

DIRECT MRI ARTHROGRAPHY (JOINT MRI)



Your doctor has asked you to have this examination to look at your joint(s) with which you are having problems with in more detail. This will be using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), a way of taking pictures inside the body without using x-rays.

More detail on MRI is outlined in the leaflet enclosed.

Preparing for your scan

- Bring your completed safety questionnaire with you.
- Please avoid bringing any unnecessary valuables, and where possible wear clothing with no metal fastenings attached, although we will provide a gown to wear if necessary.

During the scan

- You will either lie on your front or back with a piece of equipment placed over the joint in question which helps take the pictures.
- You will then lie in the MRI scanner for up to 45 minutes.
- You will be given ear protection to help block out the loud noises of the scanner.

After your scan

The images need to be examined in detail by a doctor who is specialised in reading these images, so we are unable to give you any results straight away. You will need to make a follow-up appointment with the clinician who referred you for this examination.



This examination itself takes **about 30-45 minutes**, however you should **expect to be in the department for up to 1.5 hours**.



You are required to have an injection during the examination which will be thoroughly explained on the day.

The radiologist will inject something to numb the area in question. A needle is then placed into the joint and a special MRI dye injected under X-ray or ultrasound guidance to ensure that it is going into the correct place.

After the injection is complete you will go to the MRI scanner for your scan.

Risks

As with any injection there is a risk of reaction, although the contrast agent that we use for this examination has a very low risk. The dye is licensed for routine injection into the veins, and by being used for injections into the joint, this further reduces risk of reaction.

There is a small risk of introducing an infection when a needle is placed in a joint. The radiologist will take all necessary precautions to minimise this, including the use of skin disinfectant and by using sterile needles and tubing.

In some cases the joint injection can aggravate any current joint symptoms but these should last no longer than 48hrs and should be alleviated with whatever pain relief you normally use.

It is recommended you don't drive immediately following the MRI scan and that you make alternative arrangements to get home. This is because joint mobility may be affected by the injection and therefore invalidate insurance cover in the event of an accident.

