

Having an arthrogram

Introduction

Please bring with you: your appointment letter or your X-ray request card (if you have it). A health care assistant will greet you in the waiting room 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 can usually accompany you but they will be asked to wait in the waiting room; however, no childcare facilities are 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 was 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 be injected into the joint. A series of X-rays will be taken. The examination will take about 30 minutes.

After the arthrogram

The anaesthetic will wear off gradually so it would be advisable 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.

Further information

More information is available on the Trust website: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.