

## Patient information

### Magnetic Resonance Imaging MRI Arthrogram Appointment Details

Radiology Department

**Please note that this is a two part test.**

**Please read this entire leaflet thoroughly**

Your hospital doctor has advised that you need a MRI Arthrogram. You may wish to discuss alternative treatments or procedures. Please ask a doctor or nurse if alternative treatments or procedures are available.

**Please arrive for your appointment at the main X-ray department.**

#### **What is an MRI Arthrogram?**

An Arthrogram is an X-ray examination of one of your joints using a colourless fluid known as an X-ray contrast agent, or dye. Many different joints can be examined, for example your shoulder, elbow, knee and ankle. Dye is injected into your joint to highlight parts of your joints which will show up on the MRI scan. The dye injection is carried out by a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in X-rays).

#### **What is a MRI scan?**

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging; a computer attached to a very powerful magnet produces detailed pictures of most parts of the body.

#### **What are the risks of having an MRI scan?**

MRI does not use X-rays and there are no known risks.

#### **What are the benefits of having a MR Arthrogram?**

This procedure will help us make the correct diagnosis, so we will be able to give you the correct treatment.

#### **The risks of having an MR Arthrogram include**

- A very small risk of infection but this is very unlikely as the procedure is done under sterile conditions.
- There maybe some bruising over the joint.

- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. The dose varies with each examination.
- Everything is done within the X-ray department to minimise this dose.
- **Female patients:** if you are pregnant or there is any possibility of you being pregnant, please contact the X-ray department before your appointment.

### **What anaesthetic will I be given?**

The skin over the joint that needs to be examined will be cleaned and a local anaesthetic will be injected into the area to numb the skin and the tissue under it. Local anaesthesia is drug-induced numbness: it may be provided by an anaesthetist, surgeon or other healthcare professional, depending on the technique used.

Unfortunately, local anaesthesia can cause side effects and complications. Side effects are common, but are usually short-lived: they include nausea, confusion and pain. Complications are very rare, but can cause lasting injury: they include awareness, paralysis and death.

**If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Doctor or a member of their team.**

### **Before Your Examination**

There is no need for any special preparation for this examination. You should eat and drink normally.

Because the second part of the scan uses a powerful magnet, it is important that all clothes containing metal and jewellery are removed, therefore please leave any jewellery at home.

### **Part 1: Arthrogram**

On arrival to the department, you will be asked to change into a gown. Don't worry as you will be given a dressing gown to cover you up completely.

Your belongings will remain with you throughout the first test and locked away safe for the MRI scan.

You will be escorted into the X-ray room.

The radiographer or helper will help you to fill a form in before you start. This enables us to find out if you have any metal in your body that you may not be aware of.

If you think that any of the following applies to you then please contact MRI

**Appointments on Tel: 0151 706 2759 Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759 before your scan: -**

- A cardiac pacemaker or artificial valve.
- Aneurysm clips in your head.
- Metal implants (joint replacement).

- Shrapnel from war injury.
- An artificial limb/surgical calliper.
- Worked with metal filings.
- Had recent heart surgery (last 12 weeks).
- You think you might be pregnant.

You will be asked to lie on the X-ray table. The skin over the joint that needs to be examined will be cleaned and a local anaesthetic will be injected into the area to numb the skin and the tissue under it.

When the skin is numb a fine needle will be placed into your joint and a colourless fluid known as an X-ray contrast agent, or dye contrast agent (dye) will be injected while the Radiologist watches on a TV monitor.

The needle is removed and you will be asked to gently exercise the joint so that the whole of the joint is coated with the contrast agent.

When this first part of the examination is complete, a small plaster will be placed over the puncture site.

You and your belongings will now be taken to the MRI Scanner for the second part of the test.

## **Part 2- MRI Scan**

You will be asked to lie on a table, which will then be moved by a radiographer into the MRI machine. The MRI is a large tube, a bit like the centre of a packet of giant Polo mints. You will not feel anything during the scan but you will hear loud knocking noises while the scanner is taking the pictures.

It is very important that you keep as still as possible. While the pictures are being taken the radiographer will be able to see you and you will be able to speak to each other if you need to.

Usually, a scan takes about 45 minutes but you can expect to be in the MRI department for up to 90 mins.

## **After your scan**

There are no after effects from this examination. But remember due to the arthrogram injection, a little discomfort may be noticed in the joint for one to two days after the examination and any strenuous exercise should be avoided for two days.

## **Results**

The results will not be available on the day of your scan. There is a lot of information on the scan pictures, which will need to be studied by the radiologist (doctor). Your results are sent to the doctor who asked for this test to be carried out. This is usually a hospital doctor.

## **Cancellations**

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

**If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will not be sent another appointment.**

## **Transport**

Transport has not been arranged for this appointment so it will be necessary for you to make your own arrangements.

If you have been referred to us from clinic and usually have an ambulance to bring you for your appointment, please contact the Appointments Office as soon as possible.

If you have been referred to us by your GP and require an ambulance, please contact your GP surgery.

## **Car parking**

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car. Vehicle entry to the car park is on Epworth Street which is off Erskine Street. The car park is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and charges apply. The car park is continually monitored by CCTV and parking attendants.

There are disabled spaces within the car park. If you require help with parking ask a parking host at the car park entrance. There is a bus shuttle service for patients with mobility problems which operates Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm from Q-Park to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

**Please attend the Main X-Ray department located on the ground floor of the main hospital building.**

**Please bring this letter when you attend.**

## **Further Information**

**The Trust is committed to eliminating mixed sex accommodation. The department is endeavouring to comply with the Department of Health recommendations.**

**If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Appointments Office**

**Tel:0151 706 2759**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759**

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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