PATIENT INFORMATION
from Obi Ugwonali, M.D.

What To Expect From Your Visit with Dr. Ugwonali

After reviewing your X-rays and your clinical exam performed by Dr. Ugwonali, he may order an additional diagnostic test that could include the following:

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging): An MRI uses magnetic fields and a sophisticated computer to take high-resolution pictures of your bones and soft tissues. It can be used to help diagnose torn muscles, ligaments and cartilage. You lay on a table that slides into the tube-shaped MRI scanner. The MRI creates a magnetic field around you, then pulses radio waves to the area of your body to be pictured. The radio waves cause your tissues to resonate. A computer records the rate at which your body's various parts (tendons, ligaments, nerves) give off these vibrations and translates the data into a detailed, two-dimensional picture. You won't feel any pain while undergoing an MRI, but the machine may be noisy. An MRI takes 30 to 90 minutes. Please let us know if you have implants, metal clips or other metal objects in your body before you undergo an MRI scan.

Electromyography: An electromyography (EMG) records and analyzes the electrical activity in your muscles. It is used to learn more about the functioning of nerves in the arms and legs.

During an EMG, small, thin needles are placed in the muscle to record the electrical activity. You may feel some pain and discomfort when the needles are inserted. The doctor will ask you to relax the muscle and then to tense it slightly. The electrical signals generated by your muscle are broadcast on a TV-like screen. You may experience some soreness and bruising when the needles are removed but this will disappear in a few days. There are no long-term side effects.

Nerve conduction studies are often done along with an electromyogram to determine if a nerve is functioning normally and may be recommended if you have symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome or ulnar nerve entrapment. The doctor conducting the test will tape wires (electrodes) to the skin in various places along the nerve pathway. The doctor then stimulates the nerve with an electric current. As the current travels down the nerve pathway, the electrodes placed along the way capture the signal and measure its speed. In healthy nerves, electrical signals can travel at speeds of up to 120 miles per hour. If the nerve is damaged, the signal will be slower and weaker. By stimulating the nerve at various places, the doctor can determine the specific site of the injury. Nerve conduction studies also may be used during treatment to test the progress being made.

Although you may initially be startled by the suddenness of the stimulation, it is not usually painful and most people are comfortable during the procedure. The shock is similar to one received when you touch a doorknob after walking across carpeting.

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CT Scan (Computed Tomography): A CT Scan combines X-rays with computer technology to produce a more detailed, cross-sectional image of your body. It may be ordered if your doctor suspects a tumor or a fracture that doesn't appear on X-ray. The process is painless. You lie motionless on a table as it slides into the center of the cylinder-like CT scanner. The X-ray tube slowly rotates around you, taking many pictures from all directions. A computer combines the images to produce a clear, two-dimensional view of a television screen. You may need to drink or be injected with barium sulfate or a dye so that certain parts of your body can be seen more clearly. The drink has a chalky taste, and may make you feel nauseous. A dye injection may be moderately painful. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant before undergoing a CT scan.

Labs Laboratory studies of blood, urine or joint (synovial) fluids are used to identify the presence and amount of chemicals, proteins, and other substances. Laboratory tests are usually required before surgeries to identify medical abnormalities.

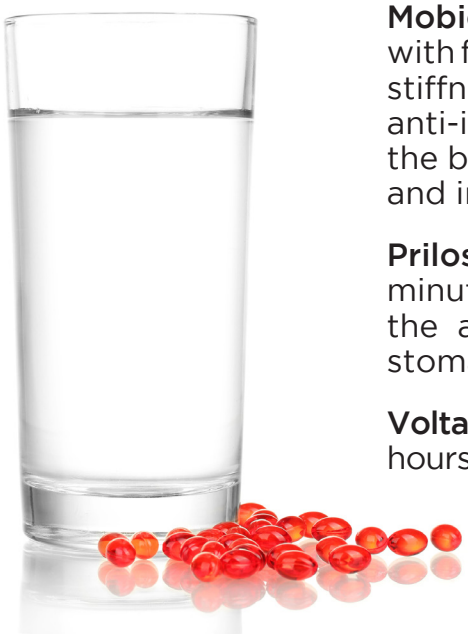
Lab Testing Sites

Lab Corp
(855) 277-8669: call to schedule or schedule online at www.labcorp.com

Quest Diagnostics
(866) 697-8373: call to schedule or schedle online at www.questdiagnotics.com

> Please have the lab fax lab results to Dr. Ugwonali at **404-425-1071.**

Prescriptions: Prescriptions for these medications may have been sent electronically to the pharmacy that you provided information for today. Please ask the doctor's assistant if you're not sure. They may include medications such as:



Mobic 15 mg (meloxicam): to take one tablet by mouth daily with food. This is used to relieve pain, tenderness, swelling and stiffness. Mobic is in a class of medication called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), which work by stopping the body's production of a substance that causes pain, fever and inflammation.

Prilosec (omeprazole): to take one tablet by mouth 30 minutes prior to breakfast/Mobic. This is used to make sure the anti-inflammatory given today does not irritate your stomach or make you feel nauseous.

Voltaren gel: a topical anti-inflammatory gel to apply every 6 hours to affected area.

Medrol Dose Pac (Methyl prednisolone): a steroid medicine that reduces inflammation, swelling and allergic reactions in all parts of the body.