

**VALUE OF MR ARTHROGRAPHY IN
DIAGNOSIS OF UCL TEAR OF THE ELBOW**



CLINICAL PRESENTATION: This is young baseball pitcher who presented with elbow pain to his orthopedic surgeon. An MR Arthrogram of the elbow was performed at AIC.

IMAGING FINDINGS: Fig. 1-3 are all coronal T1 weighted images with Fat Sat (dark fat) of the elbow after instillation of diluted gadolinium into the lateral radiohumeral joint. The arrows point to a tear at the humeral attachment of the Ulnar Collateral Ligament (UCL), allowing for extravasation of the intraarticular contrast into the surrounding soft tissues through the tear in the proximal UCL. This tear would have been otherwise undetectable on a plain MRI.

DIAGNOSIS: Full thickness tear of the proximal UCL.

DISCUSSION: MR arthrography of the joints is a valuable tool in diagnosing postoperative joints as well as subtle ligament tears. Indications include:

Elbow: UCL tear

Wrist: TFC tear (Triangular Fibro Cartilage tear)

Shoulder: Full thickness vs. partial thickness RC tears or vs. tendinopathy; Labral tears

Knees: Postoperative recurrent meniscal tear

Hips: Labral tears

Etc.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

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