

ARTHROGRAM

Purpose:

An arthrogram identifies joint injuries, torn cartilage.

How long will this procedure take?

This procedure can take up to 1¼ hours.

Preparation:

None.

Procedure:

Prior to your examination, you will be asked to read and sign an informed consent which explains the procedure. A hospital gown will be provided; remove any foreign objects such as jewelry, snaps, buttons, etc. from the area of interest.

A radiologic technologist may perform “scout” fluoroscopic films. After checking these, the radiologist will begin the examination. He will inject a local anesthesia, instill a contrast material and perhaps a small amount of air into the joint space, and move the joint to coat all internal surfaces with the contrast.

The radiologist will then position the joint while the technologist fluoroscopes and takes small “spot” films. After the radiologist leaves the room, the technologist will take overhead films in various positions. All your films will be reviewed by the radiologist before you leave the department to assure that no additional films are necessary.

After the examination:

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.