

# Arthrogram

## Patient Information

**This patient information sheet should answer any questions you have about your procedure. If you still have questions after reading this, you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website [www.theholly.com](http://www.theholly.com), telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email [diagnostics@theholly.com](mailto:diagnostics@theholly.com)**

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

An Arthrogram is a special x-ray to investigate inner structures of a particular joint. This is most commonly the shoulder, hip, knee, elbow or wrist. It is sometimes followed by a CT or MRI scan of the joint. The results of this examination will help your doctor to make a diagnosis and/or plan necessary treatment.

You will need to sign a consent form before you have this examination.

Please also inform the Diagnostics Department of any allergies you have at the time of booking.

### **What happens during the Arthrogram?**

If necessary, you will firstly be asked to change into an examination gown

and dressing gown. We will make sure we have your full consent for the procedure before we start.

The Radiographer will then show you into the x-ray room and may take a number of preliminary x-rays.

The Consultant Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in interpreting medical images) will then numb the skin with a little local anaesthetic. An injection of an x-ray and/or MRI “contrast agent” is then made into the joint.

At this point you may be asked to bend (flex) the joint so that all the internal structures can be seen. A further series of x-rays may be then taken to show the joint fully.

The procedure normally lasts around 20 minutes. However, if the Consultant Radiologist needs

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further fluroscopic x-ray images or MRI images, you will be transferred to the appropriate area. If this is the case, you can expect to remain in the Diagnostic Centre for a further 45 minutes approximately.

### **Will I feel any discomfort?**

You may experience some discomfort during and after the procedure, which may last for two to three days. You may have some bruising where you have been injected.

**We advise all patients not to drive yourself home after the procedure.**

### **What happens after the procedure?**

The Consultant Radiologist will write up a report, usually within 48 hours and send this to your referring consultant. Please ensure you have made a follow up appointment with your referring doctor to discuss your results.

### **Further information**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries. You can telephone the Diagnostic Centre on 020 8936 1202 or email [diagnostics@theholly.com](mailto:diagnostics@theholly.com). Alternatively you can visit the Diagnostics section of our website [www.theholly.com](http://www.theholly.com)

If you would like a copy of this information in large print or an alternative language, please call 020 8936 1214.

Please note we are unable to provide child care facilities during your examination and in most cases children will be unable to accompany you into the examination rooms.

**Call: 020 8505 3311 (Main Switchboard)**  
**Call: 020 8936 1202 (Diagnostics Centre)**  
**Email: [diagnostics@theholly.com](mailto:diagnostics@theholly.com)**  
**Visit: [theholly.com](http://theholly.com)**

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