



What is Calcium Fragmentation/Aspiration?

Calcium Fragmentation/Aspiration is a procedure often used for people suffering calcific tendinitis. Depending on the density of the calcification it will either be broken up into smaller fragments (fragmentation) or if it is soft enough, actually sucked out through the needle (aspirated).

What should I expect when I have my injection?

The risks and possible complications of this procedure will be discussed with you prior to the procedure and with your acceptance we will proceed with the injection.

You will be asked to lie on an examination bed or sit in a chair with the area of clinical concern exposed. The area will be cleaned with a hospital grade antiseptic wash and then scanned using the relevant radiological equipment (ultrasound or CT). By locating this area under ultrasound or CT guidance we can ensure precision in locating the area of clinical interest to be fragmented/aspirated.

A fine needle will be inserted, to either break the calcification up into smaller fragments or sucked out through the needle (aspirated). A local anaesthetic will be administered, and finally some cortisone will be injected to assist in reducing the inflammation caused by the calcium.

Are there any risks or side effects from my procedure?

As with all medical procedures there are risks. A skin infection or infection of the deep soft tissues is a low risk. No recorded tendon ruptures have been documented in the scientific literature nor has this been our experience to date. Patients have reported a flaring up of pain in the first week following the procedure, this is normal and in most cases is controlled with some Paracetamol or an anti-inflammatory medication. Please see your Health Care Professional if pain persists.

How should I prepare for my procedure?

When you phone to arrange your appointment one of our friendly reception staff will advise you of the preparation and requirements for this procedure. We will also need to know if you are currently on blood thinners such as Warfarin or Aspirin.

Blood thinning medications that you are currently taking should be ceased prior to this procedure. This should be discussed with your Health Care Professional prior to making your appointment.

(Aspirin and Warfarin for 5 days, Plavix for 7 days and Iscover for 8 days). If you have had a heart valve replacement, it may be necessary to take antibiotics before the procedure. Please discuss this with your Cardiologist/Cardiac Surgeon and take antibiotics as directed.

Things to bring along to my appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card (as we bulk bill all eligible Medicare services).
- Referral (this is a legal requirement).
- Workcover details and claim number (if this is a Workcover claim).

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