

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Arthrogram *(page 1 of 2)*

What is an MRI Arthrogram?

MRI is a modern scanning technique which gives very good quality images of various parts of the body. During the scan you must lie very still on the examination couch and you will hear a variety of loud sounds made by the scanner. Earplugs and headphones will be provided during the examination.

Before the scan you will have a special dye injected into the part of your body being scanned.

Who performs your test?

The special dye will be injected by a radiologist (X-ray doctor) and then your MRI scan will be performed by an MRI radiographer.

Is MRI safe?

There are no known side effects.

Is there any special preparation for this procedure?

No, but you are advised to arrive having recently washed the area to be examined, preferably shortly after taking a bath or shower.

What does the test involve?

MRI must NOT be performed on people with certain metal implants in their bodies such as pacemakers, cochlear implants, some surgical clips and some artificial heart valves.

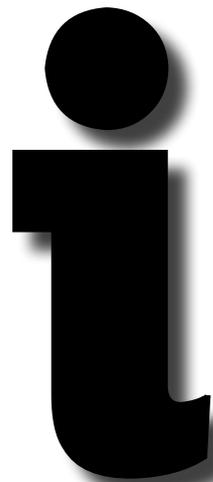
You will be asked to change out of your own clothes, put on a hospital gown and remove your watch and jewellery. You will need to remove any other metallic items such as hair grips, keys, coins, credit cards etc.

You will then be taken into an X-ray room and asked to lie down on the examination table. The skin around the area to be scanned will be cleaned and anaesthetised, then a needle will be inserted to inject dye into the joint. The position of the needle and the dye will be confirmed using X-rays. When the dye is in the correct place, the needle will be removed and a plaster applied.

You will then be escorted to the MRI department where the MRI radiographer will perform your scan.

MRI Scanner

 **01722 336262 ext 4196**



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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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How long does it take?

The injection takes approximately 15 minutes to perform, but you will be in the X-ray room for approximately 30 minutes in total. After the injection you will need to wait in the MRI department, usually for up to 30 minutes. Please note that the MRI scan itself can take up to one hour and that you will be in the Radiology Department for approximately 2 to 2½ hours in total.

Can anything go wrong? Is it painful?

The procedure is usually mildly uncomfortable but anaesthetic is used to minimise this discomfort. Occasionally needle placement can be painful for a short time because of irritation to inflamed tissue around the joint.

After the injection the joint may feel unstable for a short time, particularly if you have had previous dislocations of the joint being examined. The injection into the joint itself contains an anaesthetic, and so any pain will usually quickly subside so you are comfortable in the scanner. When the anaesthetic wears off over the next few hours you will find the area injected becomes more uncomfortable than before the procedure. This increased discomfort can last for 7 to 10 days. If you need to you can take any painkillers you would normally take by mouth.

If the pain gets worse or you have swelling or redness around the joint at any point in the days to weeks following the scan, or if you have any concerns, then you should go to the hospital as soon as possible as you may have an infection which is a rare complication of this procedure. **If you are concerned then please do not wait for a GP appointment, but come straight to the hospital emergency department.**

Sometimes it is not possible to inject the joint. If so you will still have an MRI scan, but it may be less helpful in diagnosing your condition. If this happens then there is a small chance that you may need to re-attend at a later date to repeat the procedure.

Can I drive home?

No. Please arrange for someone to drive you home.

How do I get the results of my investigation?

The results of the examination will be sent to the consultant who originally referred you. They will follow you up in the outpatient clinic, usually a few weeks after the examination.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your investigation please contact us on ☎01722 336262 extension 4196.