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WHAT IS MR ARTHROGRAM?

An MRI Arthrogram exam is used to take detailed images of your joints. MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. The exam has two parts. First, you will have an arthrogram, which is an injection of contrast into the affected joint. This is done with utilizing the CT scanner. Once contrast is visualized in the joint structure, you will be escorted to the MRI scanner to complete the imaging study in MRI. This two-part exam shows more detail of your joint than an MRI by itself.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE MR ARTHROGRAM EXAMINATION.

- No Aspirin 48 hours before your exam.
- No blood thinners such as Heparin, Coumadin, Lovenox, Flolan, Persantine or Plavix 72 hours before the exam. *
- Hip, Knee and ankle arthrogram procedures must have a driver.
- No heavy meal 1 hour prior to the exam.
- Hydrate well (drink water) before the exam.
- Arrive 20 minutes prior to your scheduled exam.

* Please note: If you have any questions about discontinuing aspirin or blood thinners, please contact your treating/prescribing physician (Cardiologist/Primary Care Physician).

You won't be allowed to wear anything metallic during the MRI examination, so it is best to leave watches, jewelry or anything made from metal at home. Even some cosmetics contain small amounts of metals, so it is best to not wear make-up.

To prevent metallic objects from being attracted by the powerful magnet of the MR system, you will typically receive scrubs, shorts or a gown to wear during your examination. Items that need to be removed by patients before entering the MR system room include:

- Purse, wallet, money clip, credit cards, cards with magnetic strips.
- Electronic devices such as beepers or cell phones.
- Hearing aids.
- Metal jewelry, body piercing, watches.
- Pens, paper clips, keys, coins.
- Hair barrettes, hairpins.
- Any article of clothing that has a metal zipper, buttons, snaps, hooks, underwires, or metal threads.
- Shoes, belt buckles, safety pins.

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Before the MRI procedure, you will be asked to fill out a screening form asking about anything that might create a health risk or interfere with imaging. You will also undergo an interview by a member of the MRI facility to ensure that you understand the questions on the form. Even if you have undergone an MRI procedure before at this or another facility, you will still be asked to complete an MRI screening form.

If you are claustrophobic or anxious, medication can be prescribed before the date of your scan to help relax you. Instructions will be given to you as to how to take this medication.

Examples of items or things that may create a health hazard or other problem during an MRI exam include:

- Pacemaker.
- Implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD).
- Neurostimulator.
- Aneurysm clip.
- Implanted drug infusion device.
- Foreign metal objects, especially if in or near the eye.
- Shrapnel or bullet wounds.
- Permanent cosmetics or tattoos.
- Dentures/teeth with magnetic keepers.
- Insulin pump.
- Other implants that involve magnets.
- Medication patch (i.e., transdermal patch) that contains metal foil.

Check with the MRI technologist if you have questions or concerns about any implanted object or health condition that could impact the MRI procedure. This is particularly important if you have undergone surgery involving the brain, ear, eye, heart, or blood vessels.

Important Note: If you are pregnant or think that you could be pregnant, you must notify your physician and the radiologist or the MRI technologist at the MRI center before the MRI procedure.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF THE MR ARTHROGRAM?

Once the entire MR Arthrogram examination is completed, the images will be read by a radiologist, a specially-trained physician who is able to interpret the scans for your physician.

You will need to schedule a follow-up appointment with your physician to go over

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your results and discuss your treatment options. If you do not have an appointment scheduled, please contact the Scheduling Department at (813)978-9797.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN A COPY OF THE MR ARTHROGRAM?

If you had your test performed at Florida Orthopaedic Institute and would like to obtain a copy of the MRI report or a CD of the images, or have a copy sent to another physician you will need to complete a Release of Medical Records Form. You can obtain this form from any of the Front Desk Representatives.

If your test was done at an outside facility, you would need to contact that facility directly to obtain a copy of your results.

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