

NOTES:

Call location for hours and directions

Locations:

Complete Diagnostic Imaging Services

Saint Anne's Hospital
Ground Floor, 795 Middle Street, Fall River
508-674-5600 ext. 2300
Free valet parking

Saint Anne's Hospital

795 Middle Street, Fall River, MA 02721
Main Number and Directions 508-674-5600

Diagnostic Imaging Services at Saint Anne's Hospital

For our patients and their physicians, Saint Anne's Diagnostic Imaging Services combines the expertise of board-certified radiologists with the area's most comprehensive range of advanced imaging technology. Our fully digitized network of imaging technology assures the highest imaging quality with less time and inconvenience for patients, as well as rapid access to the results for physicians. Images can be viewed and sent via computer to multiple specialists within the hospital, across town to a physician's office or to other hospitals and specialists.

Our dedicated team of physicians and technologists is focused on providing the highest quality imaging and patient comfort. This extends to working with our youngest patients as well as others who require special considerations and appointment scheduling for imaging.

We offer a spectrum of services, including:

- Computerized Tomography (CT) scanning
- Digital X-ray
- Digital Mammography provided in our dedicated Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Center for Breast Care
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine with CT capability
- PET/CT imaging
- Ultrasound

INTERPRETER SERVICES AVAILABLE

Portuguese - Português

Fala Português? Vamos oferecer-lhe um intérprete gratuito.

Spanish - Español

¿Habla español? Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin costo alguno para usted.

Digital Imaging: A High-Tech Change for Better Care

Digital imaging creates a "filmless" environment that permits rapid viewing of pictures and secure transmission to physicians whether they are in the hospital, their nearby practice or a specialist located miles away. Digital images are high quality, environmentally friendly and easier to access via PACS (Picture Archiving Communication System).

The PACS system is part of a patient's secure and confidential electronic medical record, which provides for improved care through integration of various tests and reports all in one easily-retrievable location.

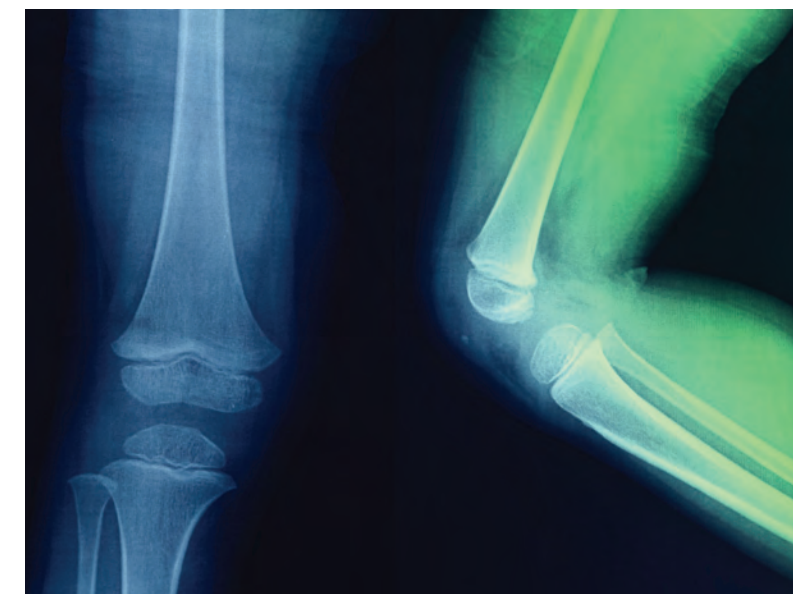
Care Agreement:

You have the right to help plan your care. To help with this plan, you must learn about your health condition and how it may be treated. You can then discuss treatment options with your caregivers. Work with them to decide what care may be used to treat you. You always have the right to refuse treatment.

SaintAnnesHospital.org

Saint Anne's Hospital

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES



Arthrogram/ Joint Injection

PATIENT INFORMATION



Understanding Your Exam

What is an Arthrogram?

An arthrogram (r-thro-gram), also called a contrast arthrogram or arthrography (r-thah-gruh-fee), is a test using X-rays and fluoroscopy (flor-oss-kuh-p) to look inside a joint to assess an injury or a symptom you may be experiencing. Fluoroscopy is a type of X-ray that shows moving pictures. An arthrogram can be done on the knee, shoulder, ankle, hip, or wrist joints

The test is done by first injecting contrast medium (or “dye” as it is sometimes called) which outlines the soft tissue structures in the joint (e.g., ligaments and cartilage) and makes them clearer to see on the images or pictures that will be taken of the joint. This is usually done using fluoroscopy. Fluoroscopy uses X-rays to transmit moving images onto a screen to guide the placement of the needle containing the contrast medium. This may also be done using computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or ultrasound for guidance. The exact technique will vary from doctor to doctor and also depend on the joint being injected.

The injection of contrast medium into the joint makes the subsequent scan more sensitive in detecting damage to the internal structure of the joint.

What’s in a Joint?

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 caregiver may be looking for a tear in the joint. A cyst inside your joint can also be seen on an arthrogram. Or, your caregiver may be looking for damage in the joint. Arthrograms can be performed as a single procedure. They can also be performed in conjunction with a CT or MRI scan.

Pain Management Treatment with Arthrograms

Arthrograms can be performed as a means of accurately localizing the area for injection of steroids for pain management.

What Should You Know

It may be best to wear comfortable clothing with easy access to the joint being examined.

A caregiver cleans the skin over the joint with soap and water. This soap may make your skin yellow, but it is cleaned off later. A local anesthetic is injected. You may still feel pressure or pushing during the arthrogram but the medicine numbs the area and dulls the pain. Another needle is then put into the joint space between the bones. Fluid may be removed from the joint and sent to a lab for tests.

A small amount of contrast is put into the joint and x-rays are taken. It helps the joint show up better. Air may be put into the joint and used as a contrast. The area is rubbed with a gauze or it may be sealed with a bandaid. A series of x-rays are then quickly taken using fluoroscopy.

You will be asked to move into many different positions while the pictures are taken. This test takes about 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Arthrograms are also performed prior to moving to a CT or MRI for detailed pictures. While an MRI or CT scan without the use of contrast medium can provide information on the soft tissue structures, using contrast medium with MRI or CT (an Arthrogram) may provide more information about what is wrong with the joint.

Many people have a sore joint as the reason for the examination. Most patients feel some mild to moderate increase in soreness in the joint for 24-48 hours following the injection. The joint will then return to feeling the way it was before the examination.

Appointment Scheduling

508-235-5339

Monday-Friday 8 am - 6 pm
Your physician’s office will schedule your arthrogram. Our Scheduling staff are able to assist with all scheduling needs, as well as provide patients and physician practices exam preparation instructions when applicable.

If you are unable to keep your appointment and need to reschedule or if you wish to cancel your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible. A 24 hour notice would be greatly appreciated.

Pre-Registration By Phone: 508-235-5674

To expedite your visit, please contact our Patient Assistance Center to pre-register for your exam. If we do not hear from you, a member of our staff will attempt to reach you. Please ensure your physician has your most up-to-date contact information. During the registration process, we can assist you with your co-pay, coinsurance, and deductible.

Once you have pre-registered, you can arrive on the scheduled day and time and go directly to the Diagnostic Imaging Services location.

The Day Of Your Exam

- Use the Valet Parking services at the hospital, Monday through Friday, and reduce the amount of time you spend looking for parking. It’s free, and you can pick up your car at the entrance when you are finished with your appointment. No long walks!
- For exams scheduled at the hospital: If you have not pre-registered, please go to Patient Registration, located near the main entrance to the hospital, 30 minutes prior to your scheduled exam appointment to be registered for your exam.
- If you are diabetic, inform staff and take your medications as you would normally.
- We want our patients to be as comfortable as possible while having tests performed. However, we ask that you not bring children with you unless you have an adult to watch and care for them while you are having your procedure.
- Pediatric patients must be accompanied by either a parent or legal guardian in order to receive care.