



McLaren

GREATER LANSING

ARTHROGRAM

An arthrogram can be performed on any joint, it can be performed on the shoulder, knee, elbow or wrist. The exam involves injecting an x-ray dye into the joint space. The exam is performed by an orthopedic surgeon or a radiologist. If you are a woman of childbearing age and there is a chance you may be pregnant, please tell your doctor and the technologist before your exam.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

*****CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN BEFORE STOPPING ANY MEDICATIONS*******

You may take all your medications, except you must stop taking aspirin, ibuprofen and Vitamin E 3 days before your procedure. Blood thinners such as coumadin should be stopped 5 days before your procedure. You should wear comfortable clothing to the hospital. Your money and other valuables should be left at home. Be sure to bring any x-rays, MRI's or CT scans with you.

A preliminary film is taken of the joint of interest. **If you have previous x-rays of this area, please bring them with you.**

- The skin is wiped with a cleaning solution. A numbing medication is injected into the skin. A needle is then placed into the joint space. The needle location is then checked under the x-ray fluoroscope. Some adjustments may be needed.
- Once the needle is in the right place, the x-ray dye is injected into the joint space. The needle is then removed. It is not unusual to feel a fullness in that area.
- Many times the joint is then “exercised” or moved around. This helps to get the “dye” all around the joint area.
- X-rays are then taken of the joint.
- Once the radiologist reviews the films, the exam is complete. It is possible that the area may be sore and achy. Feel free to take what you normally use for minor pain relief.
- The radiologist will then send a report to your doctor. Your doctor can then discuss the results with you.
- If you do develop excessive pain or swelling after the procedure you should consult your doctor.
- If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call our Radiology Central Scheduling office at 975-2695.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure, please call us at 975-6382

