

Special Instructions:

Your appointment is scheduled for:

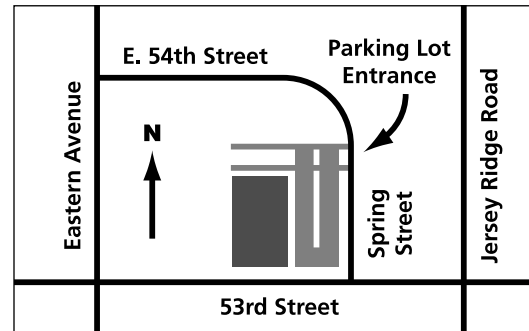
Day: _____

Time: _____

If you cannot keep this appointment, please call (563) 359-3931 to cancel or reschedule.

Driving Directions

1970 E. 53rd St., Davenport



If you are approaching from the East:

Turn right on Spring Street (just west of TPC's building). Our parking lot entrance will then be on your left.

If you are approaching from the West:

Turn left (north) on Eastern Avenue at the stop-light. Proceed two blocks to 54th St. and turn right. Follow 54th St. as it runs into Spring St. Our parking lot entrance will be on your right before you reach the stop sign at 53rd St.

Arthrogram



RG
Radiology
Group p.c., s.c.
Imaging Center

The Power to Know™

What is an Arthrogram?

An Arthrogram is a special x-ray of a joint and joint space. Regular x-rays show the bones of the various joints with great clarity. However, in order to evaluate the actual joint space and the ligaments around the bones a special contrast media (x-ray dye) must be injected into the joint. This injection allows for additional information that is not visible on plain x-rays.

About your joints

A joint is made up of bones, synovium (sin-no-v-um), synovial (sin-no-v-ull) fluid, and cartilage (kar-tih-lij). Synovium is a thin layer of tissue that covers the bones in the joint. Synovial fluid is like grease and helps the bones move smoothly. Cartilage is the tough, bendable tissue that protects bones. Ligaments (lih-guh-ments) and tendons surround the joint. Ligaments and tendons are strong tissues that hook muscles and cartilage to bones. Ligaments and tendons also support the joint and make it stronger.



Why do I need an Arthrogram?

Arthrograms are done for many reasons. Your physician may be looking for a tear in the joint. A cyst inside your joint can also be seen on an Arthrogram. Or, your physician may be looking for damage in the joint.

What will the exam be like?

The Radiologist, a physician who specializes in the study of various imaging tests such as x-ray, ultrasound, mammography, CT, MRI, and Nuclear Medicine, will perform this exam. He or she will be assisted by a Radiologic Technologist and a Radiology Nurse.

Prior to the exam you will be asked questions regarding your past medical history, allergies, and medications, and be given a chance to ask any questions you may have. The technologist or nurse will then assist you onto the x-ray table.

The Radiologist begins the exam by cleaning the joint area with an antiseptic. He or she then inserts a small needle into the skin and injects a local anesthetic. This stings for a few seconds and then the area becomes numb. Next, the Radiologist places a needle through the numbed skin into the joint space. During the insertion you may feel some pressure as the needle is inserted. Once in place, contrast media is injected through the needle. There may be brief periods of discomfort and pressure during the procedure. Once the contrast media is in place, the needle is removed and a Band-Aid is placed over the needle site.

At this point, x-ray films are taken. The Radiologist and technologist will assist you to move the joint into different positions. This helps to distribute the x-ray dye in the joint space and allows for images to be taken at different angles. Sometimes an

MRI scan is performed instead of having x-ray images taken. In this case, you are assisted to the MRI area for further imaging.

What can I expect after the Arthrogram?

After the exam, you can expect some tenderness in the joint. You may resume "normal" activity, but should refrain from intense physical exercise or use of the joint in question.

You may take analgesics prescribed or suggested by your physician, taking into account your medical condition. You will be able to leave upon completion of the exam, but you should bring someone with you to drive you home.

Preparations prior to the exam

Generally, there are no special preparations prior to an Arthrogram.

How long will the exam take?

Most Arthrograms take about 45 to 60 minutes. An injection prior to an MRI procedure takes about 15-30 minutes.

Patient Suggestions:

- Wear comfortable clothing that will be easy to change out of
- Avoid wearing jewelry
- Bring someone to drive you home

Exam Results?

A Radiologist will study the images and send a typed report to the designated health care provider.