



TENNESSEE ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS
a division of TENNESSEE ORTHOPAEDIC ALLIANCE

MRI AND MRA INFORMATION

Your Provider has ordered a Magnetic Resonance Arthrogram (MRA) to further understand the anatomy of your painful joint and develop an appropriate treatment plan. An MRA is an imaging procedure that combines a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) test that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to generate a detailed image of the joint with an Arthrogram, a procedure where a contrast agent is injected into the joint to enhance the image to be obtained during the MRI.



You may be asked to change into a paper gown and/or shorts in the injection suite. Once you are positioned for the injection, the entry point for the injection is prepped in a sterile fashion. Numbing medicine is then injected into the entry point with a very small needle. When the area is numb, another needle is then directed into the joint under fluoroscopic guidance by a specially trained Physician, and the appropriate contrast is injected into the joint.

The risk of an Arthrogram injection is very small. It is typical to have some discomfort at the injection site but significant pain, swelling, and/or bruising at the injection site is uncommon and warrants a call to your Provider.

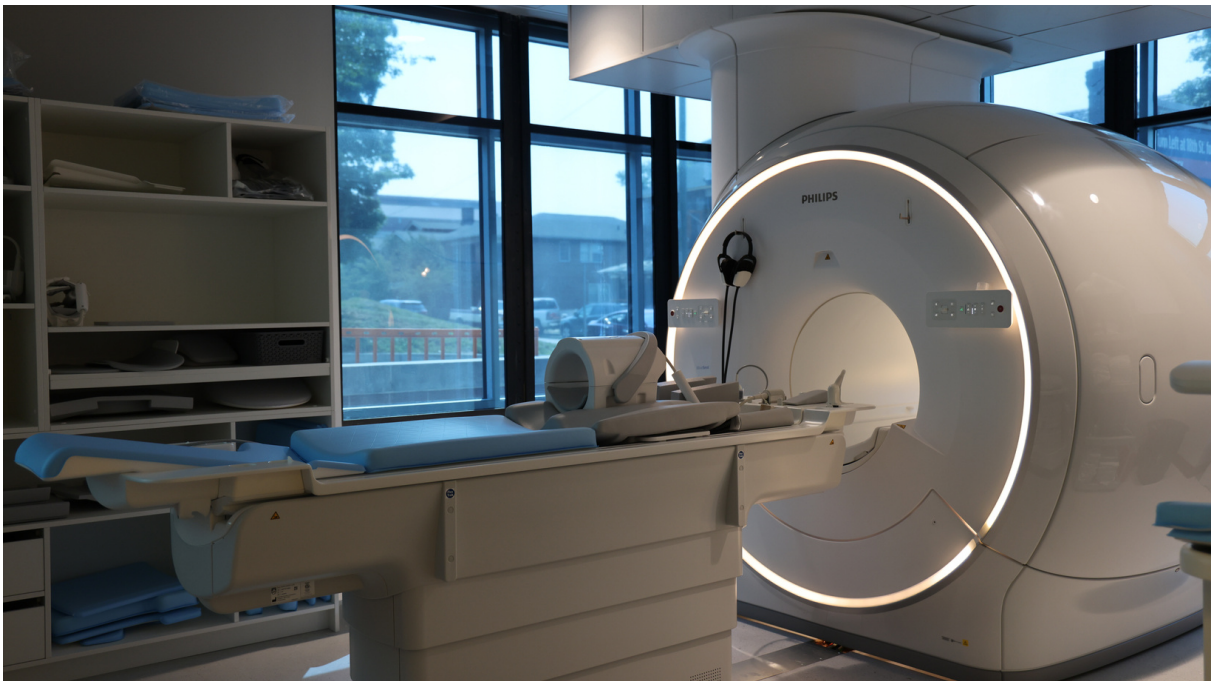
Other risks include an injection outside of the joint necessitating repeating the study, an unlikely event. The likelihood of infection of the joint is very low. National literature quotes an infection rate of 1 out of 40,000 injections or 0.0025%.



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When the injection is complete, you may be asked to move the joint to facilitate the spread of the contrast within the joint. Once time has been allowed for the contrast to spread in the joint, you will be moved to the MRI suite. In the MRI suite, you may be asked to change into a paper gown and/or shorts if you have not already done so. Take care to remove all magnetic metal objects and jewelry. You will be placed on a flat tabletop and cushioned for comfort. To mask the noise the machine makes as images are acquired, you will be provided with headphones and/or earplugs. Music is also available.



A call bell will be provided so you can signal the technician if you need assistance, and the technician has an intercom to communicate with you. Once you are comfortably positioned with the necessary ear protection and communication pieces, the tabletop will slide into the bore of the MR machine. The MR machine will let you know how long each part of the scan takes. Once the imaging is complete, the technician will help you off the table. You will be able to leave once you have changed clothes.

Please follow up with your Provider for the results of the scan.