



Your Ultrasound Guided Joint Aspiration

Scanning Department Radiology

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 50 49

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



Your Ultrasound Guided Joint Aspiration

What is this procedure?

It is the aspiration of fluid from your joint using ultrasound scan for guidance.

Ultrasound is high frequency sound waves. Humans are unable to hear them, but the scanning machine uses them to produce images.

Are there any risks involved?

Complications are rare. However infection or bleeding could be experienced in exceptional circumstances. Our strict guidelines in performing this procedure ensure that this risk is reduced to a minimum.

Do I have to have this scan?

The doctor has requested this scan for you. It is the easiest way to gain the information needed to diagnose and treat your problem.

What do I have to do before I come?

If you are using **Warfarin or Clopidogrel** it is important that you ring as soon as possible. We will need to advise you about its use during the days coming up to your appointment.

- Please bring a list of all your other medication with you.
- You may eat and drink normally before this procedure.



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What does it involve?

- You will have an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area.
- A cool gel is applied to the area so that the scanner slides easily to and fro to obtain the images.
- Using the ultrasound for guidance, a needle is directed into the joint to aspirate the fluid.
- It will take about 15 minutes, but we will ask you to remain in the department for about another 30 minutes until the doctor is happy for you to leave.
- You should not drive yourself home. Please consider this when making your transport arrangements.

What happens after the scan?

- You may eat and drink normally
- You should not use the joint excessively immediately after this procedure. You should be able to resume your normal day-to-day activities the following day.

You will receive a letter or follow-up clinic appointment to discuss the results.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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