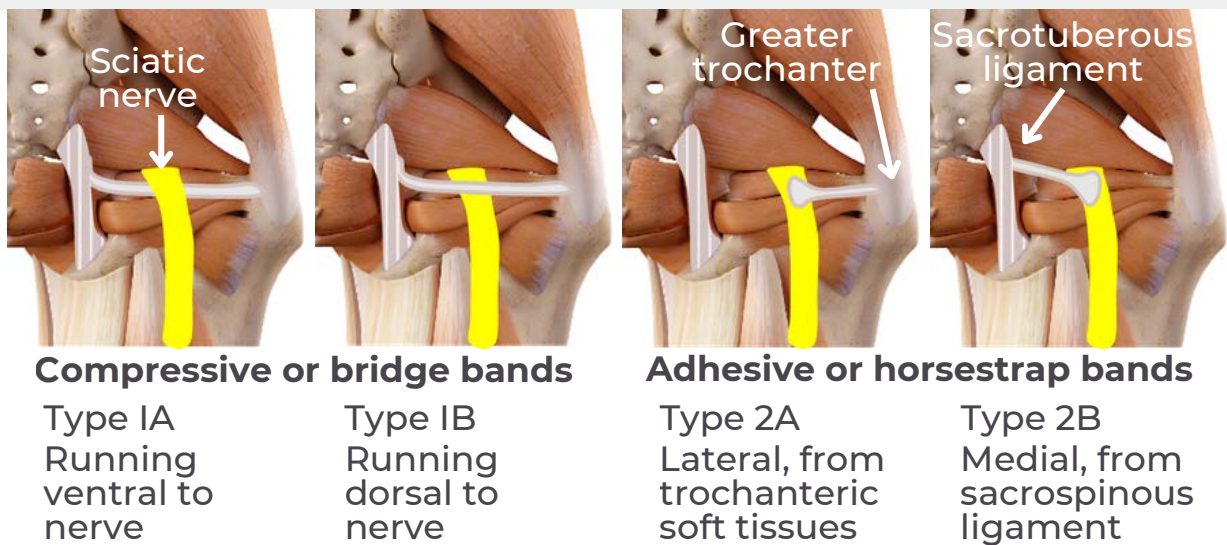


HIP FACTS FROM THE LITERATURE #108

dr.alisongrimaldi.com

DEEP GLUTEAL SYNDROME FIBROUS BAND ENTRAPMENT OF THE SCIATIC NERVE



Strong compressive or adhesive fibrous bands in the deep gluteal space may cause sciatic neuralgia

Fibrous band entrapment of the sciatic nerve may occur anywhere along the nerve pathway through the deep gluteal space. It's important to recognise that fibrous bands in the deep gluteal space are normal, and likely to provide some stability for the nerve. For example, the presence of a fibrous band stabilising the sciatic nerve onto the obturator internus muscle at the posterior hip is a fairly consistent finding in cadaveric studies.

However, excessive fibrosis resulting in strong compressive or adhesive bands may cause sciatic neuralgia. You can view the different types of bands in the graphic above. So why would such fibrosis occur? Trauma, surgery or soft tissue pathology.

When assessing a patient with buttock and nerve-related leg pain, always ensure you do a thorough review of their past history in your interview - Have they had a hard fall onto the buttock in the months leading up to the onset of symptoms? Was this associated with significant bruising? Any surgical interventions in the area - e.g., internal fixation of a #NOF, posterior approach total hip replacement? Then consider links with soft tissue pathologies such as proximal hamstring tendinopathy, gluteal tendinopathy, posterior cuff overload, or ischiofemoral impingement. Any of these processes may give rise to fibrosis and entrapment or irritation of the sciatic nerve.

Hernando MF, Cerezal L, Pérez-Carro L, Abascal F, Canga A. Deep gluteal syndrome: anatomy, imaging, and management of sciatic nerve entrapments in the subgluteal space. *Skeletal Radiol.* 2015;44(7):919-934. doi:10.1007/s00256-015-2124-6