

PATIENT INFORMATION

You have an appointment in the Radiology Department at St. Paul's Hospital.

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Please arrive 15 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring your children with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8006** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

Things you need to know

Why am I having this test?

Your doctor has asked that we take a detailed x-ray of a joint. This is called an arthrogram. Most often this done on the knee, but it can also be done on the shoulder, ankle, hip, wrist or elbow. To see the joint clearly, we inject into the joint space an x-ray dye and along with some air.

What do I need to do before the test?

★ Tell us if you are allergic to latex or freezing ★ Tell us if you may be pregnant ★

You do not need to do anything special to prepare for this test.

You may need to change into a hospital gown.

In the exam room, we explain the test to you and ask that you sign a consent form.

What happens during the test?

The test is done with you lying on an x-ray table.

Here are the steps we take to examine the joint:

- We clean the joint with an antibacterial (cleansing) liquid and then place a sterile drape with a hole in the centre over the joint.
- We inject local anaesthetic or freezing into the area. This freezes your joint to make it more comfortable.
- Once the area is frozen (numb), a needle is inserted into the joint.
- We inject the contrast (also called x-ray dye) and air into the joint. Once done, the needle is removed.
- We ask you to bend and move that joint several times to spread the fluid and air through the joint.
- We move the limb and joint into various positions and take x-rays.

What can I expect after the test?

You may feel pressure or tightness in the joint for up to 36 hours.

Infections are rare but call your doctor right away or go to Emergency if you:

- have swelling of the joint area, or more swelling than is normal for you.
- have a lot of pain in the joint area.
- get chills and a fever.
 - a temperature over 38.5° C (101.3° F), using an ear or mouth thermometer.

How do I get the results of my test?

We send your test results to your doctor as soon as possible. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

Questions I have:
