

GETTING READY FOR YOUR TEST

MRI or Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a medical test that helps doctors look for and treat many different medical problems. MRI scanners use a strong magnetic field and computers to create detailed pictures. For an **MRI arthrogram**, a small amount of contrast or dye is injected into the joint space before the MRI. This contrast allows the doctor to better look at the joint using MRI images. Before the MRI exam starts, a doctor will give you medicine to numb the surface of your skin. Then "live x-ray," called **fluoroscopy**, is used to correctly position a needle into your joint. Once the needle is in position, fluoroscopy is again used to make sure that the injection of contrast goes into the right place in the joint.

At UNM Hospitals, only trained and licensed doctors and techs perform fluoroscopy and MRI tests. Students work with licensed technologists.

Image of the shoulder using fluoroscopy