

Patient information

# MR arthrogram

## What is an MR arthrogram?

Your doctor has asked us to perform this test to work out what has caused your symptoms and how to treat it.

There are two parts to this test.

First, we will inject a small amount of dye directly into your joint, using low dose X rays (fluoroscopy) to show us where to do the injection.

After this, you will be taken to the MRI scanner for your scan.

## What to do before your MR arthrogram

1) Please fill out the safety questionnaire that comes with your appointment letter and bring this with you on the day.

If you have answered 'yes' to any of the questions, please let us know **as soon as possible** on **01225 825 529** as we may not be able to proceed with this test.

2) Please contact us **as soon as possible** if:

- You have a known blood clotting disorder
- You are on medication that suppresses your immune system eg methotrexate or beta interferon, or steroids.
- You have an infection or any other medical condition which may mean we need to reschedule this appointment
- You have an allergy to iodinated contrast
- You are pregnant

Please do not drive yourself home after this procedure.

It is not safe and your insurance provider may not cover you if you have a road accident.

Please let your doctor know if you are claustrophobic and you don't think you will be able to tolerate the MRI scan.

Continue to take any regular medication as normal, unless asked otherwise.

## What to wear

For this scan you will need to remove all clothing with metal on it eg zips, fastenings or under-wires. We will provide a hospital gown to change into before your scan, if required. Please do not wear items of jewellery and please remove any piercings before attending. There are lockers available to store your belongings during the scan.

## Risks and possible complications

There are small risks associated with this injection, which you should be aware of before you proceed. The radiologist doing your procedure will talk you through this when you arrive.

- **Discomfort:** You may experience some discomfort immediately after the procedure. This is usually mild and can be helped with over-the-counter painkillers if required.
- **Feeling of instability:** Your joint may feel unstable after the injection. This will improve within 24 hours of the procedure. Do not try to lift or push anything heavy, or drive until it feels safe to do so.
- **Bleeding:** This is unlikely to cause you a problem.  
If you have a medical condition that delays your blood clotting, please let us know in advance.  
If you are on anticoagulant or antiplatelet medication, you are more likely to experience bruising and bleeding- please let us know about this when you come in for your injection.
- **Infection:** If you experience redness, swelling or tenderness around the injection site, please see your GP or a walk-in clinic within 24 hours as this may require treatment.

## After this procedure

A radiologist will provide a written report for the MR arthrogram for the doctor or healthcare professional who requested it.

Your doctor or healthcare professional will be able to access this report electronically. They will then contact you to arrange a follow up appointment, to discuss the results and your ongoing care.

## More information

There is more information about the Radiology Department and the tests and procedures we perform at [www.ruh.nhs.uk/radiologyinfo](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/radiologyinfo)

### Please arrive in good time on the day

- Please allow plenty of time for travel and car parking on the day.
- You will need to book in at the **Radiology Reception desk** (ground floor, B7) before your appointment time.

This allows time for you to check in, change clothes if required, and get to the correct place. If you arrive late, we may not be able to fit you in.

**If you cannot attend this appointment** please let us know as soon as possible on **01225 824072** between 08:00 and 16:30 Monday to Friday, to cancel or rebook.

This helps us to keep our waiting lists down. If you do not attend without prior notice, we will not send you another appointment without another referral from your doctor.

**If you are not sure you need or want this procedure** please discuss this with your doctor before attending this appointment.

**For any other enquiries** call us on 01225 824072 or email us at: [ruh-tr.radiologyresults@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.radiologyresults@nhs.net)

If you need a copy of your imaging or the report, you will need to complete a form and provide identification at the Radiology Reception Desk.

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Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone 01225 825656 or 826319