

Informed Consent for Arthrography

Your doctor has ordered an MRI (or CT) examination with the injection of contrast into your joint (shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee or ankle) using x-ray, CT or ultrasound guidance. This injection consists of a small amount of iodine-based, non-ionic contrast material (to confirm the needle is in the joint space) followed by an injection of gadolinium contrast and saline through the same needle. The gadolinium contrast provides enhanced visualization of the joint and it's supporting structures on MRI images. Fluoroscopy images are produced using X-rays and a computer. MRI does not use radiation.

Technique:

- You will be asked to lie down on the fluoroscopy table. After the skin surface is cleaned, local anesthetic is injected. The injection of contrast into the joint is performed under sterile conditions.
- Images will be obtained before and during the procedure to guide the radiologist in placing the needle and contrast in your joint space.
- A needle is then inserted into the joint. A small amount of iodine-based contrast is injected to ensure that the needle tip is within the joint – this is determined using Fluoroscopy.
- Then the dilute solution of gadolinium is injected. As the injection is performed you may notice a sense of pressure or fullness in the joint. Mild discomfort of the joint may persist for a day or two after the injection.
- Once the needle is removed, the area is cleaned and a small bandage is applied.

Potential Risks:

- **Bruising or swelling and pain may develop at the injection site and may persist for a day or two.**
- **Allergic or allergic-type of reactions to contrast may occur.** These are rare. The most common allergic reaction consists of an itchy skin rash which may take a few days to resolve completely. It may be treated with an anti-histamine. A severe reaction is extremely rare and occurs in approximately 1 in every 100,000 people. This type of reaction may be life-threatening and includes difficulty breathing, severe swelling of the face, mouth or airways, seizure, severe drop in blood pressure and cardiopulmonary collapse. A serious reaction usually occurs shortly after the injection and requires emergency medical treatment. It is more common in patients with asthma or other allergies. If you have had an allergic reaction to contrast injections given in conjunction with MRI, CT or X-ray procedure, the chance of another reaction is higher.
- **Joint infection:** This is extremely rare and occurs to 1 in every 10,000 to 20,000 patients. The risk is slightly higher in patients with diabetes. If after the procedure, there is progressive pain and swelling of the joint and/or you develop fever and chills, contact your doctor or go to an emergency room to be evaluated. Early antibiotic treatment of joint infection is important in order to prevent complications.

Pregnancy: Fluoroscopy, MRI and CT, are not performed on pregnant patients except in certain rare medical situations. Therefore, it is the policy of this facility that this procedure will not be routinely performed on a woman with known or suspected pregnancy.

After the procedure: Avoid placing undue stress on the joint that has been injected for at least 24 hours.

Consent to the procedure: *I have read and I understand the information presented in this consent form and I hereby give my consent for injection of iodine-based, non-ionic contrast and gadolinium contrast into the joint under Fluoroscopy guidance.*

PATIENT NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE*

WITNESS

*Patient or Patient Representative: Parent/Conservator/Guardian