



THE MRI PORTION OF YOUR Arthrography

Why is your doctor ordering an Arthrography?

Arthrography (or arthrogram) is a diagnostic study of joint structures using a contrast (dye). The contrast agent is injected to help highlight details inside the joint being studied. Arthrography is commonly ordered by your physician to show the internal workings of a joint, outline soft tissue structures, or identify problems with the ligaments, cartilage, or tendons.

Arthrography is a two step exam

One portion of the exam completed at a hospital radiology department (where the contrast is injected and X-Rays taken) and the second portion of the exam completed at an OAI imaging center (where the MRI scan is performed). For this reason you may be receiving pre-registration calls from both an OAI staff member as well as a hospital staff person.

Preparation for the MRI

OAI staff will contact you prior to your scheduled appointment date for pre-registration. Please inform our staff if you have a pacemaker or any type of metal implant. Please notify our staff if you have a known allergy to Iodine.

Blood thinners (such as Coumadin, Heparin, Lovenox, etc.) should be discontinued 5 days before your exam. Be sure to consult with your doctor before discontinuing these medications.

You should contact your insurance company regarding benefits and coverage prior to your appointment date. Depending on your insurance coverage, a partial payment may be due on your appointment day. Payment arrangements may be made with the OAI Billing Department by calling **541-608-0350** prior to your appointment.

You may eat, drink, and take medications as usual, UNLESS you are advised differently.

Wear comfortable clothing with no metal (zippers, buttons, etc). Remove all other metal items (i.e. body piercing, jewelry, watch). OAI will provide you with comfortable pants and gown as needed.

You will need a driver if you will be traveling from one of the facilities (for your X-Rays) to OAI's imaging center (for your MRI). This allows you to reduce the amount of movement in your joint while traveling to the second phase of your appointment.

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continued from other side

**On the day
of your procedure:**

Please allow approximately an hour and a half for the MRI portion of your appointment. Actual scanning time will take between 30 - 60 minutes per exam. Multiple scans may take longer. **The entire exam (including both phases at both locations) may take up to 3 hours to complete.**

You will check in at the time of your appointment at the Oregon Advanced Imaging center identified during your pre-registration phone call. Once you have completed your patient registration you will be directed to the hospital's patient registration. They will process their respective paperwork and arrange for you to be escorted to their radiology department where the contrast agent will be injected into the joint. X-Rays will be taken once the contrast is administered. When the X-Ray portion of your exam is completed you will be directed back to the OAI imaging center for the MRI segment of your exam.

For optimal imaging quality during the scan you will need to remain as still as possible. The technologists will make every effort to make you comfortable during the procedure.

During your exam you will hear loud thumping sounds, but will feel no physical sensations. Ear plugs and music headphones are available, or bring a favorite CD if you have a music preference.

As soon as a radiologist interprets your MRI images OAI will forward a report to your doctor. This takes approximately 3-5 working days. Your doctor will contact you with your exam results.

After the procedure, what to expect

You may experience some soreness at the injection site for up to 24 hours after your procedure. Your joint area may become more painful than usual beginning 4-6 hours after the arthrogram, but the pain will gradually subside over the next day or two.

You can treat it with over-the-counter pain medicines such as ibuprofen if you do not have any allergies or contraindications for taking it. Ask your doctor if you have any questions.

Your joint should return to its usual mobility and level of pain by the second or third day. You can perform light activities the day of the procedure and return to normal the next day.

Please visit our web site at oaimaging.com for details on MRI technology and useful health links and resources.

Your MRI Appointment Date: _____

Arrival Time: _____ Scan Time: _____

Location: _____

