

# 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 air and/or a special medication called a contrast agent into the joint area. The test will be performed by a Radiologist (a doctor with special training in medical X-ray). Your doctor will be assisted by a radiographer who is certified in the use of X-ray equipment.

The test is used to find problems with the shoulder, wrist, hip, knee, and ankle joints. It also is used to decide 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 Radiology Department on the first floor of LMH 15 minutes before your scheduled test time.

### During an Arthrography

- 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 pin prick with some burning. Then the area will feel numb.
- A needle is inserted into the joint space. Fluid then is withdrawn from the joint. The joint fluid also may be tested. The contrast agent and/or air then is injected through the needle into the joint.



**Licking Memorial  
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- 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.
- Then the needle is removed. You will need to move the joint to make the contrast material spread out.
- X-rays are then taken with the joint placed in different positions.
- An MRI or CT scan also may 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.