

## MR ARTHROGRAPHY AT ZILKHA RADIOLOGY

The MR arthrogram is an advanced radiology test that helps evaluate joint pain. In patients with shoulder pain, we can more easily see tears of the rotator cuff and labrum. This test helps your doctor plan your treatment to make you feel better. Nobody should have joint pain. It prevents you from living your life and sleeping at night.

The study is done in two parts. The first part occurs in our fluoroscopy suite. The skin is cleaned with betadine. The skin and underlying tissues are numbed with lidocaine. A skinny needle is placed in the joint. A small amount of MRI dye (gadolinium) diluted in x-ray dye (less than a tablespoon of contrast for the shoulder) is injected into the joint.

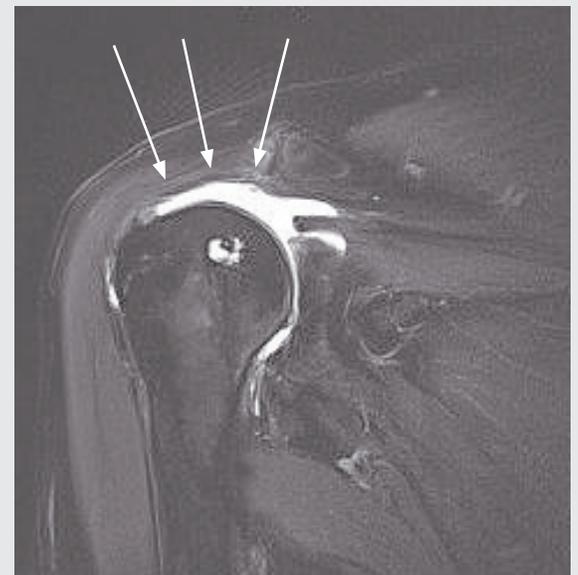
Next, the patient has an MRI of the shoulder with special sequences. A normal rotator cuff and a normal labrum are dark on all MRI pictures. If there is a tear, contrast makes its way into the injured area. The rotator cuff or labrum will have a bright interruption if there is a tear. Sometimes a steroid injection can be given at the time of the study to provide pain relief for up to 6 weeks or more.

Other joints studied this way include the hip, knee, ankle, elbow and wrist. CT arthrogram is performed in patients with metal near the joint from prior surgery and in patients with pacemakers or defibrillators.

For your convenience, **we are open 7 days a week 7 am to 10 pm Monday to Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8 am to 4 pm.**



Normal Supraspinatus Tendon  
Attaching To The Humeral Head



Supraspinatus Tendon Tear  
Which Is Retracted