too thin.

During the procedure

We will make you as comfortable as possible for the procedure. Your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution then draped to create a sterile field. Local anesthetic (e.g. lidocaine) will be used to numb the skin and soft tissue. This may cause a brief stinging sensation.

A needle will then be inserted through the numbed area and into the joint being examined. You may feel some pressure as the needle is advanced into the appropriate position. Please notify the doctor if you feel any sharp pain.

A few x-rays will be taken to confirm that dye is present within the joint, and then you will be transported to either CT or MRI for the final part of the exam. Please follow the technologist's directions as you are transported to the CT or MRI scanner.

After the procedure

If you are symptom free after your study, you will be able to leave the radiology department. Please notify the technologist if you are having any symptoms that you feel may be related to today's procedures.

While you will not have any activity restrictions following your arthrogram, light activity is recommended for the next 24 hours.

The joint that was injected may feel “full” for the next 12-24 hours. Your body will naturally absorb the fluid introduced for today’s procedure over the next several days.

The needle insertion site may be sore for several days after the injection. Take Tylenol or another pain reliever as recommended by your regular doctor, if needed for pain relief. Aspirin and certain other pain relievers could increase the risk of bleeding. Be sure to only take medications approved by your doctor.

If you discontinued a blood thinner prior to undergoing this procedure, please contact the doctor who sent you for this study to determine when you can safely resume taking this specific medication.

Notify your doctor or report to the ER if you experience any of the following:

- ❖ Fever and/or chills
- ❖ Redness, swelling, draining, or bleeding at the injection site
- ❖ Worsening pain at the injection site or elsewhere
- ❖ Shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing

If you have any questions before and following your procedure call the Radiology nurse at 662-293-1404

Date: _____

(Patient Signature)

(Witness)