

Most patients do not mind lying within the scanner but if this makes you feel worried you should talk to the scan department as soon as possible ahead of your appointment. The scan will take approximately 40 - 80 minutes. It is very important that you keep very still when the scanner is working.

What happens after the examination?

Your joint may feel a little uncomfortable, this should subside gradually. It is best to rest the joint for 24 hours after the procedure, so please arrange for someone to take you home. It is advisable not to drive or operate machinery for 24 hours after.

After the scan the images will be reviewed by the radiologist, who will prepare a report and send it to your referring doctor.

Are there any risks or complications?

An MRI arthrogram is a common examination that has little risk. There is a very small risk of infection being introduced into the joint, but this is extremely rare.

Despite these possible complications, the examination is normally very safe, and will aid in your diagnosis.

Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this booklet, but remember this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you.

Do please satisfy yourself that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

This information may be available in other languages and formats, on request. Please contact the Patient Advice & Liaison Service on (01302) 553140.

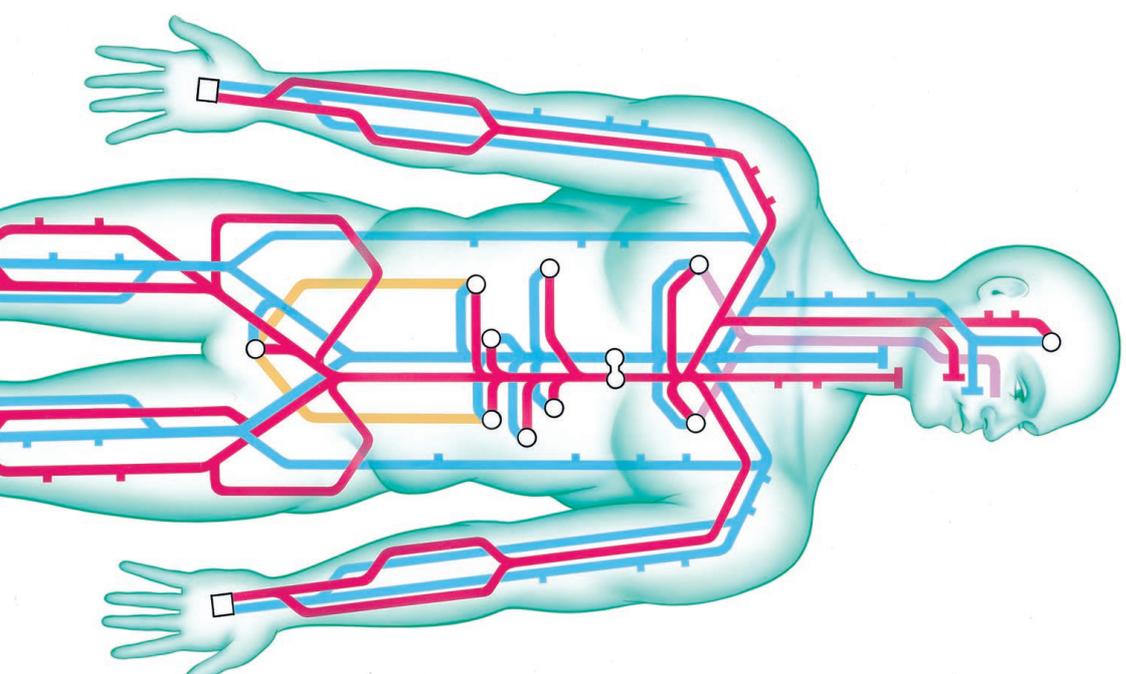
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust



MRI

(MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING) ARTHROGRAM



Introduction

This booklet tells you about the procedure known as MRI arthrogram; it explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such discussion.

You should have had plenty of time to discuss the matter with your consultant and the radiologist who will be performing the procedure, and perhaps even your own GP. You should have had sufficient explanation before you sign the consent form.

What is an MRI Arthrogram?

An MRI arthrogram is an arthrogram followed by an MRI scan. An arthrogram is a special kind of x-ray of a joint, such as the shoulder, hip, knees or other joints.

During the procedure, a colourless liquid called contrast (shows up on MRI scans and x-rays) will be injected into the joint space; this then allows the joint structures to be more visible on the x-ray and MRI images, allowing for the joint to be examined.

Why do I need an MRI arthrogram?

The benefit of this type of examination is that it may be useful in diagnosing a number of conditions including:

- Rotator cuff tear
- Abnormalities in the cartilage of a joint

Unlike a plain x-ray, an MRI arthrogram demonstrates the interior of the joint and the joint surface.

Who has made the decision?

The consultant in charge of your case and the radiologist who will be performing the procedure will have discussed your case and consider this the most suitable test for you. However you will have the opportunity to have your opinion taken into account and if after discussion with your doctors, you do not want the procedure carried out, and then you can decide against it.

Who will be doing the MRI arthrogram?

You will be cared for by a small team of radiographers and support staff and a radiologist, a doctor who specialises in musculoskeletal radiology who will perform your arthrogram and interpret your images.

Where will the MRI arthrogram take place?

The arthrogram will be performed in the Medical Imaging (x-ray) department and then you will be taken to the MRI scanning suite for your scan.

What happens during the examination?

On arrival in the medical imaging department, you will be asked to change into a gown for the examination, and then taken into an x-ray room where the examination will be explained to you and you can ask any questions that you may have. You will be asked to lie down on the x-ray table and x-rays may be taken of your joint before the arthrogram procedure begins.

The radiologist will clean your skin with antiseptic liquid and sterile towels will be placed over the area.

Local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin. This may sting to start with, but this soon wears off and the skin and deeper tissues should then feel numb.

A small amount of contrast media will be injected into the joint. There may be a little discomfort, but the examination should not be painful.

This should take 15 - 30 minutes. You will then be directed to the MRI scanning suite.

What happens next?

On arrival in the MRI scanning suite you will be shown to a cubicle where you will be asked to get changed, the MRI unit will provide clothing for you to wear.

You will be asked to remove your jewellery, all body piercings, cash, keys, credit cards and watches etc, a secure locker is provided for your possessions.

You will then be taken into the scanning room. You will be asked to lie on the scan table and the scanning process will begin. A piece of equipment will be positioned around the area of your joint in order for us to obtain images. The scanner is very loud and you will be given headphones to wear. We can speak to you via the headphones and you can listen to music during your scan. Apart from any machine noise you will not be aware of anything happening.