

Having an arthrogram

This leaflet tells you what to expect during an arthrogram – an examination of your joints.

General advice

- Please bring your appointment letter with you.
- A health care assistant will greet you in the waiting area and may accompany you during the exam. The examination is conducted by a radiologist (specialist X-ray doctor) and a radiographer (X-ray professional).
- A relative or friend may usually accompany you; however, they will need to wait in the waiting room. There are no childcare facilities available.

What is an arthrogram?

An arthrogram is an X-ray procedure to look at the internal structure of the joint.

Are there any risks with this test?

You will be asked about allergies prior to the test, in case you are allergic to elements in the contrast (dye) used. If this is the case, an alternative contrast would be used.

What happens during the arthrogram?

You may be asked to remove clothing around the affected area and wear a hospital gown. You will have an injection of local anaesthetic to deaden the area. A special fluid known as a contrast agent will then be injected into the joint. You will then proceed to either CT or MRI to have imaging of the area. The examination will take about 30-60 minutes.

After the arthrogram

The anaesthetic will wear off gradually so we advise you not to drive following this procedure. You should feel no pain, just a dull deep ache when the contrast agent is injected.

Results

A report of your examination will be sent to your referring doctor; if this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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Excellent