Care Gram

Arthrogram (Joint X-Ray)

Date of Test: _____ Test Time: _____

Welcome
Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested an arthrogram. This X-ray is taken of a joint after injecting a special medication called a contrast agent into the joint area. A radiologist, a doctor with special training in medical imaging), will perform the test. A radiographer who is certified in the use of X-ray equipment will assist the radiologist.

The test is used to find problems with the shoulder, wrist, hip, knee, and ankle joints. It is also used to help determine if a joint replacement is needed.

Allowing Time
The test may take 45 to 60 minutes. You should allow more time for your visit.

Preparation
- No preparation is needed for this test.
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, be sure to let your doctor know before the test begins.

If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4710.

Registration
Please report directly to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor 15 minutes before your scheduled test time.

During an Arthrogram
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove jewelry that would interfere with the test.
- First, simple X-rays are taken of the joint.
- Next, the skin around the joint is cleaned. A numbing medicine (local anesthetic) is injected close to the joint. This may feel like a pinprick with some burning. Then the area will feel numb.
- A needle is inserted into the joint space. The contrast agent and/or air is then injected through the needle into the joint.
- You may feel a fullness as the joint is filled with the fluid or air. You may also feel and hear gurgling when the joint is moved.

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- Then the needle is removed. You will need to move the joint to make the contrast material spread.
- X-rays are then taken with the joint placed in different positions.
- An MRI or CT scan may also be done if requested by your doctor.

After the Test

You should not do any fast exercise for 12 hours. After that, you may resume your regular activities. You may have swelling and discomfort in the joint area. Apply ice to the joint if it is bothering you. Ask your doctor what over-the-counter medicine you may take if you need it. If the pain and swelling lasts longer than 2 days, call your doctor.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study the test and give the findings to your doctor. The doctor will talk to you about your results.

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This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.