

Radiology Department **Arthrogram**

About the test

This exam is the study of a joint space, using contrast that will show up on an x-ray. These tests are most commonly done on the shoulders, hips, and wrists.

This exam requires that a consent form (also known as informed consent) be signed prior to the start of the exam by the patient. An informed consent means that the patient understands the reason for the procedure and has a general idea of what will be done during the procedure.

The technologist will take some preliminary films as part of setting up for the exam. The radiologist will then come in and “numb” the area of interest using lidocaine. Various needle sizes are used, depending on the area being examined, in order to inject contrast media into the joint space. Pictures of the area are taken.

After the examination, you can return to your normal routine. You may notice a “squishing” sound for a few hours after the test in the area examined. This is just the contrast media in the joint, which is absorbed over a few hours.

How long does it take?

The procedure usually takes 45 to 60 minutes.

What does it show?

It will show cysts, tears in the cartilage, or ligament injury.

How do I get the results?

After the exam, a Radiologist reviews the images, interprets the test and the results are sent to the ordering physician. Contact your physician in a couple of days, unless you have made other arrangements, so he or she can discuss the results with you.

How to prepare

- This test is scheduled through our Central Scheduling department 757-6475. The schedulers are available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Bring your order for your exam with you.
- There is no fasting preparation for this exam.
- Leave all jewelry and valuables at home and wear comfortable clothing with no metal on clothing.
- You may take your prescribed medication if needed.
- Arrive at the hospital 30 minutes before the start of your test if an admitting clerk has registered you over the phone in the day or days prior to your test.

- Park in the hospital parking lot near the Admitting Entrance, and enter through the Admitting doors.
- You can go directly to Radiology if:
 - You are pre-registered for your test.
 - If you are not pre-registered, and it is between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. A registration clerk is in Radiology during these hours and days.
- At all other times not listed above, please report to Admitting to be registered for testing.
- You will need to bring with you a picture I.D. for identification and your insurance cards.
- If you have any questions about registration, scheduling, or insurance, contact the admitting department at 757-6217.
- If you have any questions please feel free to call and speak with a Radiologic technologist at 757-6085.