



What is Arthrography?

Arthrography is a type of x-ray examination that uses a contrast agent to image an anatomical joint, such as the knee, shoulder, elbow or wrist. An MRI arthrogram is an imaging procedure that demonstrates the structures of the joint, including cartilage, ligaments and bursa (the fluid-filled joint capsule) allowing the radiologist to assess the anatomy and function of the joint. An MRI arthrogram is needed when a problem with the joint cartilage is suspected.

What are some common uses of an Arthrogram?

The procedure is most often used to identify abnormalities within the:

- shoulder
- wrist
- hip
- knee
- ankle

The procedure is also used to help diagnose persistent, unexplained joint pain or discomfort.

During the Exam

The Arthrogram begins with a Fluoroscopic procedure followed by an MR. The radiologist will inject a mixture of local anesthetic and two liquid materials that will be visible with X-ray and MRI. This portion of the procedure generally takes about 20 minutes. You will now be moved to the MRI suite where the imaging will be performed.

**After the Exam**

After the examination, you may experience swelling and discomfort or hear a crackling noise in the joint. You may apply ice to the joint to reduce swelling if it is bothersome. These symptoms usually disappear after 48 hours. Vigorous exercise is not recommended for 12 hours after the exam.

Preparation

There is no preparation for this exam.

Notes

You must inform the technologist if you think you may be, or are, pregnant
MRI screening criteria apply – please see MRI Exam Information
Patients who have known allergies to iodine may have an adverse reaction to the contrast material. Because the contrast material is put in a joint and not a vein, allergic reactions are rare, although in some cases, mild nausea to severe cardiovascular complications may result.