

# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

*Dr. Alison Grimaldi*

PHYSIOTHERAPIST, RESEARCHER & EDUCATOR



*Dr. Alison Grimaldi*  
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## Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

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## Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies Introduction

Module 1 – Lesson 1

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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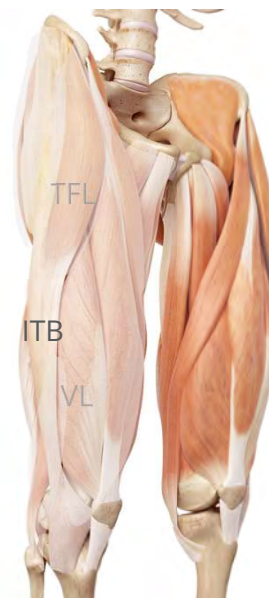
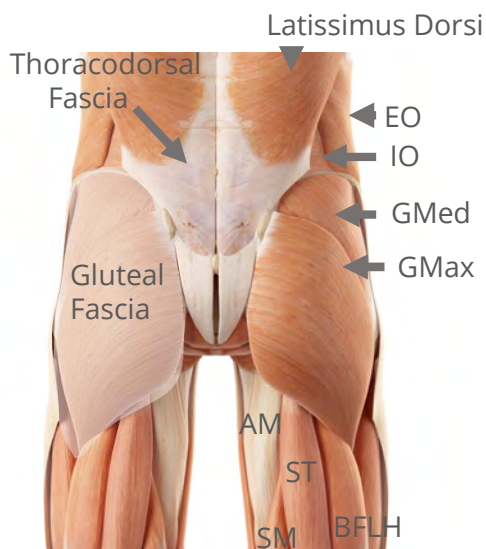
Potential sources of nociception in the lateral hip & buttock



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## Myofascial Structures



EO:External Oblique; IO:Internal Oblique; GMed:Gluteus Medius; GMax:Gluteus Maximus; AM:Adductor Magnus; SM:Semimembranosus; ST:Semitendinosus; BFLH:Biceps Femoris Long Head; TFL: Tensor Fascia Lata; ITB:Iliotibial Band

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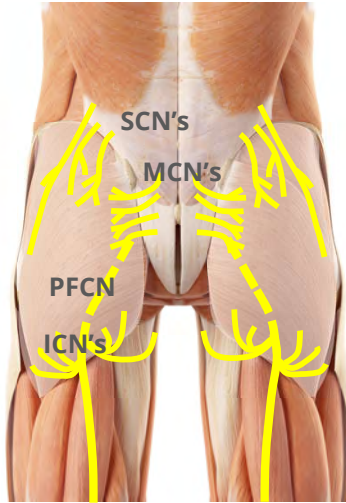
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## Superficial Nerves



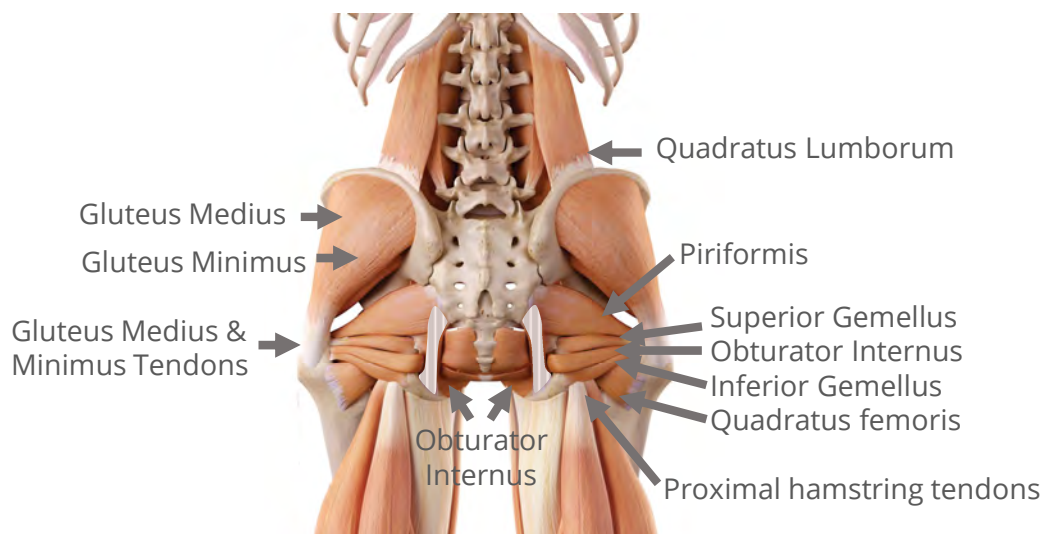
- SCN's: Superior Cluneal Nerves
- MCN's: Middle Cluneal Nerves
- ICN's: Inferior Cluneal Nerves
- PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve
- IHGN: Iliohypogastric Nerve
- SubCN: Subcostal nerve



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## Deeper posterolateral musculotendinous structures



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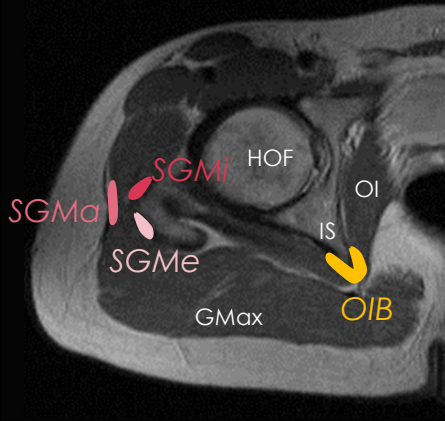
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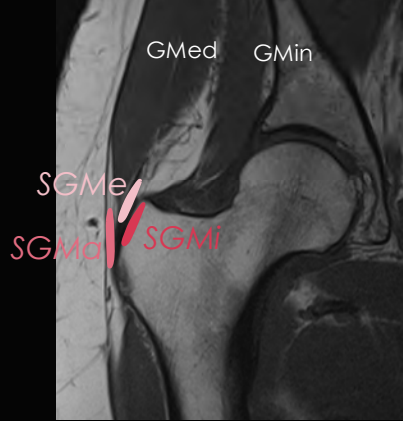
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## Major Bursae of the Lateral Hip & Buttock

Axial MRI: Level of HOF



Coronal MRI: Level of HOF



Axial MRI: Level of IT



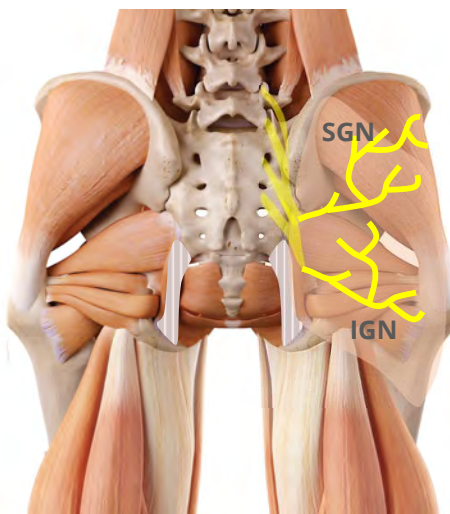
**SGMa: Subgluteus Maximus (Trochanteric) Bursa; SGMe: Subgluteus Medius Bursa; SGMi: Subgluteus Minimus Bursa; OIB: Obturator Internus Bursa; IG: Ischiogluteal Bursa**

HOF: Head of Femur; IS: Ischial Spine; IT: Ischial Tuberosity; OI: Obturator Internus; GMax: Gluteus Maximus; GMed: Gluteus Medius; GMin: Gluteus Minimus

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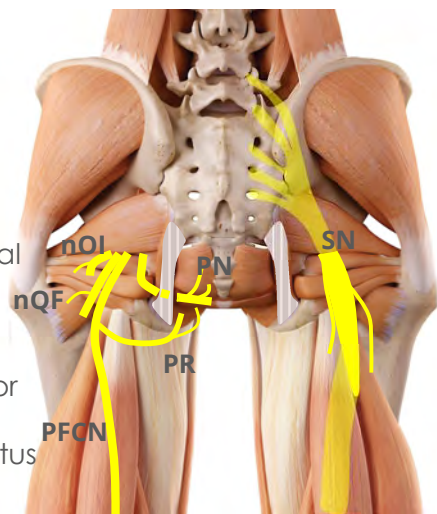
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## Deeper Nerves



### Nerves:

- SGN: Superior Gluteal
- IGN: Inferior Gluteal
- SN: Sciatic
- PN: Pudendal
- PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous
- PR: Perineal Ramus
- nOI: nerve to Obturator Internus
- nQF: nerve to Quadratus Femoris

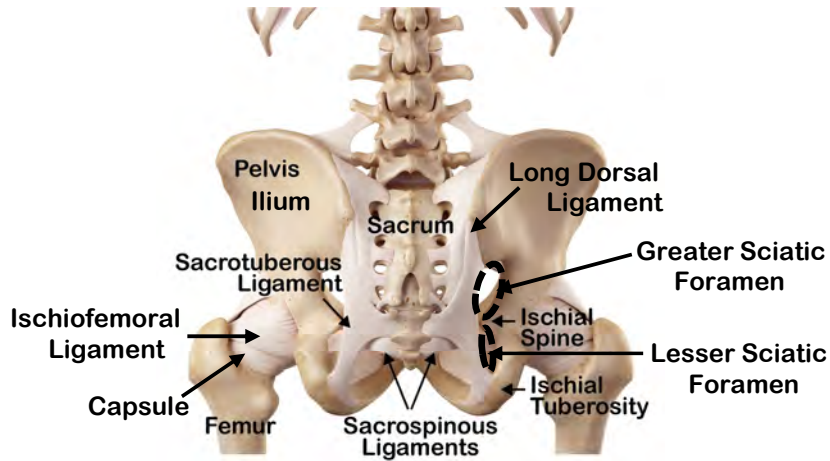


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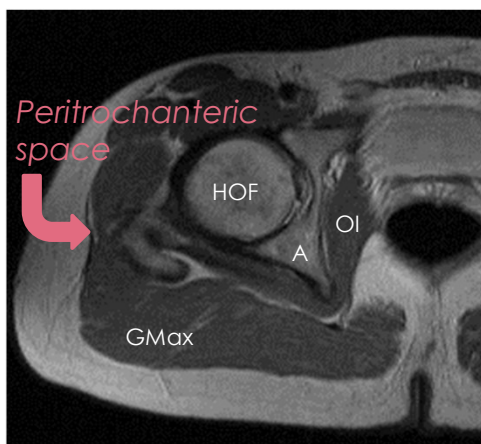
## Bones & Capsuloligamentous Structures



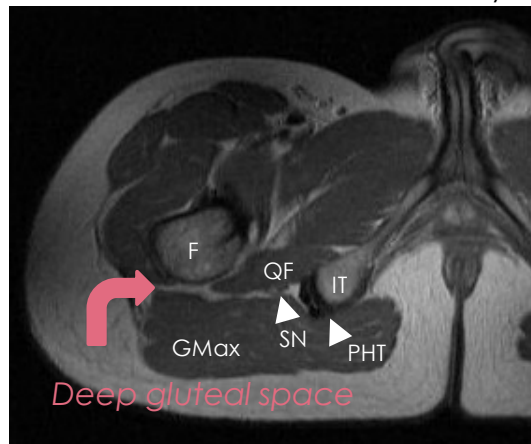
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## The Peritrochanteric & Deep Gluteal Spaces

Axial MRI: Level of HOF



Axial MRI: Level of Ischial Tuberosity

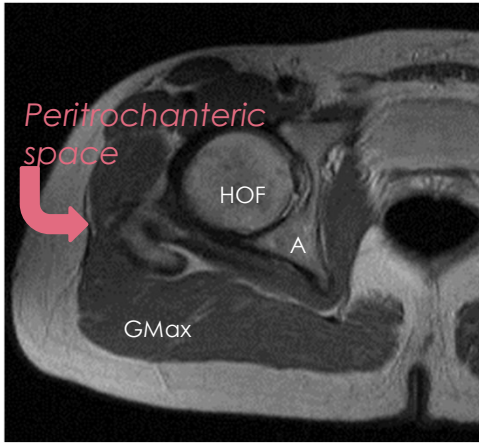


GMax: Gluteus Maximus; Piri:Pififormis; HOF: Head of Femur; A: Acetabular column; OI: Obturator Internus; QF: Quadratus Femoris; F: Femur; IT:Ischial Tuberosity; SN: Sciatic Nerve; PHT: Proximal Hamstring Tendons

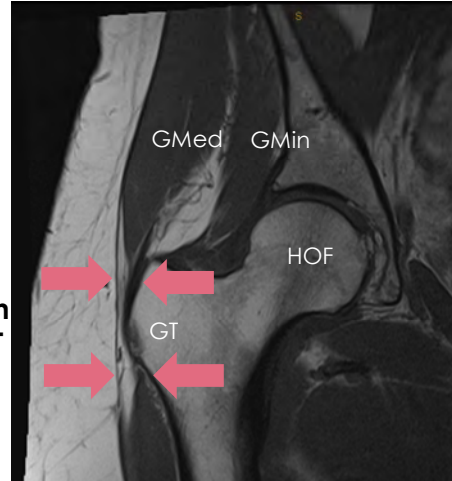
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## The Peritrochanteric Space

Axial MRI: Level of HOF



Coronal MRI: Level of HOF



Between  
ITB & GT

GMax: Gluteus Maximus; HOF: Head of Femur; A: Acetabular column; GT: Greater Trochanter;  
GMed: Gluteus Medius; GMin: Gluteus Minimus

Byrd 2015

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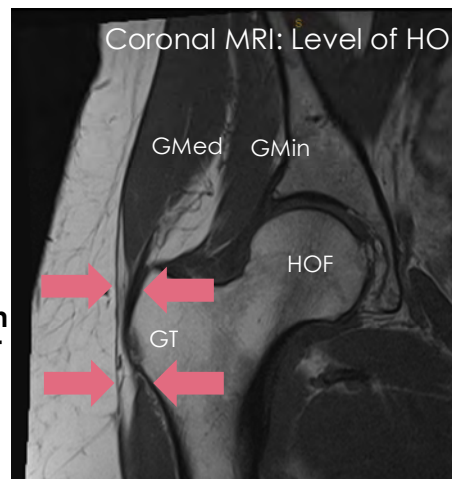
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## Contents of the Peritrochanteric Space

### Muscles/Tendons/Bursae:

- Tendinous insertions of Gluteus Medius & Minimus
- Origin of vastus lateralis
- Subgluteus maximus (trochanteric) bursa
- Subgluteus medius bursa
- Subgluteus minimus bursa

Coronal MRI: Level of HOF



Between  
ITB & GT

GMax: Gluteus Maximus; HOF: Head of Femur; A: Acetabular column; GT: Greater Trochanter;  
GMed: Gluteus Medius; GMin: Gluteus Minimus

Byrd 2015

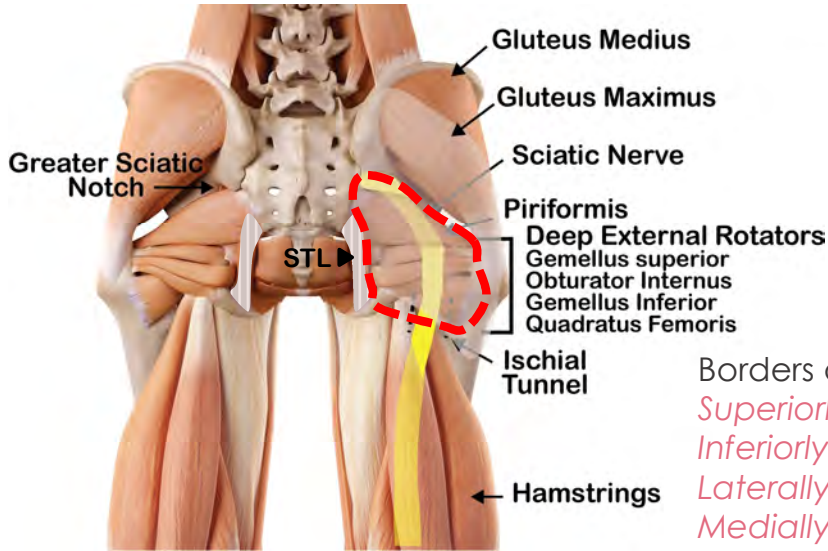
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## The Deep Gluteal Space



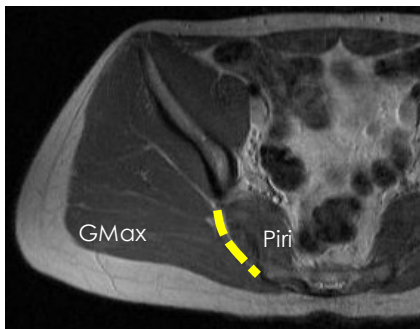
Borders of the deep gluteal space:  
*Superiorly:* greater sciatic notch  
*Inferiorly:* distal ischium  
*Laterally:* gluteal tuberosity of femur  
*Medially:* sacrotuberous ligament

Martin et al 2015

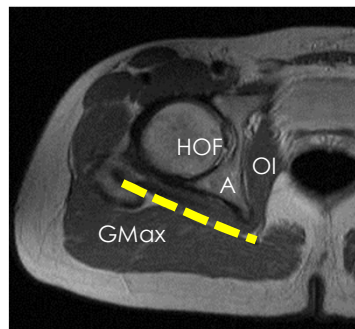
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## The Deep Gluteal Space

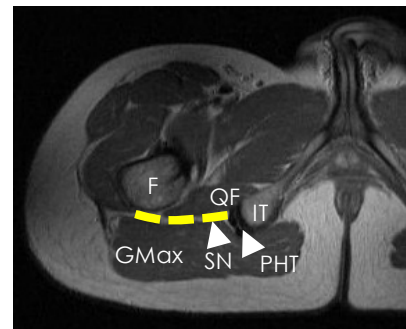
Axial MRI: Level of GSNotch



Axial MRI: Level of HOF



Axial MRI: Level of ITuberosity



Borders of the deep gluteal space:

*Posteriorly:* gluteus maximus

*Anteriorly:* posterior acetabular column, hip capsule & proximal femur

GMax: Gluteus Maximus; Piri: Piriformis; HOF: Head of Femur; A: Acetabular column; OI: Obturator Internus; QF: Quadratus Femoris; F: Femur; IT: Ischial Tuberosity; SN: Sciatic Nerve; PHT: Proximal Hamstring Tendons

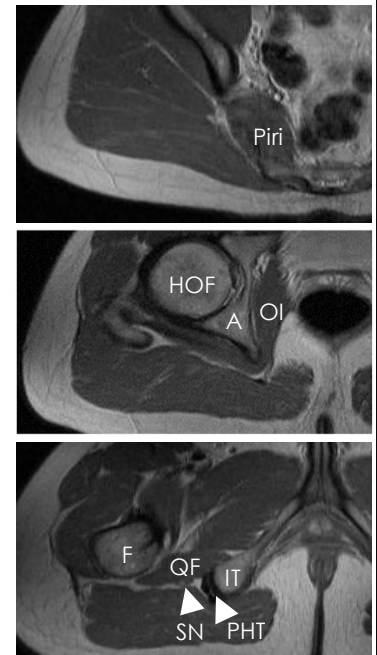
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## Contents of the Deep Gluteal Space

*Muscles/Tendons/Bursae:*

- Piriformis
- Obturator Internus & Gemelli & bursa
- Quadratus Femoris
- Proximal Hamstring Tendons & Ischiogluteal bursa



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## The Deep Gluteal Space

*Neurovascular structures:*

- Sciatic Nerve (SN)
- Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve (PFCN)
- Nerves to short & long heads of Biceps Femoris (nSHB; nLHB)
- Inferior Gluteal Artery & Nerve
- Ascending posterior circumflex femoral artery (APCFA)

Axial MRI: Level of ITuberosity



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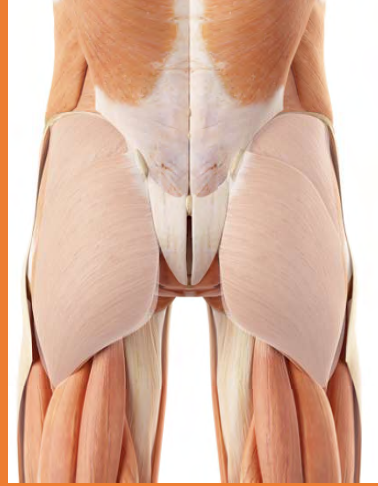
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## Focus Modules

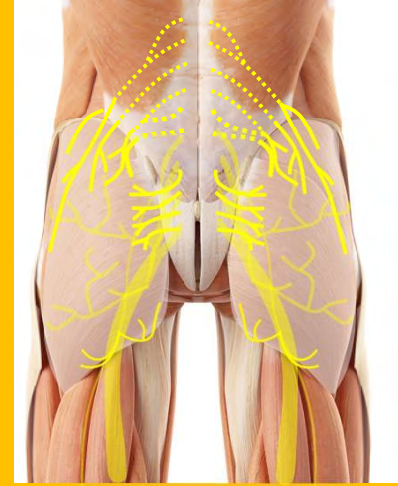
Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



Soft Tissue Related Pain  
Muscle, Fascia, Tendon, Bursa



Referred & Nerve Related Pain



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Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN

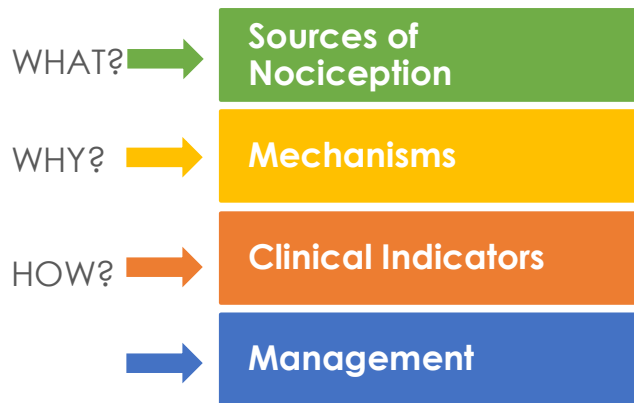
### Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements

Module 1 – Lesson 2

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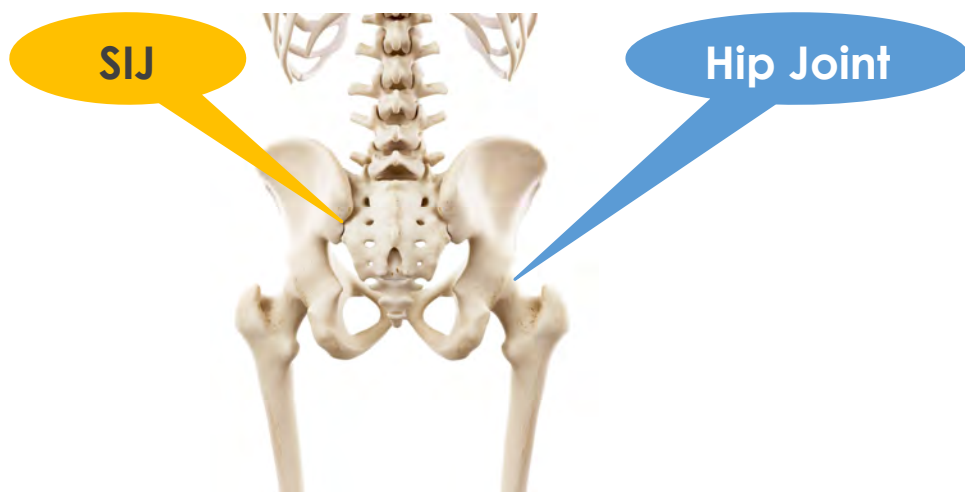
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## Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



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## Joint Related Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain



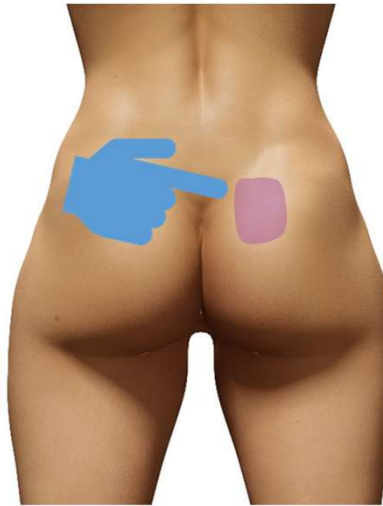
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## Joint Related Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

### SIJ Related Pain

- Fortin's Finger Test
  - Pain in PSIS region
- 85% relieved with SIJ injection
- Of those, pain relieved by:
- periarticular LAI in 81%
  - intra-articular LAI in 19%



Fortin et al 1994, Fortin & Falco 1997, Murakami et al 2018

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## Joint Related Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

**Regardless of your beliefs, don't ignore the SIJ as a source of nociception**



Fortin et al 1994, Fortin & Falco 1997, Murakami et al 2018

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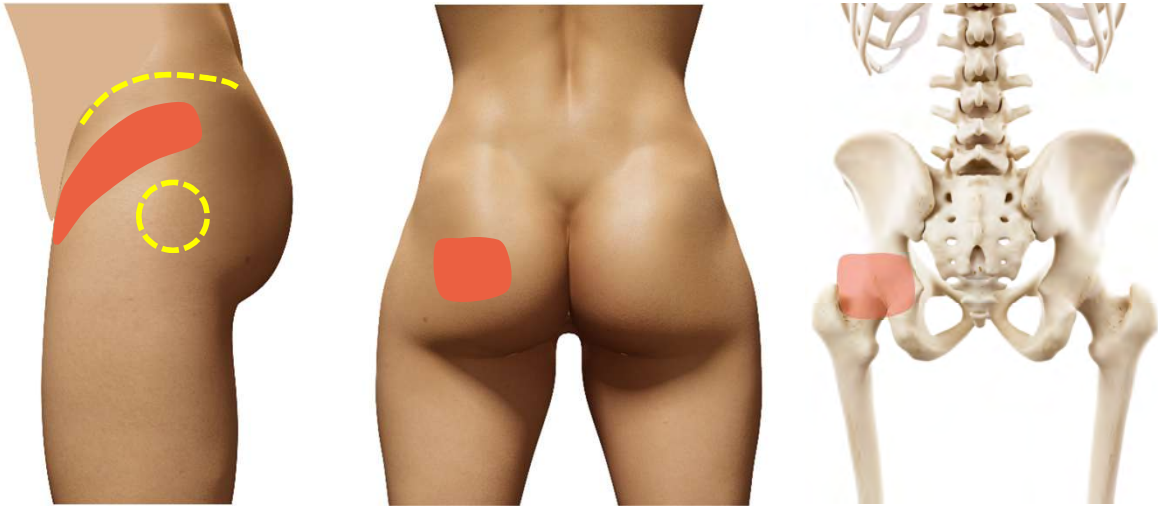
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## Joint Related Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

### Hip Joint Related Pain



Khan et al 2004, Battaglia et al 2016

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## The Interplay between Impingement & Instability



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## Posterior Hip Instability



### Mechanisms

- Trauma – mva, fall onto knee
- Anterior FAI
- ↑  $\alpha$  angle, cam morphology
- ↓ acet anteversion & post coverage
- ↓ femoral version (retroversion)
- AIIIS/Subspine Impingement
- Supraphysiological movements
- Iatrogenic – open surgical procedure
- Global Laxity

Canham et al 2016, Charbonnier et al 2010, Mayer et al 2016, Novais et al 2018, Steppacher et al 2013, Upadhyay et al 1985, Wassilew et al 2016

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## Clinical Indicators of Posterior Instability

### Interview Features: Posterior &/or anterior hip pain

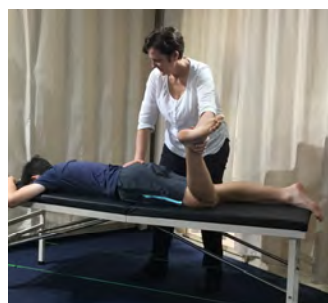
Pt may report clicking, popping, lack of confidence in leg  
Bending/lifting/sit-stand, WB IR, impact, walk uphill/stairs, sit knees crossed

### Physical Features:

#### Apprehension Test – apprehension in:

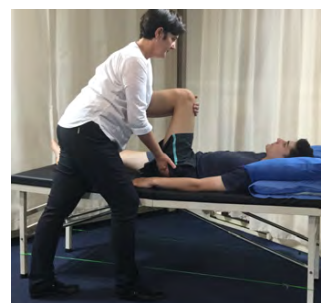


Hip Flexion/Add/IR  
with posterior glide



Prone Hip IR – may  
also be apprehensive

#### Relocation Test



Less apprehension,  
Less pain, Increased ROM

Kalisvaart & Safran 2007, Maas et al 2017

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## Posterior Relocation Test

Anterior translation of HOF into:

1. Hip Flexion

2. Hip Internal Rotation



Dynamic test into hip flexion & IR – increase painfree range?

\* May present with ant hip pain, alleviated by anterior glide

Maas et al 2017

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## MANAGEMENT OF POSTERIOR HIP INSTABILITY



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## Management of the patient with hip pain & posterior instability

### Load Management

- Reduce time spent in end range positions  
\*Flexion/Adduction/IR
- Sitting – higher chairs, no knee crossing, watch fwd lean
- Sleeping – Avoid F/ADD
- Kneeling better than bending
- Listen to joint response to load – want to avoid/minimise any inflammatory processes - Night ache, morning stiffness



Extend off side



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## Management of the patient with hip pain & posterior instability

### Exercise

Optimise local muscular support

- Deep, short external rotators are the priority
- Gluteus maximus as secondary support

Movement retraining & graduated loading

- Optimise femoro-pelvic control – control of F/ADD/IR – GMax, Med
- sit-stand, stairs, hills, other functional WB Tasks
  - avoid unnecessary Add/IR esp combined with hip flexion; try slightly abducted/ER positions; try gentle preset deep rotators
- Once movement control is achieved – add challenge – load, range, speed, perturbation, impact

Address individual impairments while avoiding adverse joint loads

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## Exercise therapy for Posterior Instability

Isometric ER  
Start in extension



Weightbearing ER  
Start in extension  
Add challenge - F



Abduction + ER  
Graduated Challenge - F



Graduated Functional  
Challenge - Flexion, Load  
Perturbation, Speed, Impact



### Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



## Posterior & Lateral Bony Impingement

### Module 1 – Lesson 3

## Posterior Femoroacetabular Impingement

### Mechanisms

#### Hip Actions

- Extension (including post pelvic tilt)
- External rotation
  - 83.0% between FN & acetabulum
  - 17.0% between LT & ischium
- Adduction

#### Bony Morphology

- Pincer or posterior cam morphology
- Coxa Valgus (more vertical neck)
- Perthes Disease
- Femoral or acetabular anteversion



Morris et al 2018, Siebenrock et al 2013, Tannast et al 2012

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## Posterior Femoroacetabular Impingement Zones

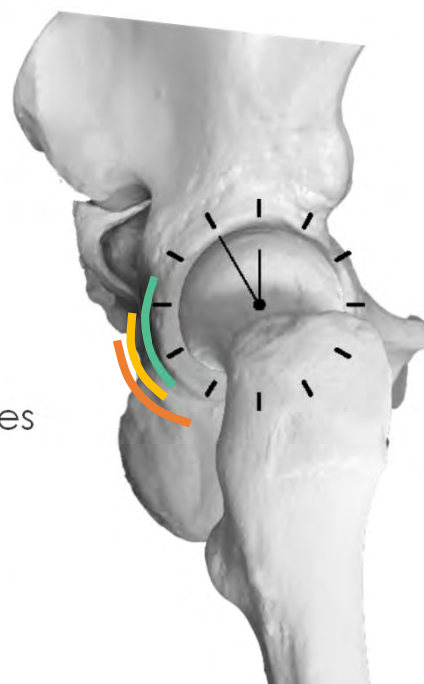
### Normal Bony Shape

### Pincer &/or cam morphology

- similar zones but more frequently than normal in lower zones & less in higher zones

### Valgus with increased femoral anteversion or Perthes

- impingement earlier in range & in more postero-inferior regions



Siebenrock et al 2013, Tannast et al 2012

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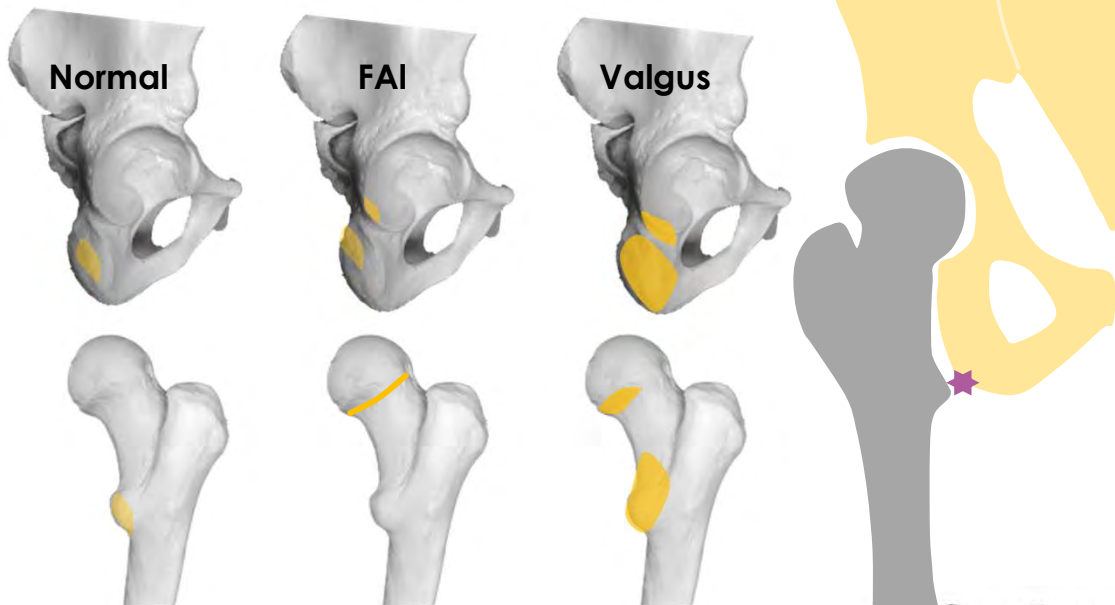
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## Intra & Extra-articular Posterior Collision Zones



Siebenrock et al 2013

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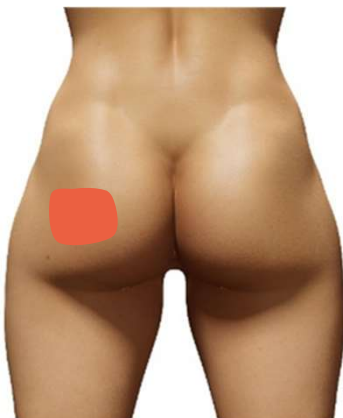
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## Clinical Indicators of Posterior Impingement

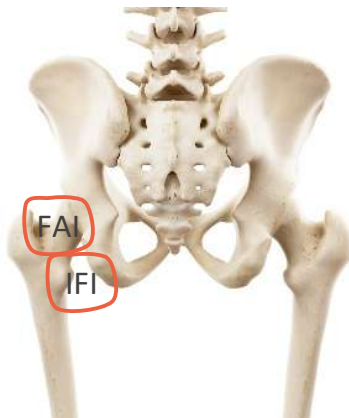
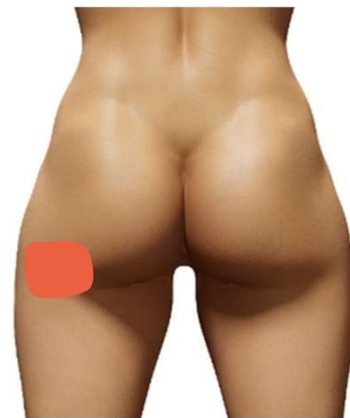
### Interview Features:

Posterior pain associated with impingement &/or anterior hip pain (instability)  
Pain exacerbated by combinations of hip extension, ER & adduction

### Posterior FAI



### Extra-articular Impingement - IFI



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## Clinical Indicators of Posterior Impingement

### Physical Features:

#### Posterior Rim Impingement Test



Hip Extension/Abd/ER  
+ve: Reproduction of posterior hip pain

#### Ischiofemoral Impingement Test



Hip Extension in adduction  
+ve: Reproduction of ischiofemoral pain

Martin et al 2019, Martin et al 2010

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## Management of Posterior Impingement

### Load Management

- Reduce time spent in positions of impingement esp sustained, repetitive, loaded, rapid actions into hip extension/ER/Add
- \*Consider position of pelvis – anterior pelvic translation and posterior pelvic tilt results in relative hip extension

### Exercise

- Optimise hip flexor and abductor function to prevent excessive hip extension/adduction
- Also important if assoc anterior instability
- Address other individual impairments

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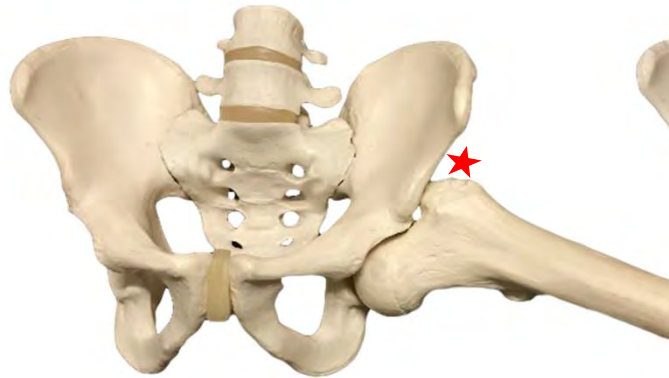
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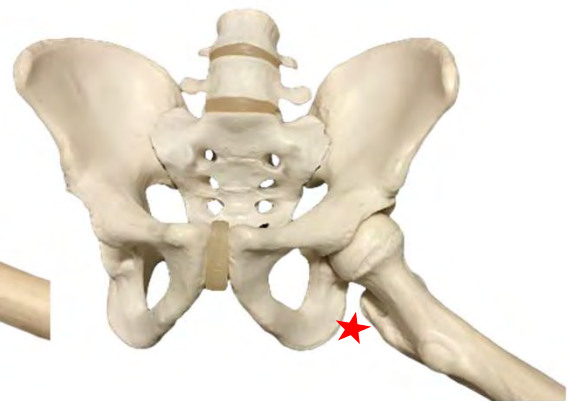
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Extra-articular impingement of the GT

## GT – Pelvic Impingement



## GT – Ischial Impingement



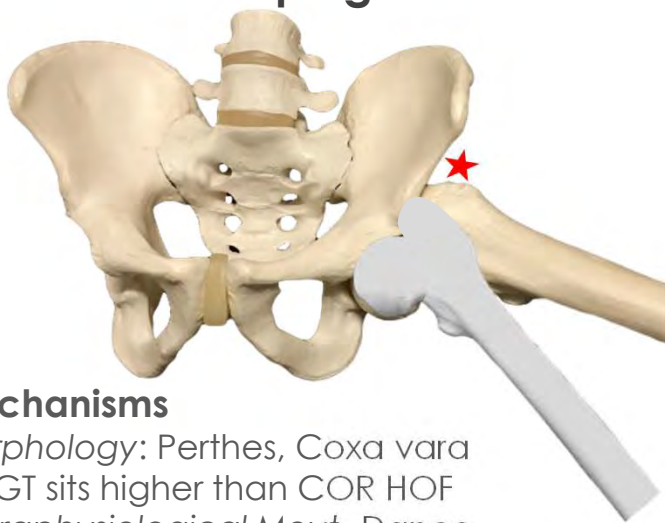
Bardakos 2015, de Sa et al 2015

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Extra-articular impingement of the GT

## GT – Pelvic Impingement



### Mechanisms

Morphology: Perthes, Coxa vara  
Tip GT sits higher than COR HOF  
Supraphysiological Movt- Dance  
May have groin pain & inf subluxation

Bardakos 2015, de Sa et al 2015

## Lateral Rim Impingement Test



Scoop hip from Hip Flexion to Extension/ER in abduction  
+ve: LHPain Reproduction

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## Management of GT – Pelvic Impingement

### Load Management

- Reduce time spent in positions of impingement esp sustained, repetitive, loaded, rapid actions into hip **abduction** – e.g sustained side splits, stretching into hip ranges of abduction
- Decompression for Perthes may only be possible surgically

### Exercise

- Optimise deep external rotators & adductor function to control HOF from inferior joint aspect & move GT posteriorly
- Improve abductor health and endurance in non-impinging ranges
- Address other individual impairments

## Extra-articular impingement of the GT

### GT – Ischial Impingement



#### Mechanisms

Morphology: Coxa valga & +anteversion  
Supraphysiological Movt- Dance  
May have ant hip pain & ant instability

### FABER Test



Hip Flexion abduction/ER  
+ve: Reproduction pain in ischial tunnel +/- SN symptoms



## Management of GT – Ischial Impingement

### Load Management

-Reduce time spent in positions of impingement esp sustained, repetitive, loaded, rapid actions into **flexion / abduction / external rotation**

**\*\*Important to assess fem anteversion – do not push to increase ER ROM!**

### Exercise

-Optimise anterior joint support – hip flexors & anterior, internally rotating abductors – Ant GMed & Min

-Optimise health of QF if it has become painful associated with direct bony impingement

-Sciatic nerve gliding techniques

### Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



## Ischiofemoral Impingement

### Part 1: What & Why

### Module 1 – Lesson 4

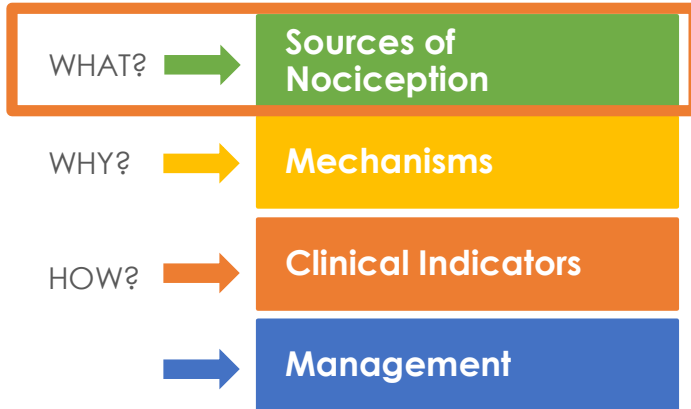
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## Ischiofemoral Impingement



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## What is Ischiofemoral Impingement?

Extra-articular bony impingement  
IFI: Pain associated with soft tissue impingement between the lesser trochanter & ischium

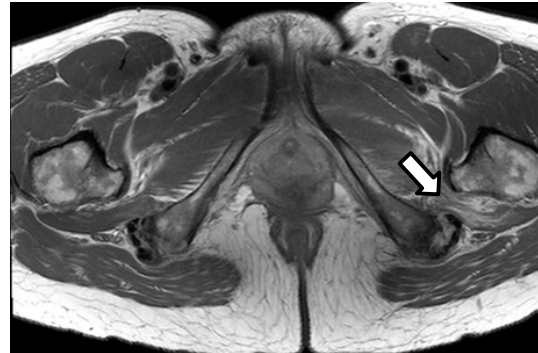
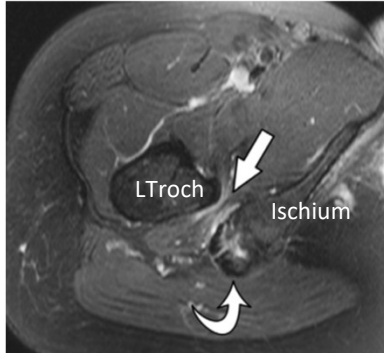


Bardakos 2015, Beckman et al 2015, Blankenbaker & Tuite 2013, de Sa et al 2014

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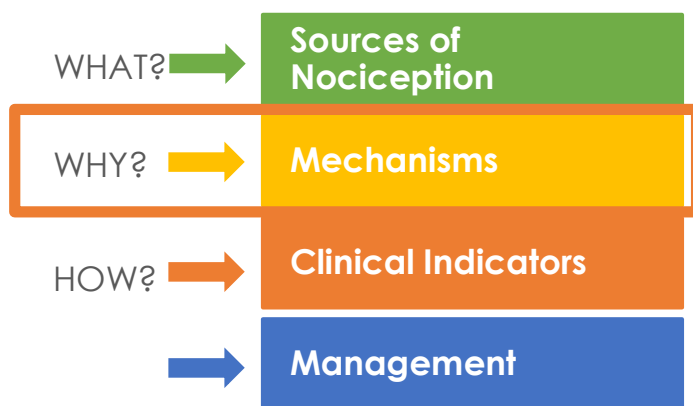
## What are the sources of Nociception?



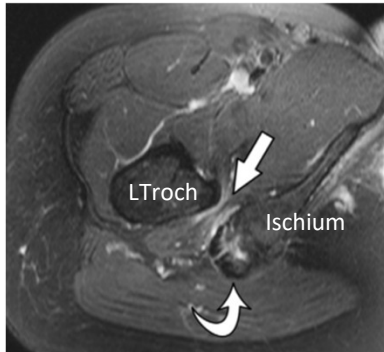
Associated with impingement between lesser trochanter & ischium  
Quadratus Femoris  
Proximal hamstring and iliopsoas tendons  
Sciatic nerve

Taneja et al 2013, Torriani et al 2009, Tosun et al 2012

## Ischiofemoral Impingement

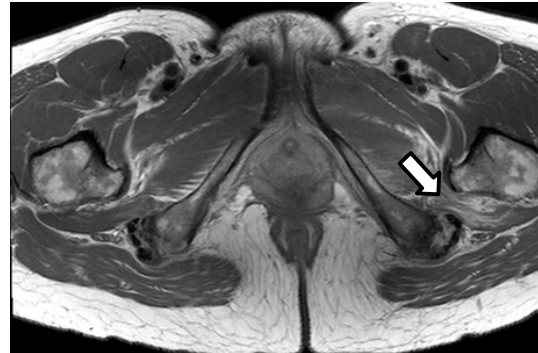


## IFI: Mechanisms



### Structural

Anatomical variants resulting in reduced IF Space  
Primary/Secondary - Acquired



### Functional

Functional positions or movement patterns resulting in excessive dynamic reduction of IF Space

Taneja et al 2013

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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

#### Femoral morphology:

- Femoral neck length & neck-shaft angle
- Lesser trochanter size
- Lesser trochanter & femoral neck version

#### Pelvic morphology:

- Ischiopubic ramus size & orientation

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

Femoral morphology:

Femoral neck length & neck-shaft angle



### Coxa Brevia (short neck)

Usually associated with Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis or AVN



Hernando et al 2016, Stevens & Coleman 1985

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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

Femoral morphology:

Femoral neck length & neck-shaft angle



### Coxa Valga (more vertical neck)

IFI: Femoral neck-shaft angle significantly higher compared with controls\*

3D CT reconstruction & collision software\*\* demonstrated impingement through ROM in Valgus hips, esp with fem anteversion, primarily occurs posteriorly between the LT & ischium

Poorer hip abductor muscle lever arm, adding functional IFI component



Tosun et al 2012\*, Siebenrock et al 2013\*\*

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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

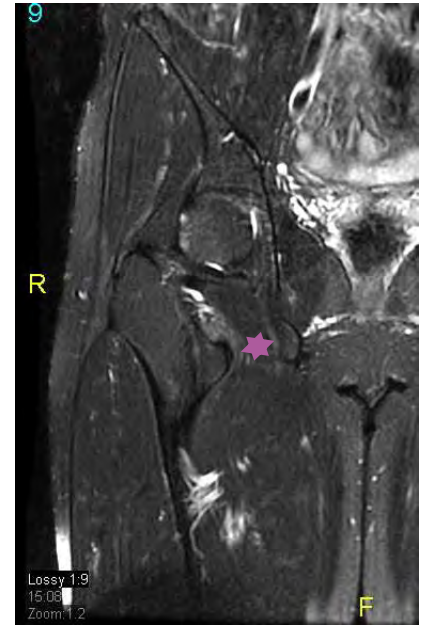
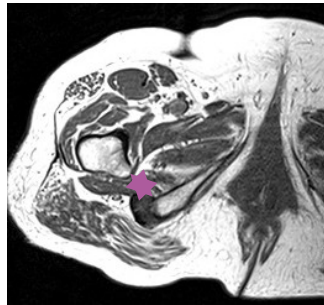
Femoral morphology:

- Lesser trochanter size



### Prominent Lesser Trochanter

More common in females



Tosun et al 2012, Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016

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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

Femoral morphology:

Lesser trochanter & femoral neck version

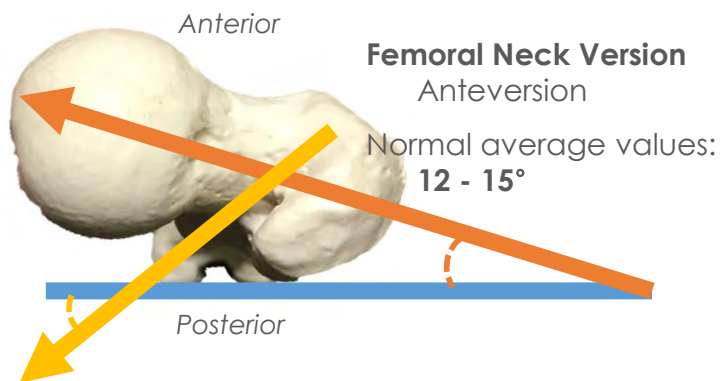
### Lesser Trochanter Version

Retroversion

Normal average values:

May be quite variable

- 24°, range 17 to - 54°



### Femoral Neck Version

Anteversion

Normal average values:

12 - 15°

Tosun et al 2012, Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016

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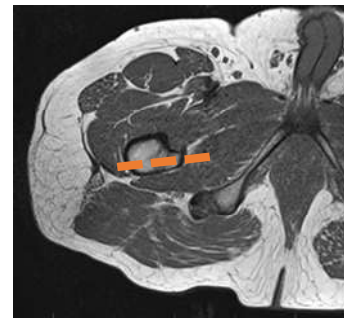
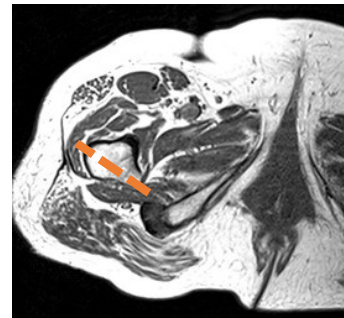
## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

Femoral morphology:

Lesser trochanter & femoral neck version

No difference in LT Version in IFI



Tosun et al 2012, Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016

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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

Femoral morphology:

Lesser trochanter & femoral neck version

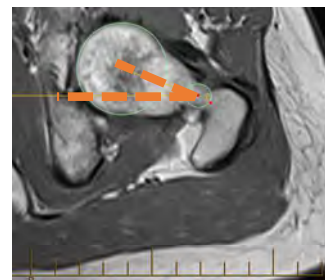
### ➔ Excess femoral neck anteversion in IFI

IFI:  $21.7 \pm 10.4$  vs Controls:  $14.1 \pm 10.8^*$

& increased femoral neck axis angle\*\*

IFI:  $19.7 \pm 11.1^\circ$  vs Controls:  $15.5 \pm 12.1^\circ$

Femoral anteversion may have a substantial impact on dynamic hip rotation & IFS



Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016\*, Bredella et al 2015\*\*

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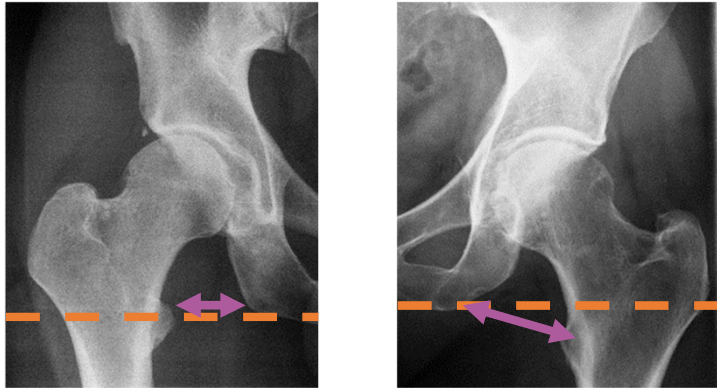
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## Structural IFI

### Primary Bony Factors:

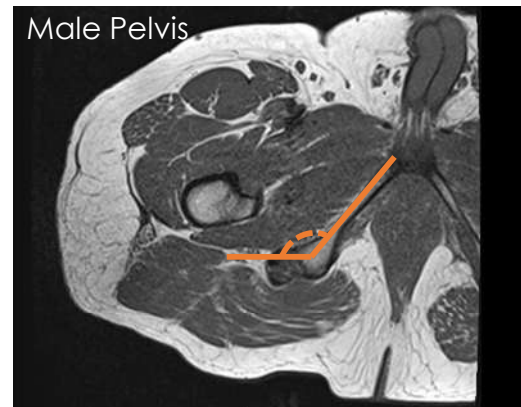
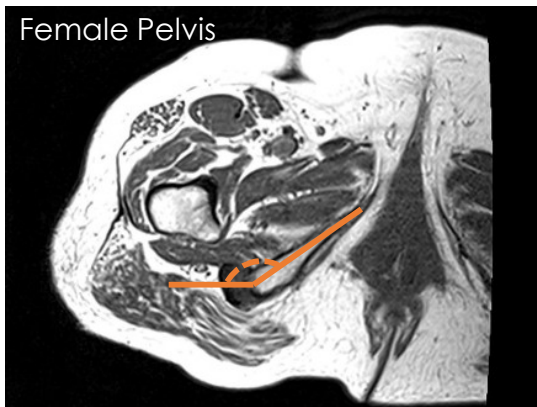
Pelvic morphology:

- Ischiopubic ramus size & orientation



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## Pelvic Morphology: Ischiopubic ramus angle



Females have greater ischiopubic angle than males  
Subjects with IFI - increased angle compared with controls  
IFI:  $130.6 \pm 4.9^\circ$  vs Controls:  $128.0 \pm 6.2^\circ$   
- remained significant after controlling for gender

Bredella et al 2015

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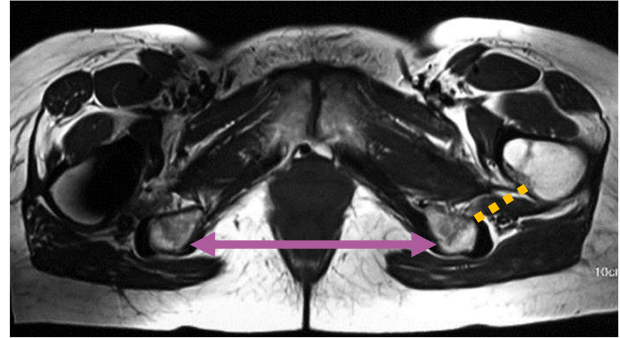


## Pelvic Morphology: Intertuberous distance

Related to ischiopubic ramus angle  
Negative correlation between intertuberous distance & IFSpace

Larger in females than males

May contribute to higher prevalence of IFI in women



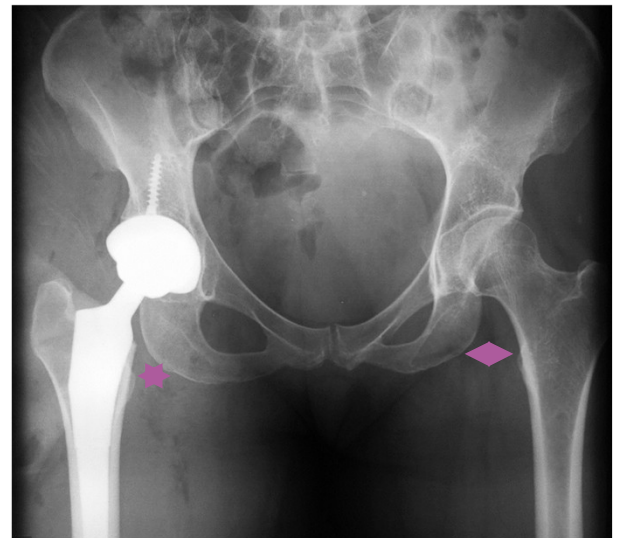
Sussman et al 2013, Maraş Özdemir et al 2015, Atkins et al 2017

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## Structural IFI

### Acquired Factors:

- Femoral offset
- Post Total Hip Arthroplasty
- Intertrochanteric valgus osteotomy
- Intertrochanteric #



Johnson 1977, Taneja et al 2013

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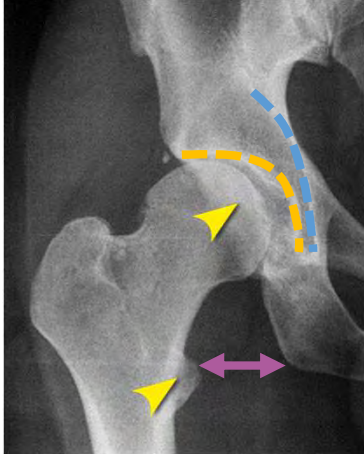
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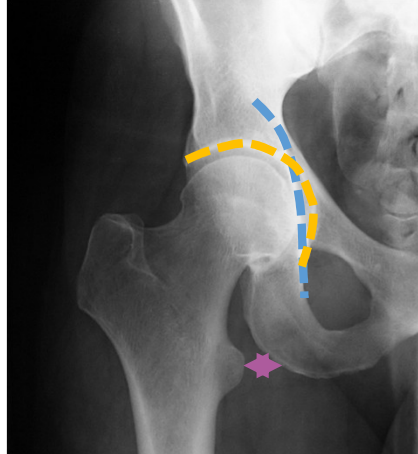
## Structural IFI

### Acquired Factors:

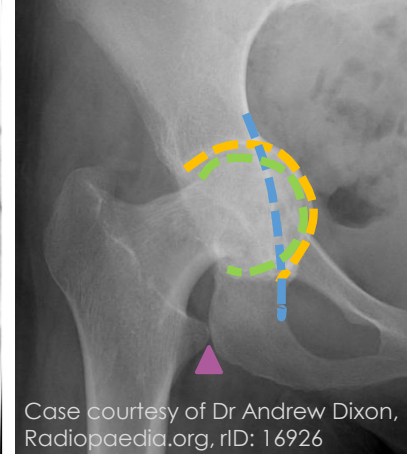
Hip OA Superomedial



Coxa Profunda



Acetabular Protrusio



Case courtesy of Dr Andrew Dixon, Radiopaedia.org, rID: 16926

Hernando et al 2016, Taneja et al 2013

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## Structural IFI

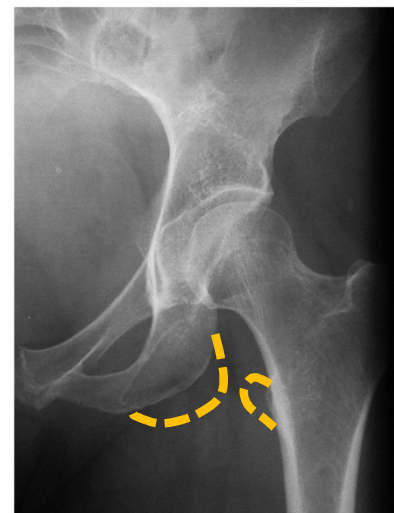
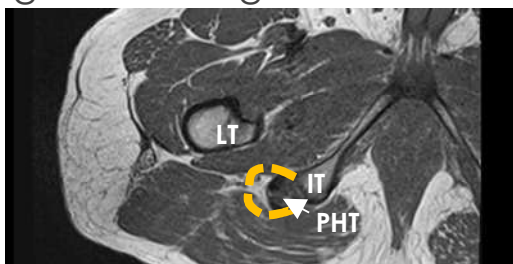
### Acquired Factors:

Post lesser trochanter avulsion #

Post ischial tuberosity avulsion #

Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy

- larger hamstring tendon area in IFI



Hayat et al 2014, Spencer-Gardner et al 2017, Tosun et al 2012

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## Structural IFI

### Acquired Factors:

Tumour

Osteochondroma of lesser trochanter or ischium

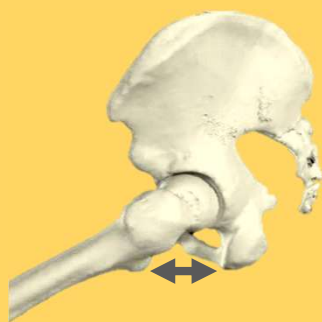
Lipoma

Hernando et al 2016, Papoutsi et al 2016

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## Functional IFI



**Hip Flexion**



**Hip Extension &/or PPT**

Ischiofemoral space is functionally reduced in:  
Hip Extension & Posterior Pelvic Tilt (PPT)

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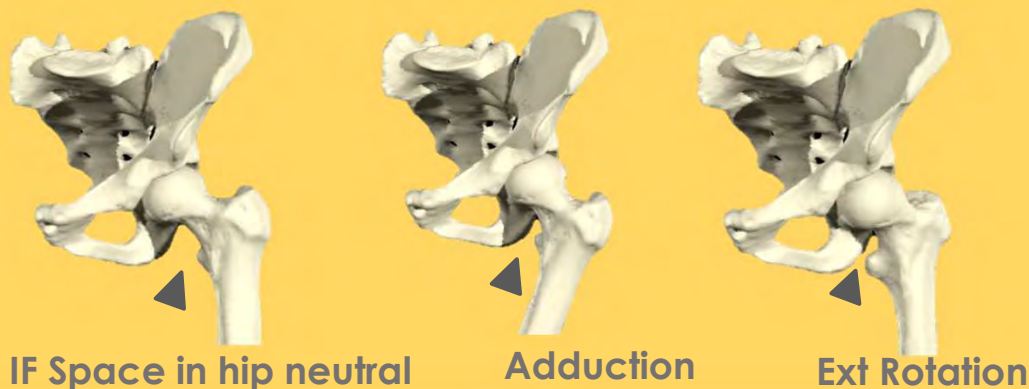
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Functional IFI



Ischiofemoral (IF) space is functionally reduced in:  
 Hip Adduction  
 External Rotation

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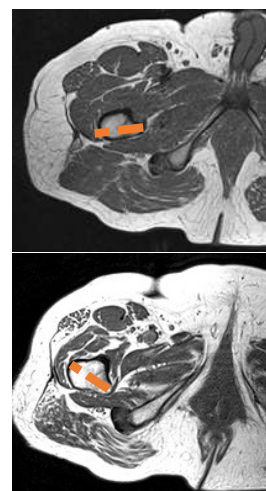
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## The effect of Hip Position on IFS

Hip Position	Neutral	40° IR	60° ER
IFS mm	28 ± 1.1	43 ± 1.2	14 ± 0.7

\*In 10° hip extension & adduction, IFI occurred in 84 % of hips at 29° (SD 20) of ER  
 High variability in range of impingement  
 Likely reflective of high range of variability in LTV

\*\* ER in neutral resulted in IFI in 17.0% of 206 hips  
 IFI occurred in adduction in 78.6% of hips



Kivlan et al 2017\*, Morris et al 2018

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## The effect of Hip Position on IFS

Ultrasound Study\*:

Largest ischiofemoral space in Abduction – Internal Rotation

Smallest ischiofemoral space in Adduction – External Rotation

Flouroscopy Study \*\*:

IFS reduced with Extension, Adduction & External Rotation

Finnoff et al 2015\*, Atkins et al 2017\*\*

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## Functional/dynamic impingement



Hip Extension & Adduction key factors  
Effect of ER variable depending on hip position & morphology

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## Functional/dynamic impingement

Position/Function	Male mm (n=6)	Female mm (n=5)
Supine MRI	26.0 (22.1-30.3)	20.9 (17.5-24.0)
Standing Flouro	30.4 (27.2-33.8)	20.9 (19.3-22.3)*
Walking on level	21.1 (18.7-23.6)	8.8 (7.5-9.9)*
Walking on incline	21.3 (18.9-24.1)	9.1 (7.4-10.8)*

'Use of the axial IFS to estimate the dynamic IFS may be inconsistent and unreliable'

'Sex-based differences in the dynamic IFS may be caused by a combination of subtle variations in both kinematics and anatomy'

Atkins et al 2017, \*significant

## Functional/dynamic impingement

Gait Characteristics potentially predisposing to IFI:

- Overstriding
- Excessive lateral pelvic drop
- Excessive lateral pelvic shift
- Midline/cross-midline striking

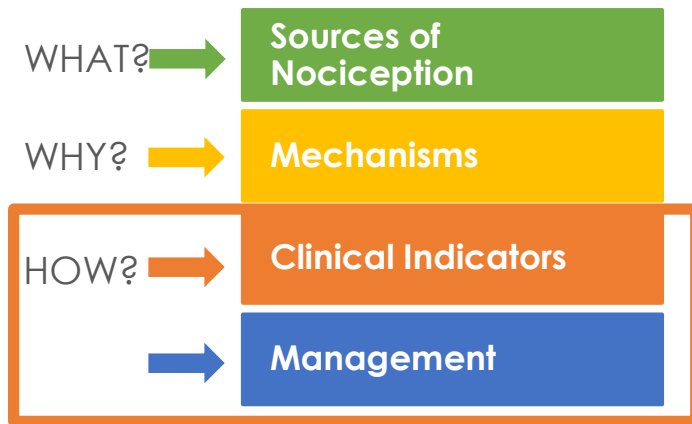
Impairments

- Abductor weakness or mechanical insufficiency



DiSciullo et al 2018, Hernando et al 2016

## Next: Ischiofemoral Impingement



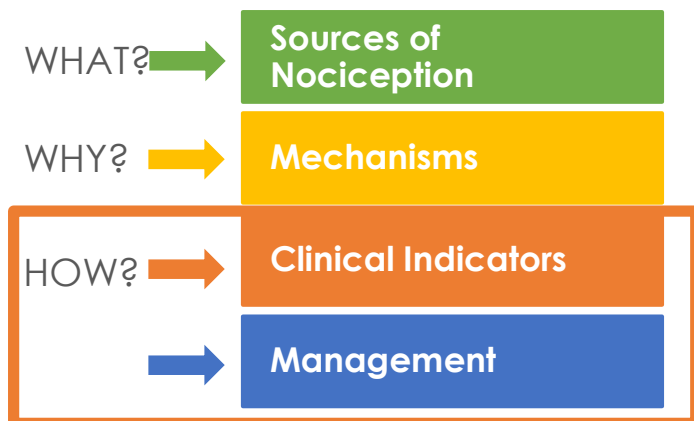
### Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



## Ischiofemoral Impingement Part 2: How

### Module 1 – Lesson 5

## Ischiofemoral Impingement Part 2



## Interview Features

CLINICAL INDICATORS

### **Pain lateral to ischium**

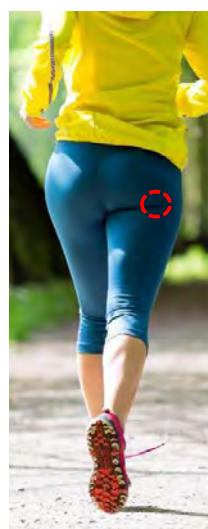
- +/- saddle/groin pain
- +/- upper post thigh
- +/- Sciatic nerve symptoms

### **Pain with:**

#### **Walking/Running**

Activities involving hip extension, single leg loading

May sometimes report a snapping/clicking, usually with walking/running



**Impact:**  
Reduced activity levels  
Reduced sporting performance



CLINICAL INDICATORS

## Physical Features

Pain lateral to ischium reproduced with:



Long Stride Walking (LSW Test)

Pain on long strides is alleviated by walking with short strides



Ischiofemoral Impingement Test (IFI Test)

Pain on hip extension in neutral or adduction is alleviated with extension in abduction



Palpation

Tenderness on palpation of the lateral aspect of the ischium

Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016

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## Diagnostic Properties of Tests for IFI

Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016	Long Stride Walking	IFI Test
Sensitivity (%)	94	82
Specificity (%)	85	85
PPV (%)	89	88
NPV (%)	92	79
Positive LR	6.12	5.35
Negative LR	0.07	0.21
Diagnostic OR	88.8 (7.08-1,094.01)	25.6 (3.63-181.44)

Examined how well these tests correlated with a confirmed diagnosis of IFI.

*Diagnosis required:*

- primary issue of posterior hip pain
- abnormal MRI or CT (abnormal IFS, QFS & QF muscle oedema)
- at least 60% pain relief from surgery
- negative IFI tests post op

*Study Quality:*

Low numbers 30: 17 +ve IFI; 13 -ve  
Retrospective, only surgical cases, 1 surgeon,  
No blinding

➔ Diagnostic Utility likely to be overestimated

PPV: Positive Predictive Value; NPV: Negative Predictive Value; LR: Likelihood Ratio; OR: Odds Ratio

Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016

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## Imaging

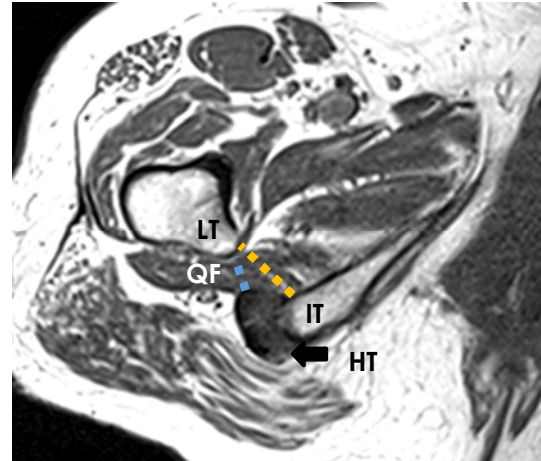
MRI: Gold Standard for Imaging

### Ischiofemoral Space:

'smallest distance between the lateral cortex of the ischial tuberosity & medial cortex of the lesser trochanter'

### Quadratus Femoris Space:

'smallest space for passage of the QF muscle bordered by the superolateral surface of the hamstring tendons and the posteromedial surface of the iliopsoas tendon or lesser trochanter'



QF: Quadratus Femoris; LT: Lesser Trochanter; IT: Ischial Tuberosity; HT: Hamstring Tendons

Tosun et al 2012

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## Measurement thresholds for radiologic diagnosis

Results of pooled meta-analysis: 217 IFI & 140 control cases

Diagnostic utility of IFS & QFS MRI measures in diagnosing IFI

Positive Diagnosis: QF Oedema +/- atrophy & ipsilateral hip pain

	Cut Off	SN	SP	Acc	OR
IFS mm	≤15 mm	76.9 %	81.0 %	78.3 %	1.6 (1.18-2.06) p=0.002
QFS	≤10 mm	78.7 %	74.1 %	77.1 %	1.6 (1.37-1.87) p=0.0001

Recommended cut-offs that produce the best balance of SN & SP

OR: Each 1-mm ↓ IFS/QFS = ≈60 % ↑ in odds of symptomatic IFI

Singer et al 2015

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## Radiographs

Useful screening tool for IFI

IFS measures - good correlation with MRI

Suggested Cut-Offs:

- **Supine Xray: 20mm**
- **Standing Xray: 19mm**

Also useful to assess other structural factors

Standing more functional



Park et al 2016

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## Radiographs – False Profile View

Better able to view LT

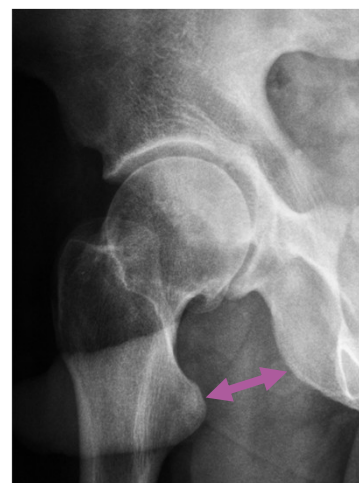
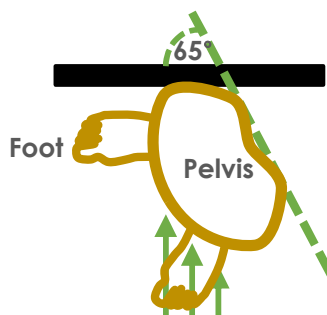
Taken with pelvis rotated 65° from the line of the foot

Foot parallel to cassette

\*Hip in ER

Suggested Cut-Off: **10.3 mm**  
(n=116; SN: 88.6%; SP: 88.4%)

Diagnosis of IFI: +ve IFI test  
& QF Oedema on MRI



Kwak et al 2018

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

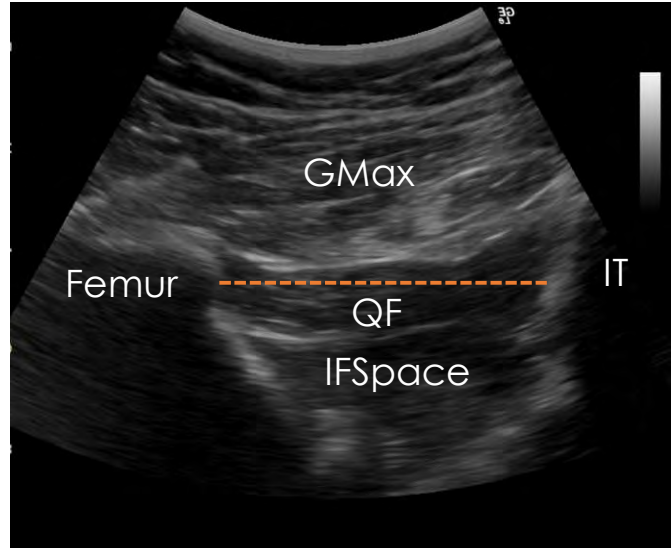
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## Ultrasound

Validated against MRI  
Both measured in prone  
5 females; 5 males;  
Asymptomatic  
IFS (MRI):  $28.25 \pm 5.91$   
IFS (US):  $29.5 \pm 4.99$   
Mean difference: 1.25mm  
NSD between measures

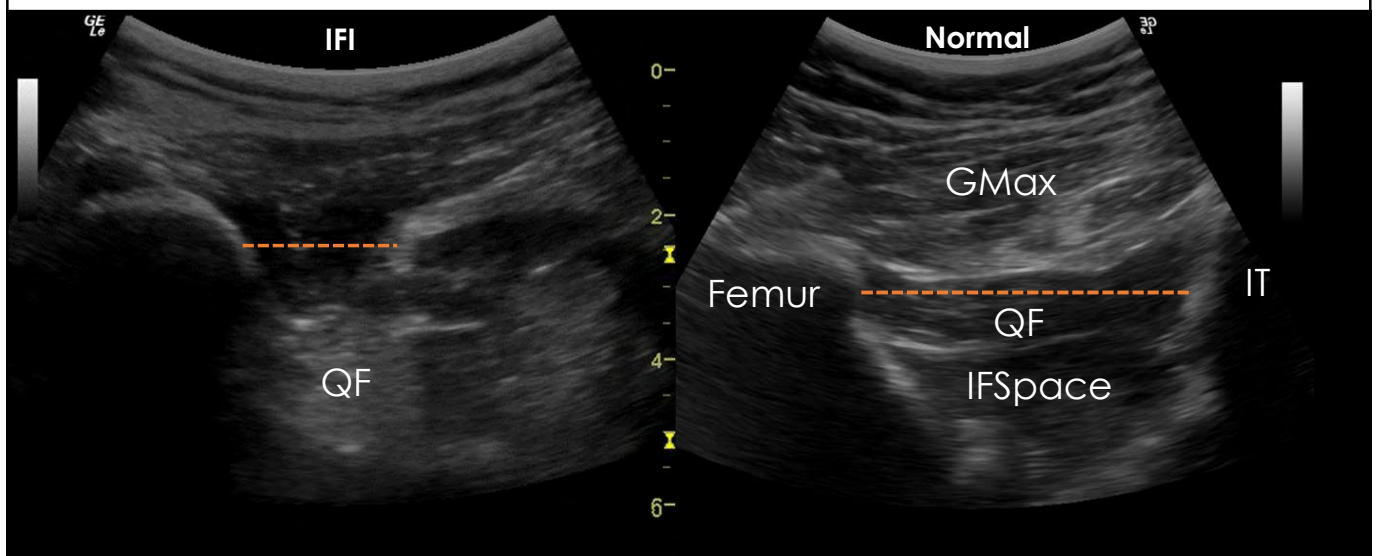


Finnoff et al 2015, 2017, Johnson et al 2017

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## Ultrasound



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## MRI Findings in Asymptomatic Subjects

Prospective, 418 hips of 209 volunteers (126 male; 83 female)

Normative mean values: IFS:25.6mm; QFS:15.6mm

- IFS decreases with age
- Asymmetry of IFS is normal
- QF abnormalities may be present in the absence of pain

9.1% QF signal abnormalities

(Oedema 1.4%, Fatty infiltrate 7.7%)

Abnormalities more likely if:

- Older, female
- Larger ITD, lower IFS & QFS

% Difference IFS Between Sides	% of Participants
≥ 5%	71.8%
≥ 10%	49.3%
≥ 20%	18.7%
≥ 30%	6.2%

ITD: Intertuberous distance; IFS: Ischiofemoral space; QFS: Quadratus Femoris Space

Maraş Özdemir et al 2015

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At present a confident diagnosis may require:

- **Patient report of pain lateral to the ischium**  
± groin & upper posterior thigh
- **Positive physical tests**
  - Long stride walking, IFI Test, +/- TOPalpation of lat ischium
- **Imaging signs**
  - Reduced IFSpace ≤ 15mm, QFSpace ≤ 10mm on axial MRI
  - QF Oedema +/- atrophy on MRIFunctional IFI may have QF changes with IF & QF space above cutoffs

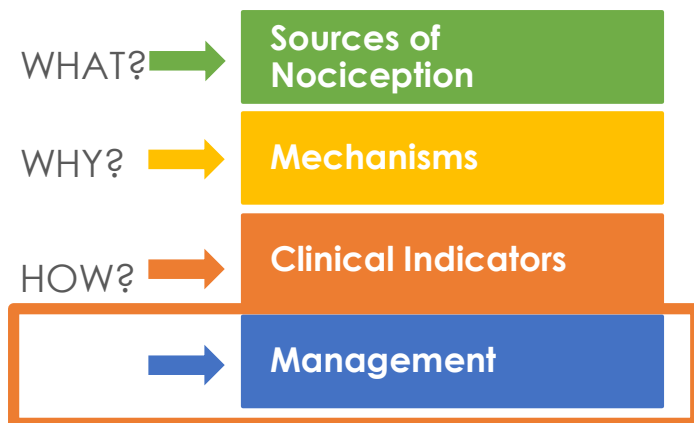
Role of imaging

Kwak et al 2018

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## Buttock Pain: Ischiofemoral Impingement



## Managing IFI – Case Study Evidence Only

### NON – SURGICAL MANAGEMENT

- Injection
- Anti-inflammatories
- Rest/activity modification
- Physiotherapy
  - Stretching – of what?
  - Strengthening – ‘hip muscles’, QF, abductors – how?
  - Heat, US, electrical Rx

### SURGICAL MANAGEMENT

- Endoscopic surgery
  - Partial or full resection of LT
- Open Surgery
  - Resection of LT
  - Resection of exostoses or tumours
- Good short-medium term outcomes with a low rate of complication

## Managing IFI – Non Surgical

- Yanagishita et al 2012: 'antiinflammatory drug for seven days and daily physical therapy for stretching and strengthening the pelvic muscles, with progressive improvement of symptoms'
- Lee et al 2013: 'Hot pack, ultrasound, and interferential current therapies were applied around the hip area. She received an exercise program for stretching of the hip muscle and connective tissues. The exercise program was targeted to the quadriceps femoris, piriformis, and other hip muscles.'
- DiSciullo et al 2018: '... in patients with possible dynamic IFI, treatment options could emphasize abductor strengthening and treatment of the underlying cause of the gluteal pathology'

## KEY NON-SURGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



## Load Management for IFI Minimise exposure to:

### Compression

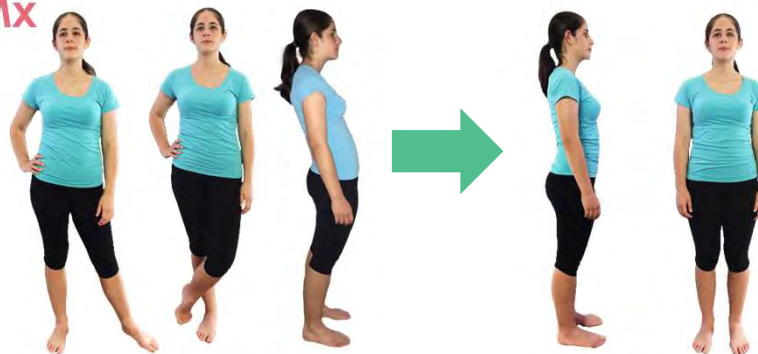
- Positions of combined extension & adduction +/- external rotation
- Consider sustained postures & stretches

### Compression & friction

- Walking/running
- Overstriding, narrow base, poor proximal control
- Swimming kick

## ISCHIOFEMORAL IMPINGEMENT

### Load Mx in ADL



Posture & gait re-education are key



# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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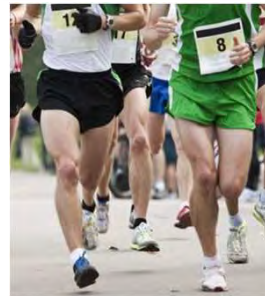
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## ISCHIOFEMORAL IMPINGEMENT



Load Mx in Sport, Recreation



Midline striking

Excess lateral pelvic tilt & femoro-pelvic adduction

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## Addressing dynamic impingement

Potential problem	Examples of Intervention
Overstriding	Reduce stride length, increase step rate, land softly
Excessive lateral pelvic drop or lateral shift	Address any associated overstriding, lead with knee, Abd strengthening, Motor control training
Midline/cross midline striking	Address any abductor weakness, 'run wider', run feet either side of a line



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## Exercise therapy for IFI

Gentle isometric QF  
Avoiding Impingement



Movement Training  
Frontal & sagittal plane control



Abductor Strengthening



Adductor Lengthening



## Manual therapy for IFI

No evidence for usefulness of manual therapy

May assist in those with superomedial hip OA or restricted capsule resulting in excessive adduction or external rotation

Try belt mobilisations

- Passive
- Dynamic, e.g during a squat or step - through action



## Focus Modules

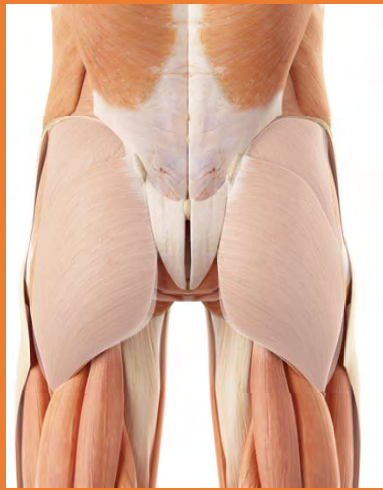
Joint Related Pain & Bony Impingements



Soft Tissue Related Pain  
Muscle, Fascia, Tendon, Bursa



Module: Soft Tissue Related Pain  
Muscle, Fascia, Tendon, Bursa



**BUTTOCK PAIN**  
**Soft Tissue Related Pain**  
*Muscle, Fascia, Tendon, Bursa*

**Module 2 – Lesson 1**

# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Muscles

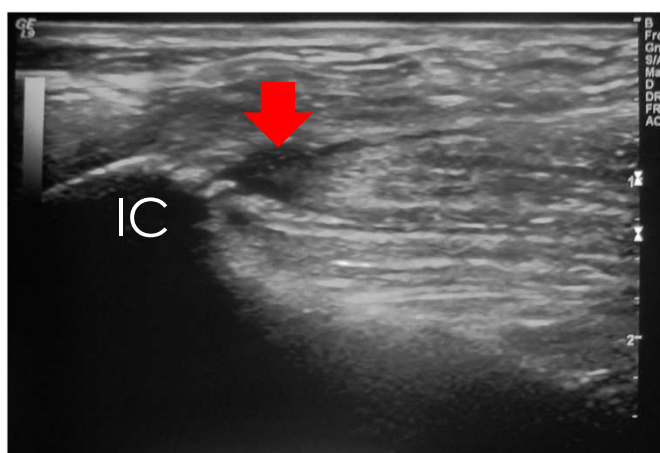
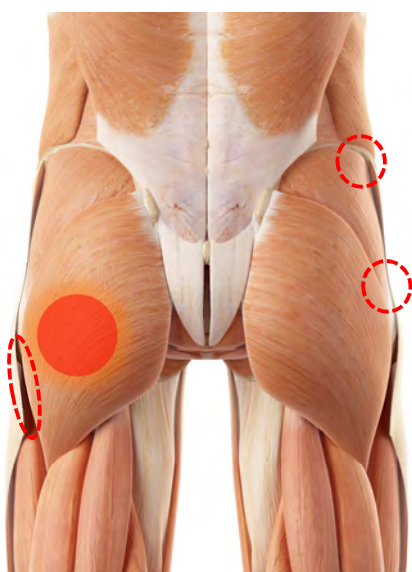


Acute injury relatively rare in buttock musculature  
Pain may arise due to overuse  
– DOMS, overtraining, kinematics/structure/muscle function

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## Acute muscle injury



Gluteus medius muscle tear  
at iliac origin

Kara et al 2015, Mehta et al 2015

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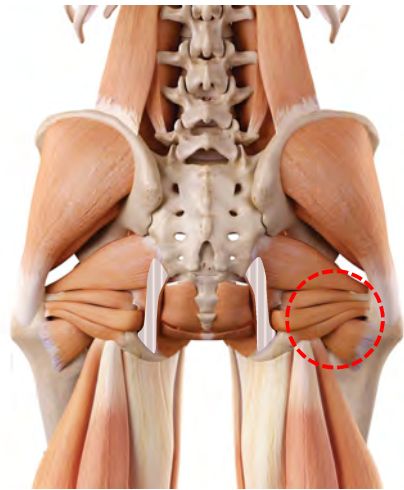
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Acute muscle injury



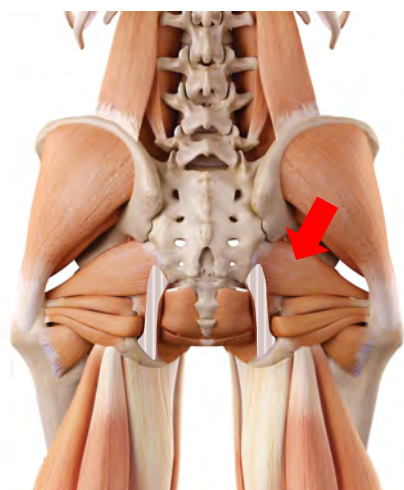
Obturator internus or externus muscle injuries more commonly occur at obturator foramen/pubis ramus; more likely to present with groin pain

Kassarjian 2008, Kassarjian et al 2011

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## 'Piriformis syndrome'



Grossly overused/misused term

**'Piriformis syndrome'**

**= sciatic neuralgia**

( associated with entrapment under/in piri)

**≠ painful piriformis muscle**

The piriformis muscle may be a source of pain but this should not be termed 'piriformis syndrome'

Piriformis muscle pain may co-exist with Piriformis syndrome

➔ See Nerve Related Pain Module

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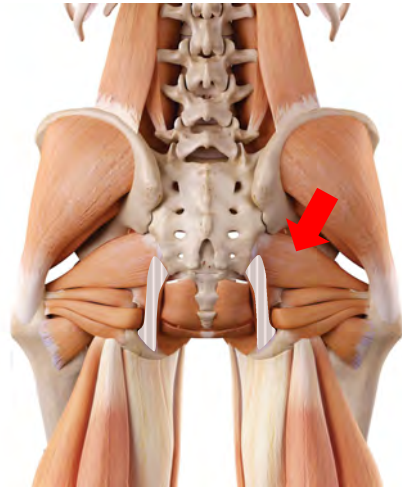
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## Piriformis muscle overload



May develop in association with:

- Unaccustomed, strong &/or repetitive hip abduction/rotation activities

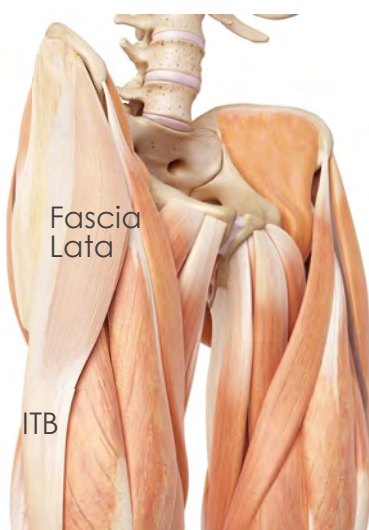


- Weakness/dysfunction of it's synergists
  - gluteus medius/minimus
  - short external rotators
- Loading of the SIJ, particularly when passive stability mechanisms are insufficient

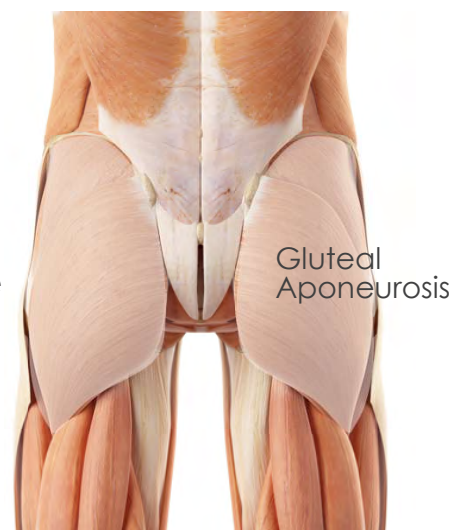
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## Fascia



Highly innervated,  
++ nociceptors  
Force transference  
Energy storage  
Augments stability  
- ITB: lateral hip/knee  
ITB & ITB tensioners  
≈ 30% BW in SLS

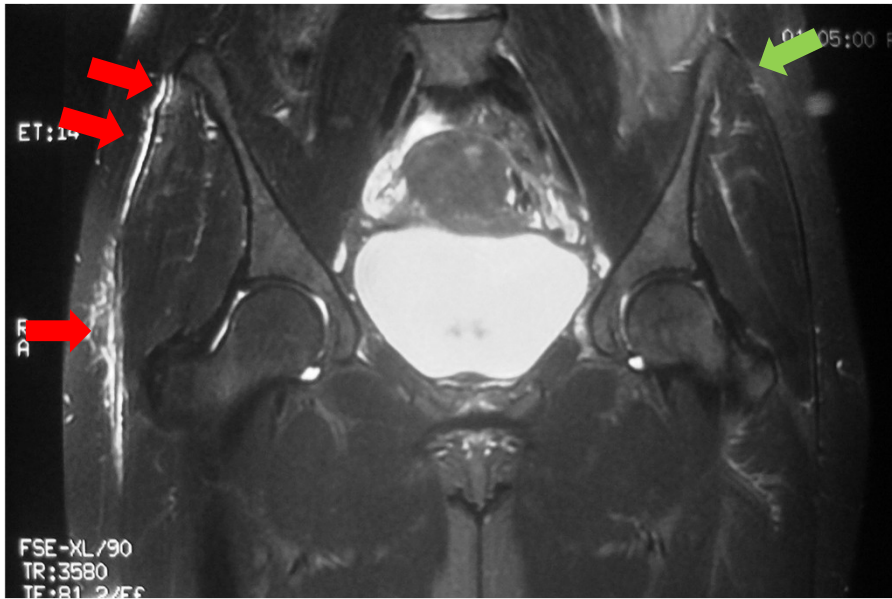


Huang et al 2013, Schleip & Baker 2015, Zügel et al 2018

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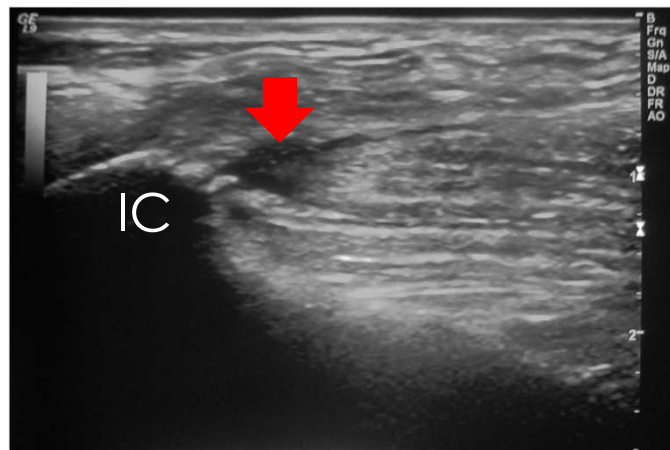
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## Acute fascial injury



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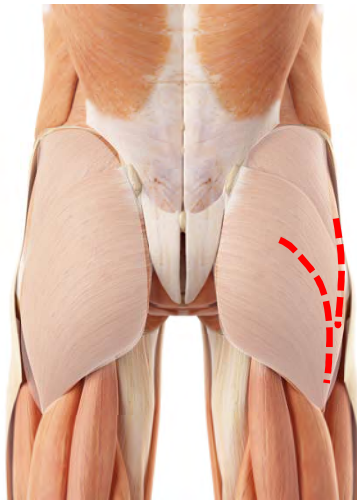
## Acute fascial injury



Gluteus medius muscle tear at iliac origin + fascia lata tear

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## Iatrogenic fascial injury



Effect of surgical incision??

## 'Fasciopathy' & Degenerative Fascial Change

Age-related alterations in fascial tissue

- densification (alterations of loose connective tissue)
- fibrosis (alterations of collagen fibrous bundles)

Prolonged or repetitive load

- persistent inflammation may develop – prolonged presence of pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF, TGF $\beta$ -1)
- can promote fibrosis
- maintains sensitisation of nociceptive afferents
- results in increased production of Substance P, which can also stimulate fibrosis & contribute to pain states



# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

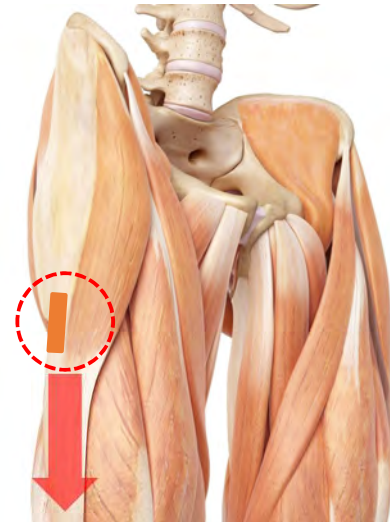
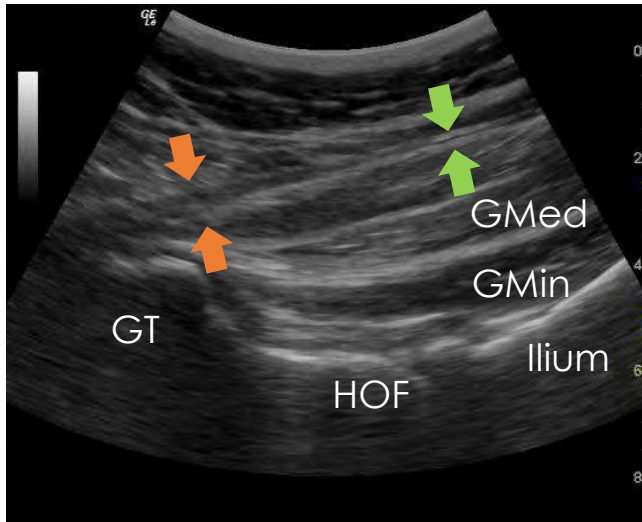
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## ITB Fasciopathy in Greater Trochanteric Pain

Thickening of ITB over GT reported in 29% of 877 with GTPS

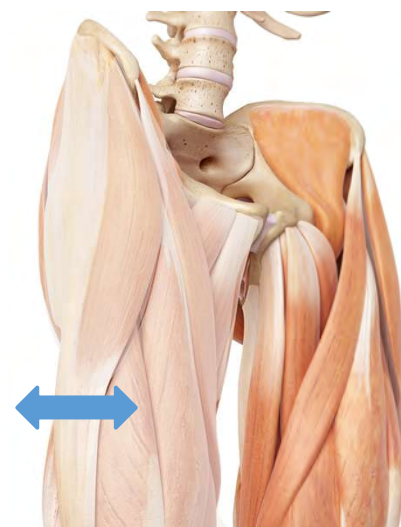
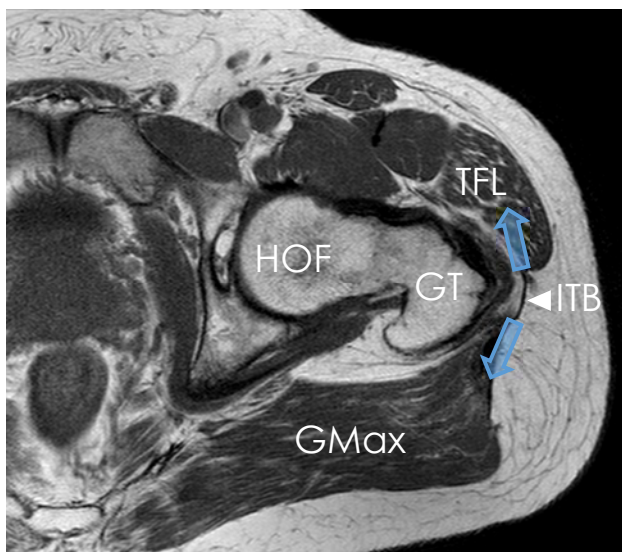


Long et al 2013, Huang et al 2013

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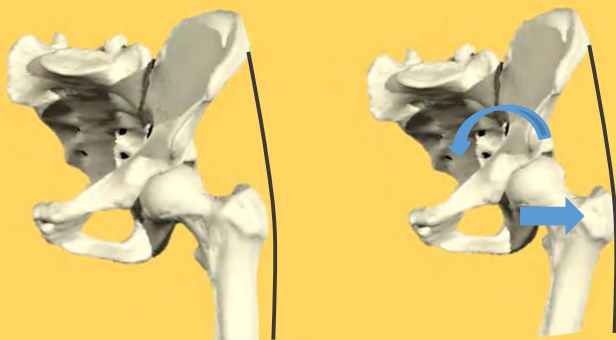
## External Coxa Saltans – Lateral Snapping Hip



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## External Coxa Saltans – Lateral Snapping Hip



### Impairments

- Reduced eccentric hip abductor strength
- No difference in gait pattern
  - Only 13 subjects – low power
  - Likely differing patterns
- ITB length - short or long ??
- Generalised joint hypermobility common in this group

Jacobsen et al 2012, 2013, Allison et al 2016

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## External Coxa Saltans – Lateral Snapping Hip



### Management

- Optimise lateral pelvic control & cues for gait – 'up tall', 'feet wider'
- May require hip abductor & extensor strengthening
- May require 'downregulation' strategies for anterior thighs & patterning strategies for squat
- Surgical Mx involves ITB lengthening/release – poor quality evidence. Effect on ITB function? Must exhaust good non-surgical Mx prior to considering.

Mokha et al 2015, Pierce et al 2018 – Surgical SRV

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

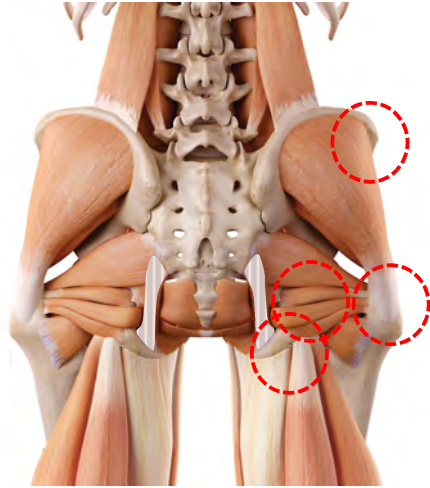
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## Tendons

TFL Tendinopathy; Obturator Internus Tendinopathy



Gluteal Tendinopathy

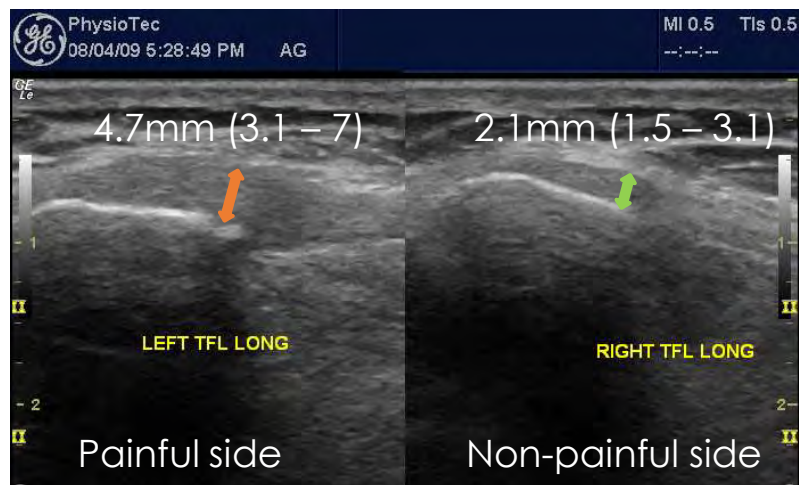
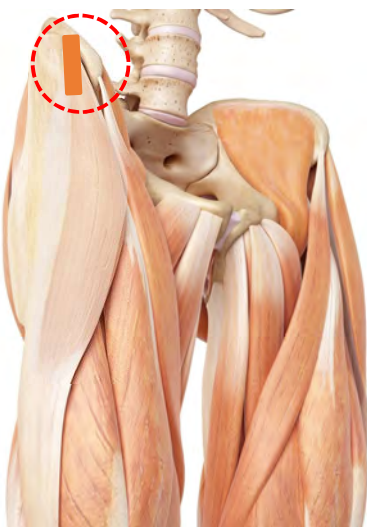


Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy

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## TFL Tendinopathy – Proximal ITB Fasciopathy



Bass & Connell 2002, Huang et al 2013

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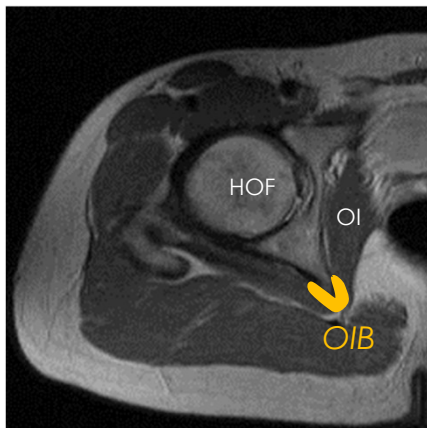
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## Obturator Internus Tendinopathy & Bursitis

### Axial MRI: Level of HOF



Consider this diagnosis in those presenting with retrotrochanteric pain



Your hip OA program may be having an effect due to improvements in health & reduction of nociception from local soft tissues.

Meknas et al 2011, Chen et al 2017, Cox & Bakkum 2005, Walters et al 2014

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

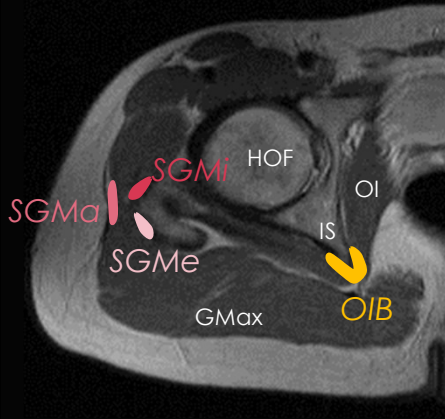
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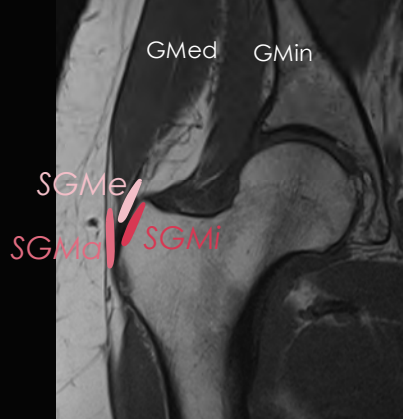
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## Bursae of the Lateral Hip & Buttock

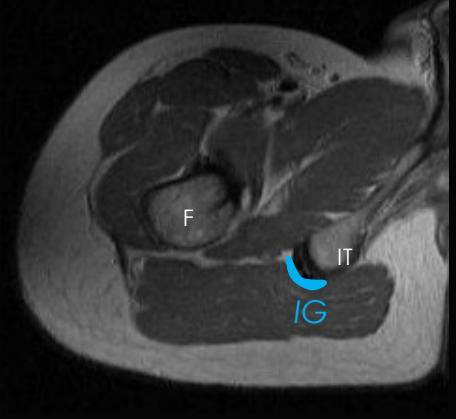
Axial MRI: Level of HOF



Coronal MRI: Level of HOF



Axial MRI: Level of IT



**SGMa: Subgluteus Maximus (Trochanteric) Bursa; SGMe: Subgluteus Medius Bursa; SGMi: Subgluteus Minimus Bursa; OIB: Obturator Internus Bursa; IG: Ischiogluteal Bursa**

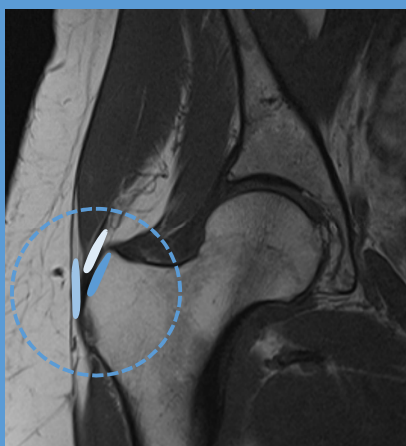
HOF: Head of Femur; IS: Ischial Spine; IT: Ischial Tuberosity; OI: Obturator Internus; GMax: Gluteus Maximus; GMed: Gluteus Medius; GMin: Gluteus Minimus

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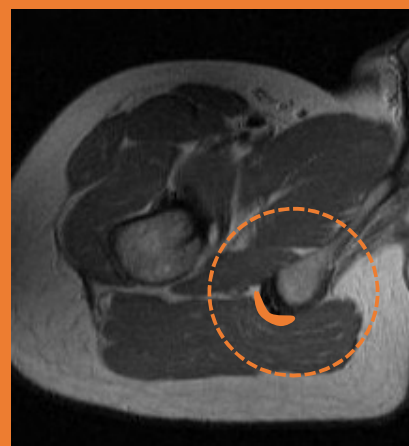
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## Focus Topics

Soft Tissue Related  
Greater Trochanteric Pain



Soft Tissue Related  
Ischial Pain



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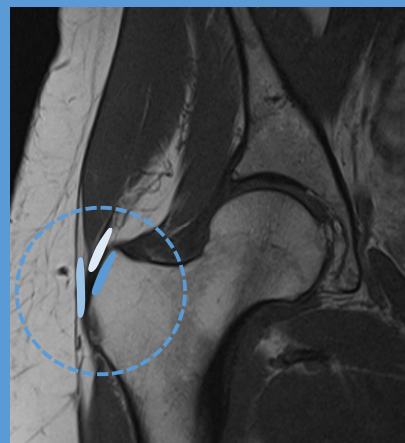
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## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN Soft Tissue Related Pain Greater Trochanteric Pain - Part 1

Module 2 – Lesson 2

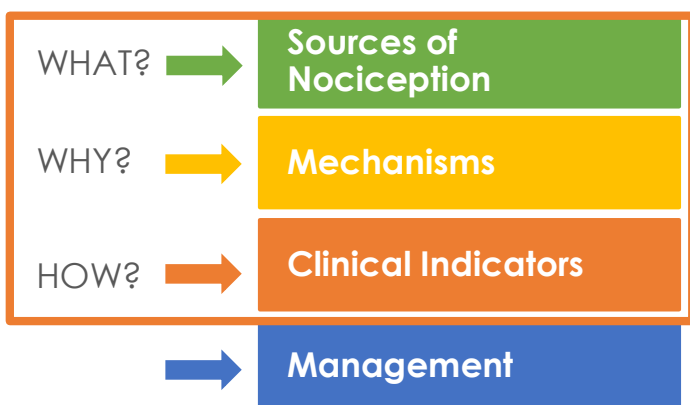
Soft Tissue Related  
Greater Trochanteric Pain



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## Soft Tissue Related Pain: GT Related Pain



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## Greater Trochanteric Pain

High prevalence in post menopausal women

Most common lower limb tendinopathy in GP

Mod-high pain levels

Sleep deprivation

Reduced activity



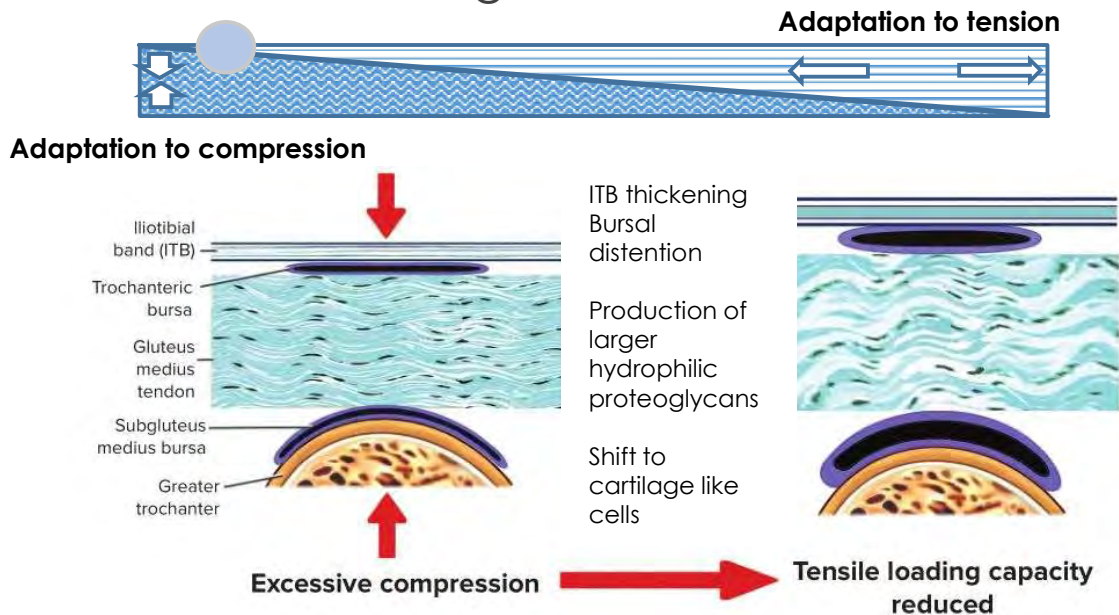
Levels of disability & QOL similar to end stage hip OA  
(Fearon et al 2014)



**Need:**  
**Early Dx**  
**Optimal Mx**

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## Pathoaeiological Mechanisms



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Almekinders et al 2003, Cook & Purdam 2011

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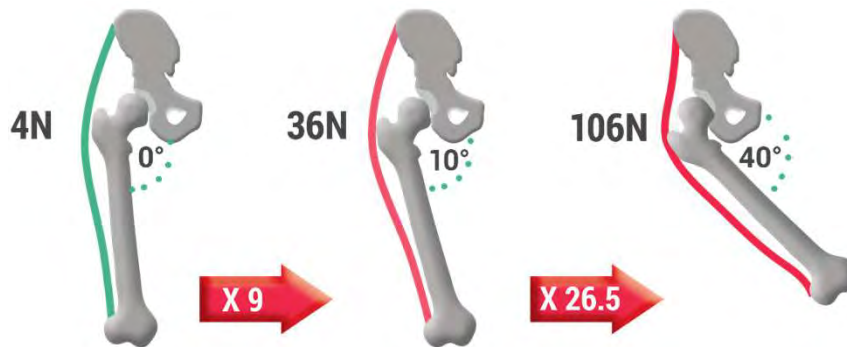
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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Potential mechanisms for aetiology & pain provocation for gluteal tendinopathy



## Hip Adduction

**ITB** wraps around greater trochanter like a pulley

High compressive & tensile loads, particularly with muscle active in outer range

Birnbaum et al 2004

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## Case Study: Meet Trish

55 year old female  
Post menopausal  
BMI 27

Lateral Hip Pain  
Duration >12 months  
Intensity 5/10  
Frequency 60% time

Sleep deprivation  
Reduced activity levels



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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

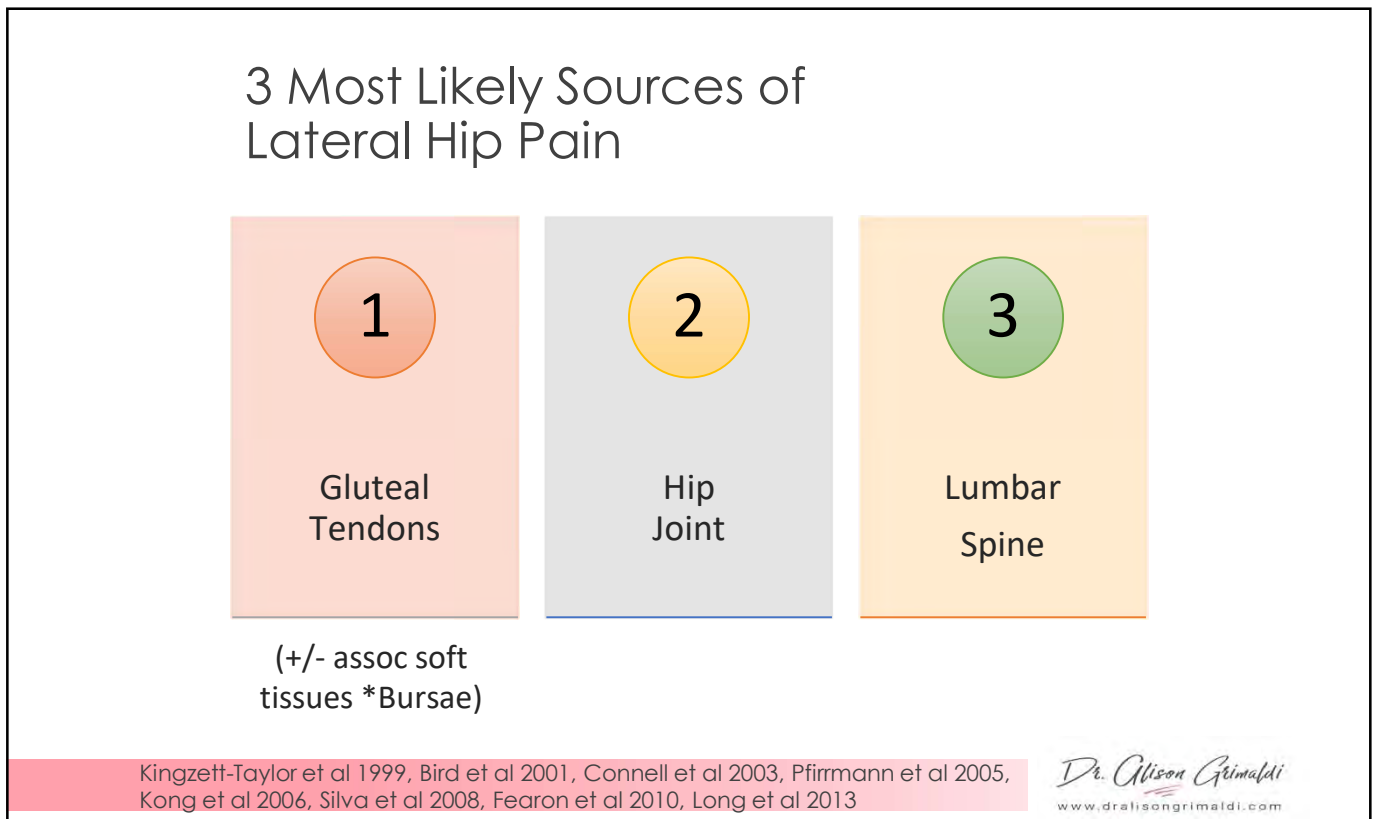
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Key Interview Features

1	2	3
<b>Gluteal Tendon</b>	<b>Hip Joint</b>	<b>Lumbar Spine</b>
Worst pain over greater trochanter	'C Sign' pain, superior to GT	Pain emanates from Lx or buttock



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Key Interview Features

1	2	3
<b>Gluteal Tendon</b>	<b>Hip Joint</b>	<b>Lumbar Spine</b>
Worst pain over greater trochanter	'C Sign' pain, superior to GT	Pain emanates from Lx or buttock
Hip stiffness not common feature	Hip stiffness common feature	Hip stiffness not common feature
Pain over GT in sidelying	General hip ache with sidelying	Pain more commonly worst in supine/prone
Pain over GT with single leg loading	Groin/C Sign pain with deep flexion	Back &/or radicular pain with prolonged sitting, standing, bending lifting

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain




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Key Physical Features

1 Gluteal Tendon	2 Hip Joint	3 Lumbar Spine
Active Lx ROM Mild GT P with LF <span style="color: green; font-size: 20px;">✔</span>	Active Lx ROM <span style="color: green; font-size: 20px;">✔</span> May have P EOR F/E	Active Lx ROM <span style="color: orange; font-size: 20px;">✱</span> Ext/Rot, SLR, Slump
Hip ROM <span style="color: green; font-size: 20px;">✔</span>	Restricted hip flexion/IR <span style="color: orange; font-size: 20px;">✱</span>	Hip ROM <span style="color: green; font-size: 20px;">✔</span>
TOP over GT <span style="color: orange; font-size: 20px;">✱</span>	May have some TOP over GT	TOP Lx
<b>Pain over GT reproduced on specific tests <span style="color: red; font-size: 20px;">✱</span></b>	Deep anterior hip P on FADDIR, Scours/Quadrant <span style="color: orange; font-size: 20px;">✱</span>	No local hip P reproduced on physical hip tests <span style="color: green; font-size: 20px;">✔</span>

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## Utility of clinical tests to diagnose MRI-confirmed gluteal tendinopathy in patients presenting with lateral hip pain

Alison Grimaldi,<sup>1,2</sup> Rebecca Mellor,<sup>2</sup> Phillipa Nicolson,<sup>3</sup> Paul Hodges,<sup>4</sup> Kim Bennell, Bill Vicenzino<sup>2,4</sup>

### ABSTRACT

**Purpose** Gluteal tendinopathy (GT) is a source of lateral hip pain, yet common clinical diagnostic tests have limited validity. Patients with GT are often misdiagnosed, resulting in inappropriate management, including surgery. This study determined the diagnostic utility of clinical tests for GT, using MRI as the reference standard.

test could convincingly predict findings from MRI. The test with most promise was the resisted external de-rotation test from a hip flexed and externally rotated position. This test is designed to stress gluteal tendons by longitudinal (tensile) and compressive loads.<sup>10</sup> Limitations of previous studies assessing diagnostic utility of clinical tests were identified in Reiman *et al's*<sup>9</sup> systematic review.



**BJSM Online First:** 2016 September 15

**In Print:** 2017 Mar;51(6):519-524

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Most Useful Tests

Most useful for Ruling out GT

**PALP**  
-LR: 0.4  
Acc: 72%



Tests that involve a muscle contraction

Most useful for Ruling In GT

SLS	FADER-R	ADD-R
+LR: 12.2	+LR: 6.6	+LR: 5.7
PPV:100	PPV:96	PPV:95



Useful for DDX  
**Hip OA v GT**  
Fearon et al 2013

**FABER**



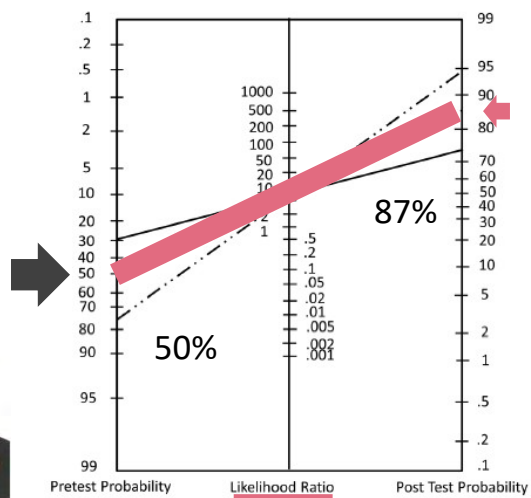
Grimaldi et al 2017



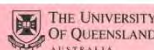
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Trish:  
55 yo post menopausal female  
Lateral hip pain in sidelying and single leg tasks



Grimaldi et al 2017



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## Do we need to order imaging?

### NO

Positive clinical tests  
No red flags

### YES

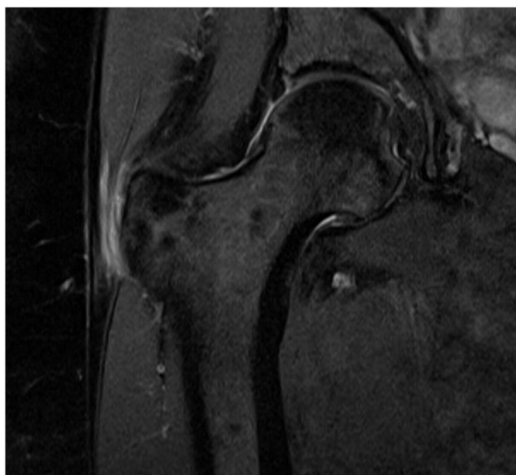
Negative on physical tests for MSK cause

Red flags

Persistent pain despite course of evidence-based management

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## Interpreting imaging results



-ve on clinical tests  
➔ Consider other differential diagnoses

+ve MRI alone should not be used as a basis for intervention

+ve MRI may occur in those without clinical signs or symptoms of gluteal tendinopathy

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## Trish's examination findings

	FADER-R +ve
	SLS +ve
	PALP +ve
	FADDIR -ve



**Diagnosis of  
Gluteal  
Tendinopathy**

**What does the  
evidence  
support as best  
management?**

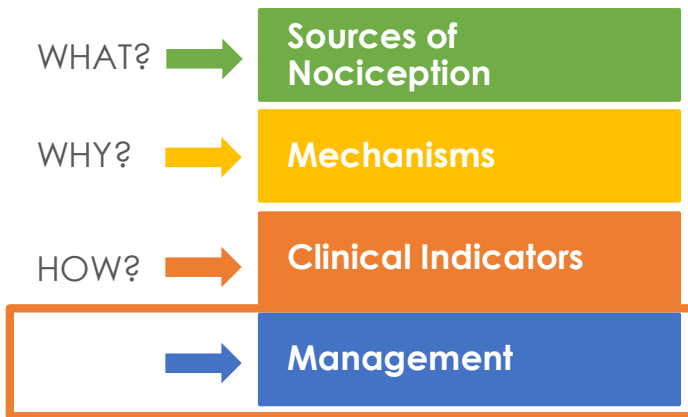
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What would you recommend as first-line management for Trish?

- a. Wait & See?
- b. Education & exercise? What type?
- c. Corticosteroid Injection?
- d. PRP Injection?
- e. None of the above?

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## Soft Tissue Related Pain: GT Related Pain



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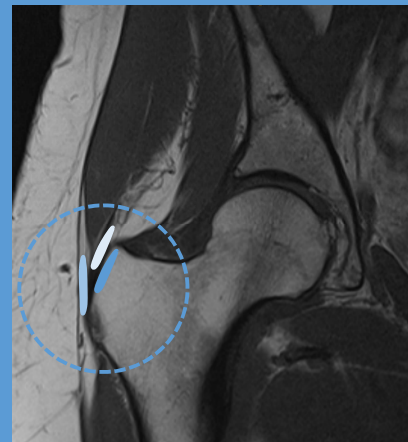
## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN

### Soft Tissue Related Pain

#### Greater Trochanteric Pain- Part 2

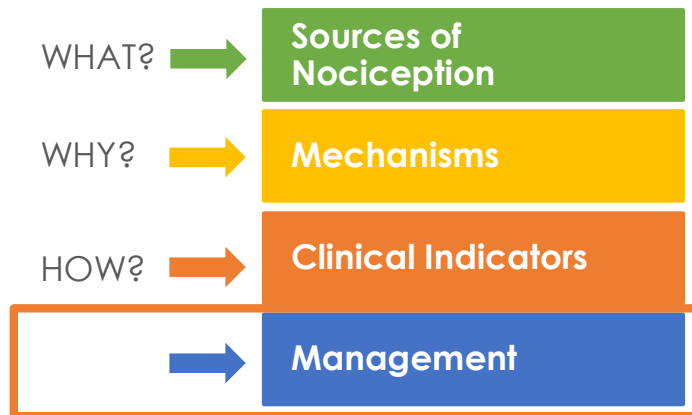
Module 2 – Lesson 3

### Soft Tissue Related Greater Trochanteric Pain



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## Soft Tissue Related Pain: GT Related Pain



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What would you recommend as first-line management for Trish?

- a. Wait & See?
- b. Education & exercise? What type?
- c. Corticosteroid Injection?
- d. PRP Injection?
- e. None of the above?

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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RESEARCH

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## Education plus exercise versus corticosteroid injection use versus a wait and see approach on global outcome and pain from gluteal tendinopathy: prospective, single blinded, randomised clinical trial

Rebecca Mellor,<sup>1</sup> Kim Bennell,<sup>2</sup> Alison Grimaldi,<sup>3</sup> Philippa Nicolson,<sup>2</sup> Jessica Kasza,<sup>4</sup> Paul Hodges,<sup>5</sup> Henry Wajswelner,<sup>6</sup> Bill Vicenzino<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Queensland, QLD 4072, Australia

<sup>2</sup>Centre for Health, Exercise and Sports Medicine, Department of Physiotherapy, University of Melbourne, Carlton, VIC, Australia

<sup>3</sup>Tarragindi, QLD, Australia

<sup>4</sup>Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Alfred Centre, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

<sup>5</sup>National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Centre of Clinical Research

**ABSTRACT**

**OBJECTIVE**  
To compare the effects of a programme of load management education plus exercise, corticosteroid injection use, and no treatment on pain and global improvement in individuals with gluteal tendinopathy.

**DESIGN**

Prospective, three arm, single blinded, randomised clinical trial.

**SETTING**

Brisbane and Melbourne, Australia.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Individuals aged 35-70 years, with lateral hip pain for more than three months, at least 4/10 on the pain

**RESULTS**

Of 204 randomised participants (including 167 women; mean age 54.8 years (standard deviation 8.8)), 189 (92.6%) completed 52 week follow-up. Success on the global rating of change was reported at eight weeks by 51/66 EDX, 38/65 CSI, and 20/68 WS participants. EDX and CSI had better global improvement scores than WS (risk difference 49.1% (95% confidence interval 34.6% to 63.5%), number needed to treat 2.0 (95% confidence interval 1.6 to 2.9); 29.2% (13.2% to 45.2%), 3.4 (2.2 to 7.6); respectively). EDX had better global improvement scores than CSI (19.9% (4.7% to 35.0%); 5.0 (2.9 to 21.1)). At eight weeks, reported pain on the numerical

the bmj | BMJ 2018;361:k1662 | doi: 10.1136/bmj.k1662

Published online May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

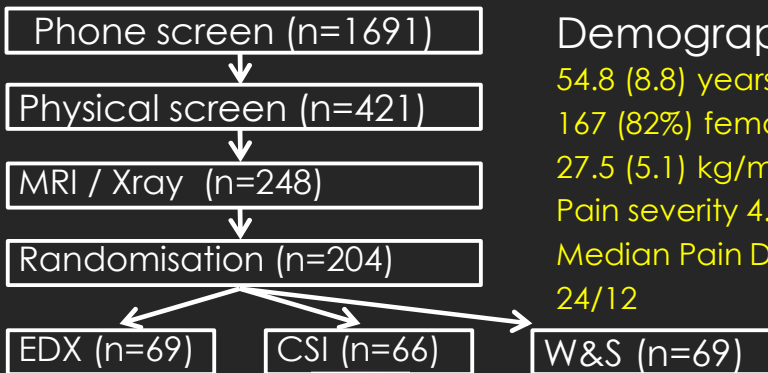
LEAP TRIAL



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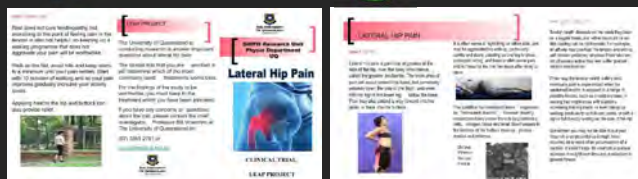
# LEAP TRIAL



Demographics:

- 54.8 (8.8) years old
- 167 (82%) female
- 27.5 (5.1) kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pain severity 4.9 (1)
- Median Pain Duration: 24/12

14 sessions in 8/52  
Supervised Exercise + HEP  
Adherence 90%



Basic Advice

the bmj | Mellor et al BMJ 2018;361:k1662 | doi: 10.1136/bmj.k1662

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Load Management for Gluteal Tendinopathy


### Minimise exposure to:

Compression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positions of hip adduction</li> <li>• Consider sustained postures &amp; stretches</li> </ul>
Compression & active tension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking hills &amp; stairs, or at speed</li> <li>• Running, hopping * with excessive Add</li> </ul>
High energy storage & release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running, hopping, power walking</li> <li>• Any form of plyometric activity</li> </ul>
High External Hip Adductor Moments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinematic &amp; gait parameters</li> <li>• Consider body mass &amp; external loads</li> </ul>


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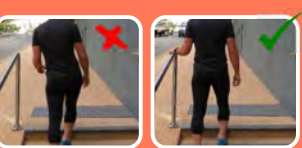
ED targets: provocative tasks




Reduce exposure to higher ranges of hip adduction which impose high compressive loads on soft tissues of GT (Birnbaum et al 2004)



Sustained Postures



Movement Patterns



Stretches

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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EX targets: known impairments



Fatty atrophy of GMed & GMin

Pfirman et al 2005, Sutter et al 2013, Woodley et al 2008



Hip abductor muscle weakness

23 -32% weaker than painfree population

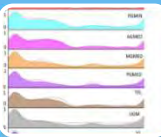
Allison et al 2016a, Ganderton et al 2017



Kinematic & kinetic impairments

Altered frontal plane control & abductor loads

Allison et al 2016b,c,d



Altered abductor muscle recruitment strategies

Excess co-contraction, loss of precision & load sharing

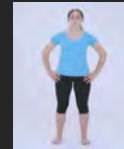
Allison et al 2018, Ganderton et al 2017

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Progressive, Pain Monitored

Isometric Abduction



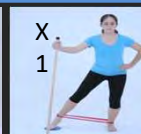
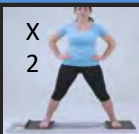
Bridging progressions



Functional Loading



Targeted Abductor Loading



**Heavy Slow Loading 3x/wk**  
**External Resistance**  
**Into Inner Range**  
**RPE: Hard – Very Hard**

the bmj | BMJ 2018;361:k1662 | doi: 10.1136/bmj.k1662 [Details in the Supplement](#)

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## Primary Outcomes

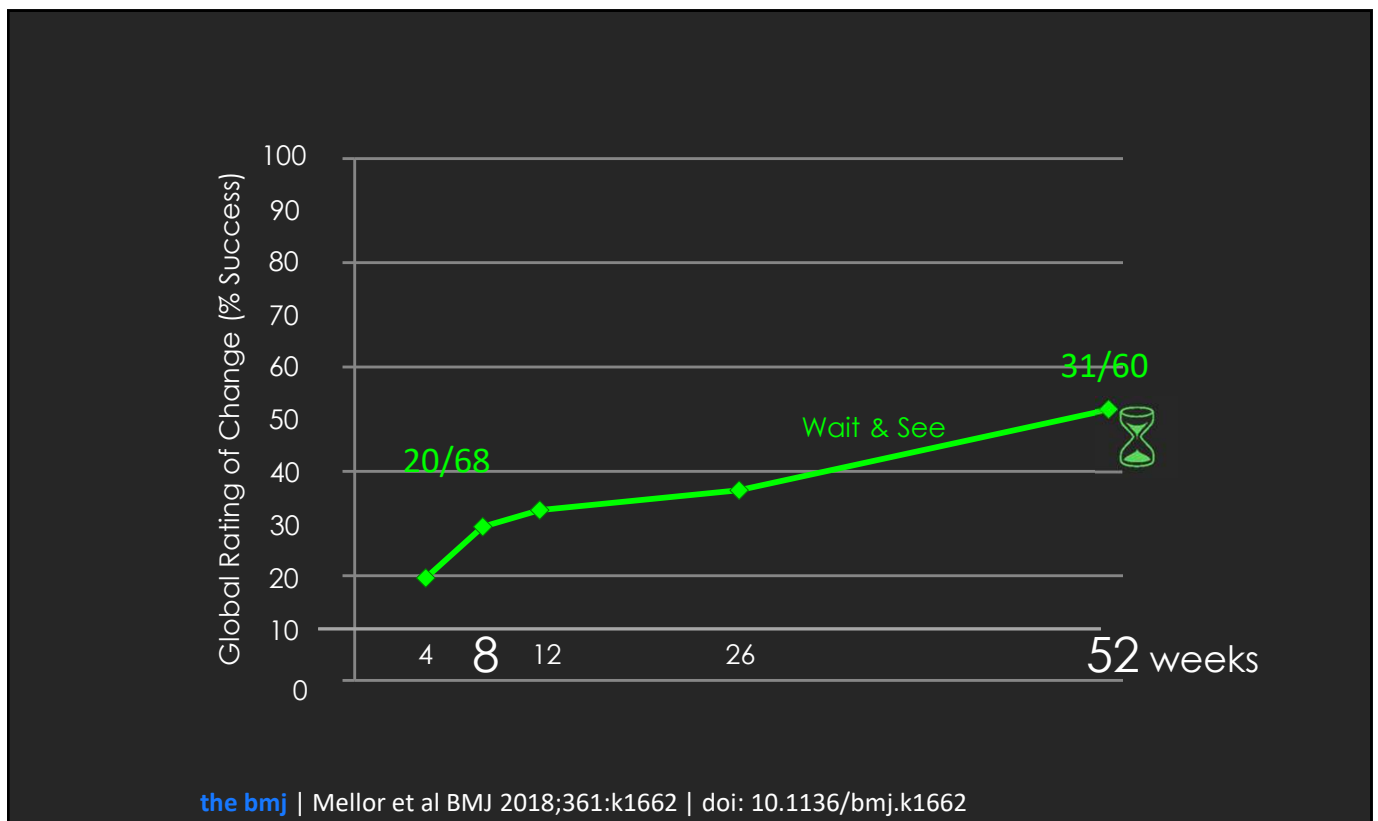
Global Rating of Change

- Very much better
- Much better
- Moderately better
- Somewhat better
- Slightly better
- Same
- Slightly worse
- Somewhat worse
- Moderately worse
- Much worse
- Very much worse

Pain Severity Numerical Rating Scale

- 10 WORST PAIN IMAGINABLE
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0 NO PAIN

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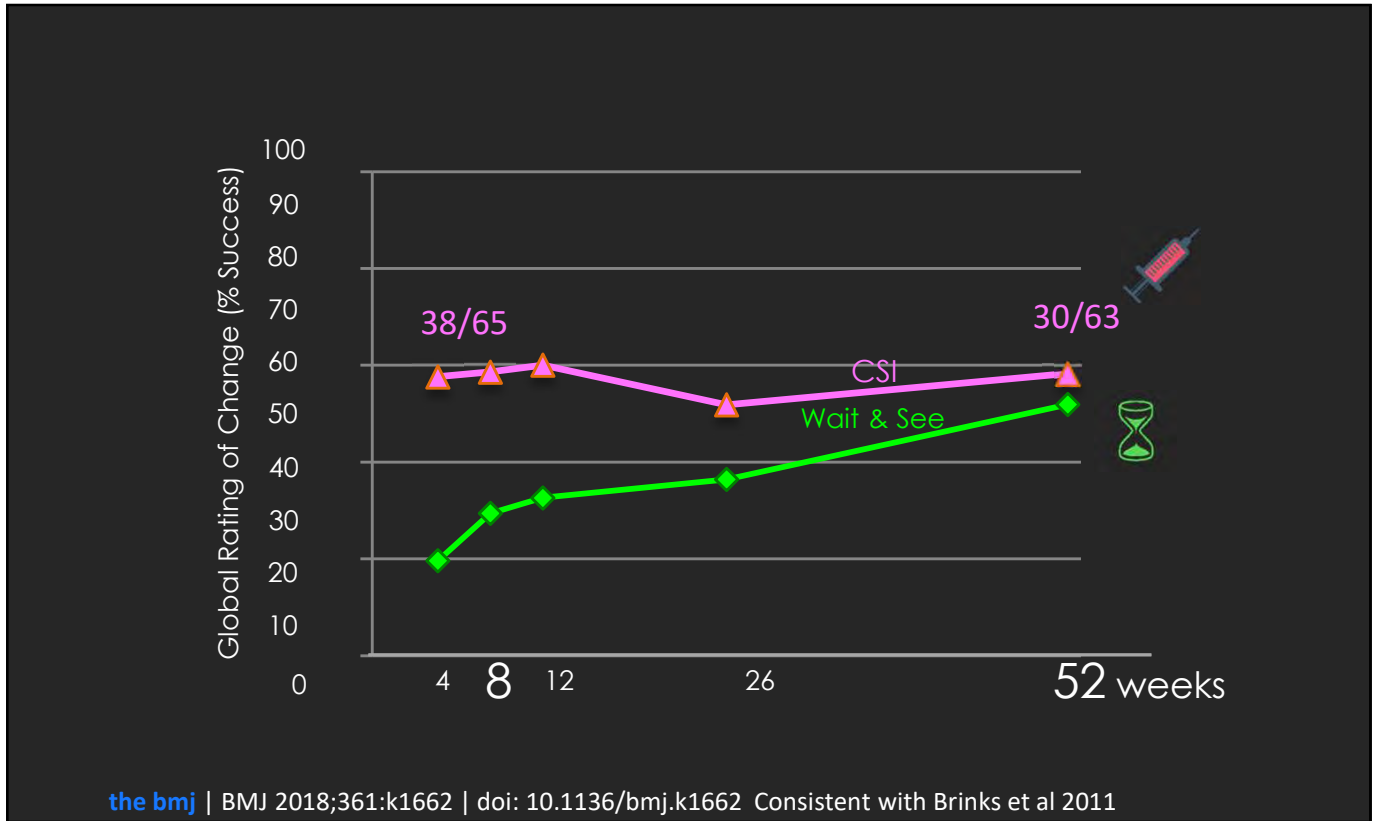


# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

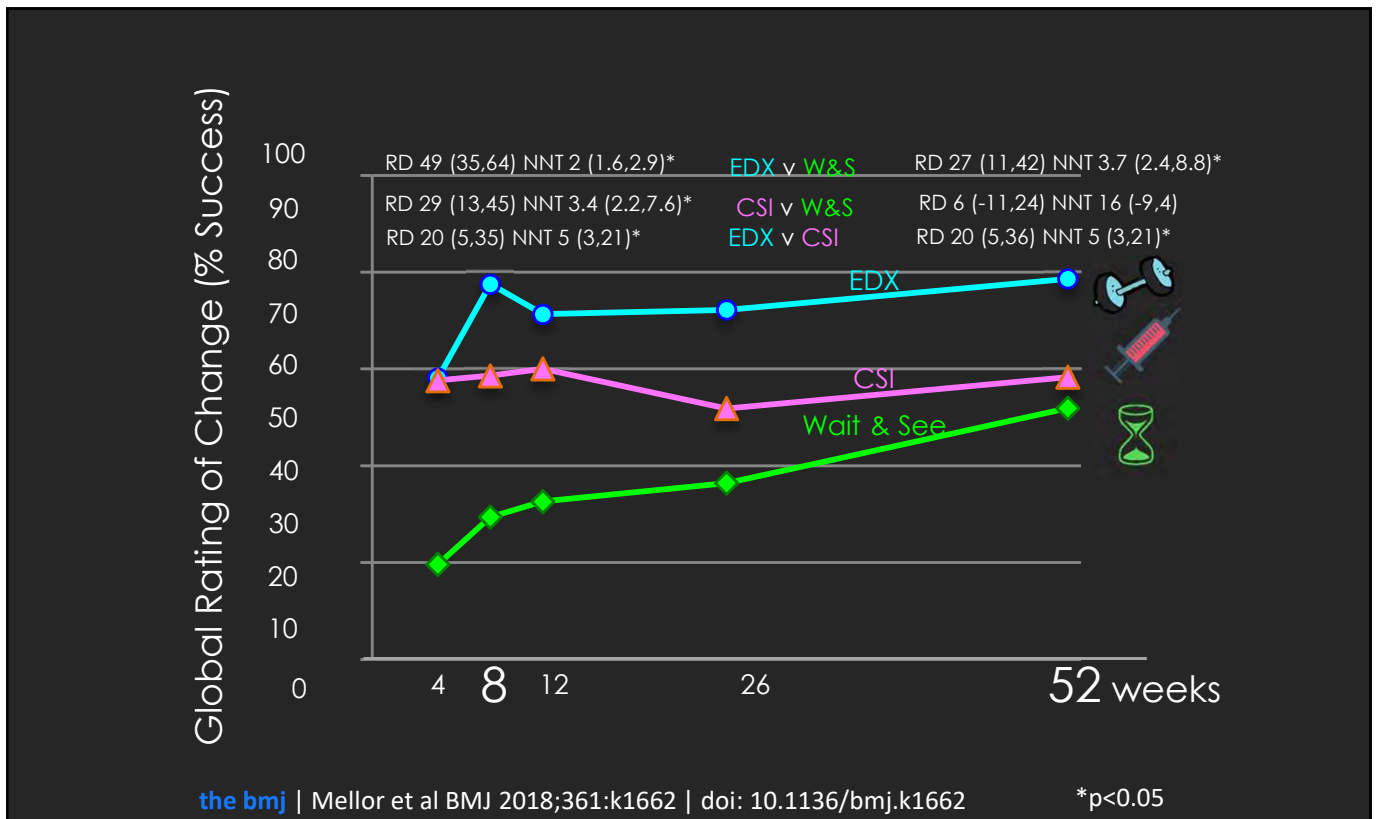
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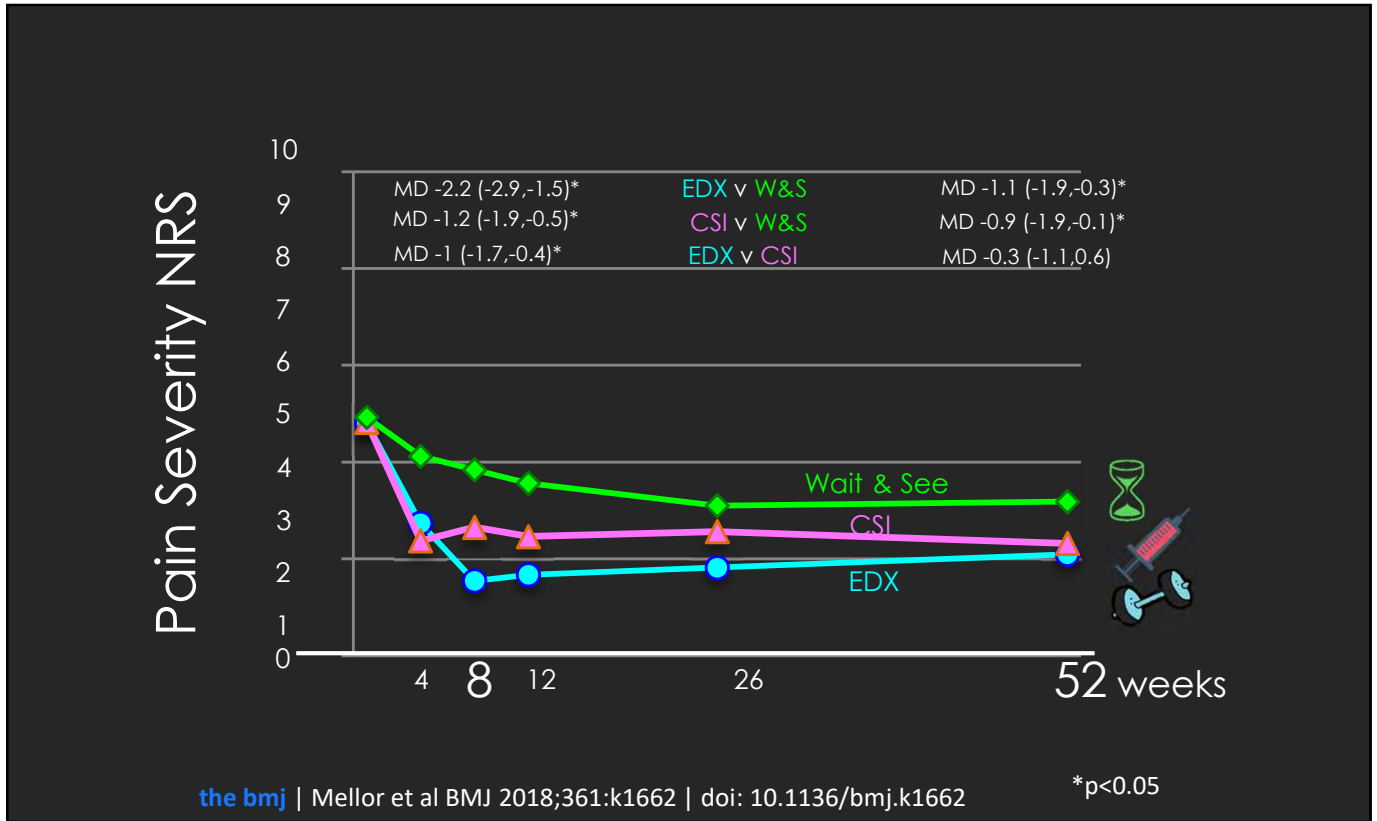
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## Insights from secondary analyses

Success is not just about pain severity

EDX



less Pain Constancy

better QoL

than both W&S & CSI

QOL = Quality of Life (EQ-5D)

the bmj | Mellor et al BMJ 2018;361:k1662 | doi: 10.1136/bmj.k1662

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## GLOBE Trial – Exercise vs Sham Exercise

### GLOBE Exercise protocol:

#### Stage 1:

Standing hip hitch  
Bilateral wall squat  
Bilateral calf raise

#### Stage 2:

Standing h  
Bilateral sit  
Bilateral c

#### Stage 3:

Standing h  
Offset sit-st  
Unilateral c

#### Stage 4:

Single leg wall squat  
Step up  
Unilateral calf raise

### Sham Exercise protocol:

#### Stage 1:

Seated gluteal squeezes  
Supine knee IROE over roll  
Seated single leg calf raise

#### Stage 2:

Seated trunk LF, back against wall  
Seated knee extension – green theraband  
Seated calf raises with pulses up/down

#### Stage 4:

Standing trunk LF, back against wall  
Seated knee extension – green theraband  
Seated calf raises with pulses up/down

Both groups improved  
No difference between groups

Education + GLOBE Exercise

vs

Education + Sham Exercise

Ganderton et al 2018

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Parameter	W & S	LEAP EDX	GLOBE EDX
% Success	52%	78%	54%
% Imp on Visa G 3/12	4.6%	19.1%	11.5%
Education	Basic	Comprehensive	Comprehensive
Exercise	Nil	Weightbearing	Weightbearing
		No stretching	No stretching
		2+1x wk heavy loading	No heavy loading
		Inner range Abd	No inner range Abd
Adherence	N/A	90%	76%
Movement Re-ed	Nil	Re-ed of posture, gait & stairclimbing	No specific retraining
F2F sessions	1	14	4

Ganderton et al 2018

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## Home Training, Local Corticosteroid Injection, or Radial Shock Wave Therapy for Greater Trochanter Pain Syndrome

Compression

Non-randomised clinical trial  
12 weeks of exercise bd including:

1. Piriformis stretch
2. ITB standing stretch

3. Active SLR
4. Double leg ball squat
5. Prone Hip Extension

No ABD loading

		Baseline	1/12	4/12	15/12
HEP	Pain /10	6.2	5.9	5.2	2.7
	%pts improved		6.6%	40.8%	80.2%
CSI	Pain /10	5.8	2.2	4.5	5.3
	%pts improved		74.7%	50.6%	48%
SWT	Pain /10	6.3	5.6	3.2	2.4
	%pts improved		12.8%	67.9%	74.3%

Rompe et al 2009

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## The effectiveness of PRP in Gluteal Tendinopathy



CSI vs PRP  
with Advice & Ex



CSI n=40 Baseline mHHS:54.15	PRP n=40 Baseline mHHS:53.77
US Guided, Intratendinous	US Guided, Intratendinous
mHHS @3/12 = 67/100	mHHS @ 3/12 = 74/100
Significant between Gp difference - 7pts; MCID = 8	
60% Bursitis only	50% Bursitis only
12 week unsupervised exercise programme	
Education: Load management, progressive RT activity	

Fitzpatrick et al 2018

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## The effectiveness of PRP in Gluteal Tendinopathy



CSI vs PRP  
with Advice & Ex



Lack of control group & inclusion of load management education and an exercise programme makes it difficult to determine true effect of injections

50-60% of participants did not have tendinopathy

Rationale for intratendinous PRP & CSI in normal tendons?

mHHS (OA score) may overestimate hip-related function in GTPS patients in comparison to VISA-G (Fearon et al 2015)



**Evidence for PRP remains unclear**

## What advice do we give Trish?

Try an education & exercise approach first

Making simple changes may be very helpful

An active approach is likely to be most useful in addressing impairments

The addition of CSI is unlikely to add further benefit

Benefit of PRP unclear

Exercise intervention likely to be more successful under guidance of a physio (at least in early stages & for those with significant impairments)

EDX will be optimally effective with high levels of compliance.

If you don't do it, it won't work!

# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

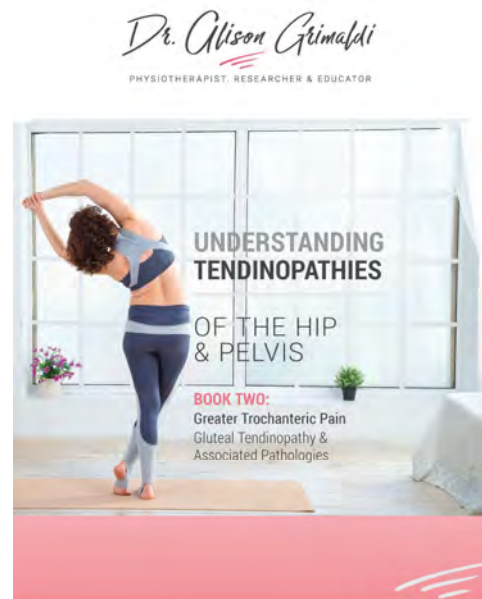
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For more reading on this topic, you might also like the online ebook on this topic

Visit  
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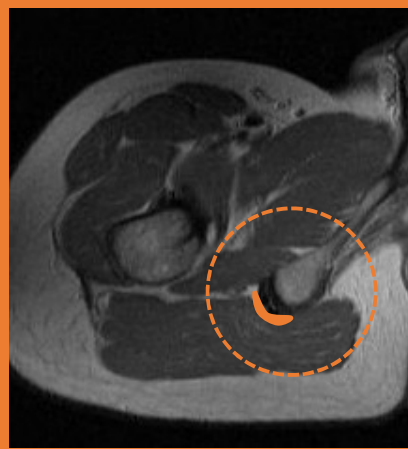
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## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN Soft Tissue Related Pain

Muscle, Fascia, Tendon, Bursa

Module 2 – Lesson 4

Soft Tissue Related  
Ischial Pain



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## Soft tissue related ischial pain

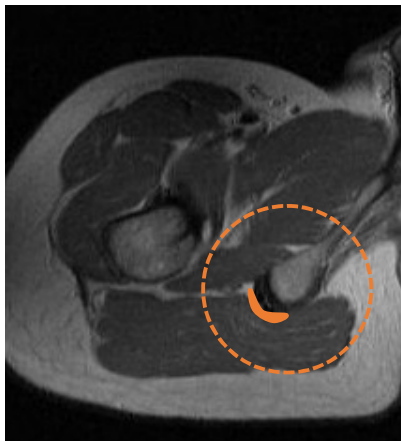
Soft tissue conditions associated with ischial pain:

Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy/Tear  
Ischiogluteal Bursitis

Neuralgia

- Sciatic (ischial tunnel)  
- PFCN - Inferior cluneal nerve  
(Refer to Nerve Related Pain)

Axial MRI at ischial level



Also consider:  
Lumbar spine  
SIJ

In adolescents:  
Ischial apophysitis  
/avulsion

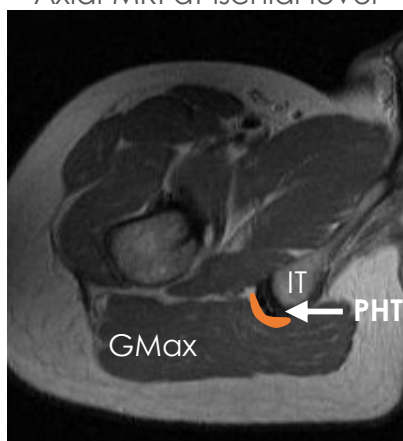
## The ischiogluteal bursa

Covers the proximal hamstring tendons  
Sits between tendons & gluteus maximus

Adventitial bursa – not present in everyone

Isn't usually visible on imaging unless enlarged

Axial MRI at ischial level

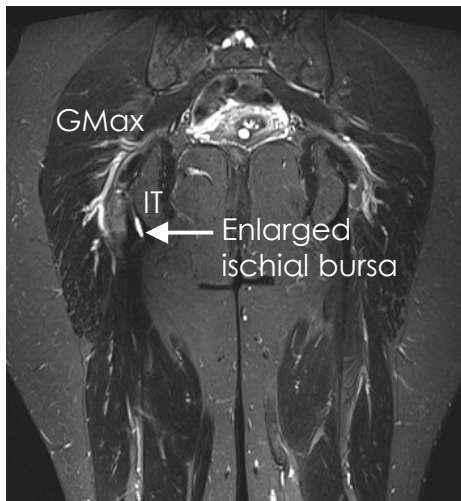


GMax: Gluteus maximus muscle; IT: Ischial Tuberosity; PHT: Proximal Hamstring Tendons; Orange Crescent: Ischiogluteal bursa

Ripani et al 2006, van Miegheem et al 2004

## Ischiogluteal bursitis

Coronal MRI



May become a source of nociception due to:

Systemic inflammatory disease

Infection

Neoplasm

(Ask GH questions, listen for reports of fever, look for swelling, feel for heat)

Mechanical factors

- Acute trauma - Fall onto ischium

- Sitting on firm surfaces -Weaver's bottom

+ vibration/motion – machinery/sport

Cho et al 2004, Dierckman & Guanche 2012, Kim et al 2002

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## Ischiogluteal bursitis

Coronal MRI



Other related factors

- some have low body mass with poor padding over ischium

- those with paraplegia at risk, esp endurance athletes

Coexisting pathologies

- proximal hamstring tendinopathy

- neuralgia – sciatic or posterior femoral cutaneous nerves

Cho et al 2004, Márquez-Arabia 2018

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Key Interview Features

### \*Pain over Ischium

- +/- post thigh pain
- +/- SN/PFCN symptoms (if assoc nerve entrapment)

### Pain with:

- Sitting \*hard surfaces
- Lying supine
- Hip flexion, forward lean activities (actions that increase tension in overlying gluteus maximus)
- Pain often worst at rest or at night rather than during activity



Cho et al 2004, Márquez-Arabia 2018, Mills & Bathge 1993

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## Key Physical Features

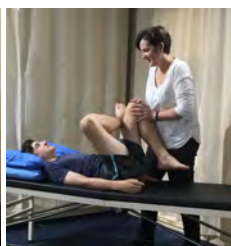
### \*Reproduction of patient's ischial pain on

- Glute max stretch or contraction or both
- Compression of bursa – FABER, palpation

**Note any visible swelling or palpable warmth**



Hip Flexion



HCLK Test  
(Heel Contra-Lateral Knee)

+ resisted hip extension



FABER  
(GT-Ischial Impingement)



Tenderness on palpation of ischium

Hitora et al 2009, Márquez-Arabia 2018, Mills & Bathge 1993

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## Ischiogluteal bursitis – Differential Diagnosis

If there is visible swelling &/or palpable warmth

- Has there been an acute trauma? – haemorrhage? (avulsion?)
- Co-existing fever, feeling unwell – consider infection
- No apparent mechanical driver – consider systemic illness, neoplasm



Recommend referral for medical review

Bursitis related to repetitive mechanical factors

- Less likely to be visible swelling or palpable warmth
- May co-exist with adjacent pathologies/sources of nociception



Imaging required for firm diagnosis – MRI or US  
but only if findings are likely to alter Mx

Ax for alternate/coexisting sources – PHT, DGS, Lx, SIJ, hip joints

Ax: Assessment; PHT: Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy; DGS: Deep Gluteal Syndrome; Lx: Lumbar Spine; SIJ: Sacroiliac Joints

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## Management of Ischiogluteal bursitis

### Acute Trauma

- Relative rest, ice, compression shorts as tolerated
- Minimise adhesions – gluteal contractions, hip motions, nerve gliding

### Repetitive Loading

- Cushion for sitting, address seating in seated athletes
- Address volume of provocative position/activity – Sit-stand desk; training schedule, types of activities
- Address any associated impairments

### Medical Management for bursitis related to mechanical loading

- Pharmacological: NSAIDs, Injection – LA/CSI
- Surgical debridement- early rehab important to avoid problematic adhesions

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## Key Interview Features

### How does it present?

#### **Pain over Ischium**

+/- post thigh pain or tightness  
+/- SN symptoms  
(assoc ischial tunnel entrapment)

#### **Pain with:**

#### **Sitting \*hard surfaces**

Stairs  
Walking/running uphill  
Running higher speeds  
Forward lean activities



#### **Impact:**

Functional limitations associated with sitting can be substantial – work & social

Reduced activity levels

Reduced sporting performance

#### **Most common in:**

Runners, Dancers, Yoga, Hockey

Also older males & post menopausal women

Fredericson 2005, Lempainen et al 2009, 2015, Nicholson et al 2016

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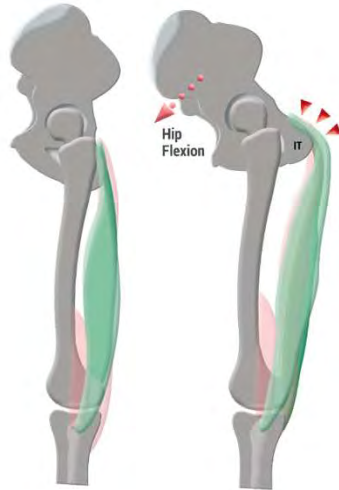
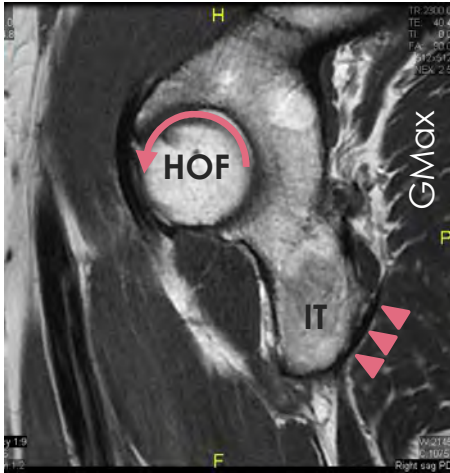
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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Potential mechanisms for aetiology & pain provocation for proximal hamstring tendinopathy



## Hip Flexion

Tendon wraps around Ischium like a pulley

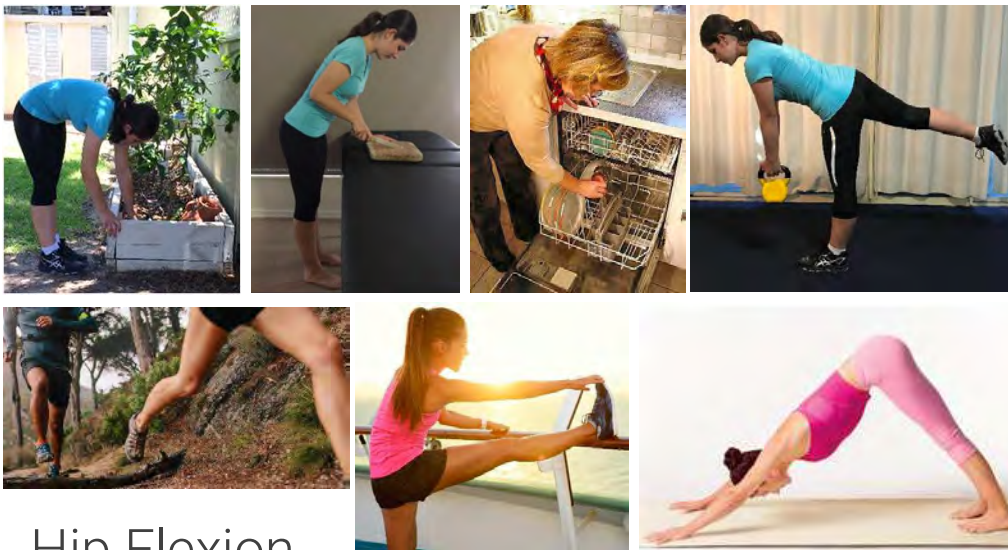
High compressive & tensile loads, particularly with muscle active in outer range

Cook & Purdam 2012, Soslowky et al 2002

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## Common sources of compression



Hip Flexion

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## Proximal Hamstring Tendon Origins



BFLH: Biceps Femoris Long Head; ST: Semitendinosus;  
SM: Semimembranosus; CJ: Conjoint Tendon -  
Combined insertion of BFLH & ST

Benazzo et al 2013, Bowman et al 2013, Lempainen et al 2015

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### Key Physical Features

## Clinical Test Battery

Palpation (Tenderness prox hams insertion) +

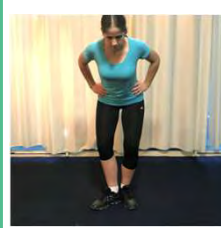
Puranen Orava Test



Heel Drag



Shoe Off test



M/Bent Knee Stretch



+ve Test = reproduction of pain at ischial tuberosity  
+/- into prox hams

Bowman et al 2013, Cachio et al 2013, Reiman et al 2013

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## Pain on Loading – Load Tolerance Tests



Graduated load tolerance tests can be useful clinically to monitor progression

## Recognising proximal hamstring tendon avulsion

### PHT Avulsion: Typical clinical findings

- Trauma mechanism: Forced hip F + Kn Ext
- Tearing or popping sensation
- Severe pain, sitting is painful
- Severe loss of function, walking is difficult
- Extensive posterior thigh bruising
- Pain on palpation – IT & area of bruising
- Palpable loss of bone-tendon continuity during resisted knee flexion

### PHT Avulsion: Atypical clinical findings

- Trauma mechanism: Hip abd, not flexion
- Bruising subtle or absent
- Loss of function (knee F) not complete
- ROM full/more than contralateral leg

### Acute hamstring strain injury

- Trauma mechanism often involves high-speed sprinting
- Mild loss of function
- Bruising is limited if present
- Pain on palpation of muscle belly
- Range of motion is reduced



## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### Non-Medical Management



### Medical Management

Analgesics/NSAIDs

Injection therapy

- LA/CSI

- PRP

Surgery

- debridement

- release of SM tendon

- repair for avulsion

early rehab important to avoid problematic adhesions

Goom et al 2016, Benazzo et al 2013, Lempainen et al 2009

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## Load Management for Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy

### Minimise exposure to:

#### Compression

- Positions of hip flexion esp with knee ext
- Consider sustained postures & stretches

#### Compression & active tension

- Walking/running hills & stairs, or at speed
- Forward lean tasks

#### High energy storage & release

- Running, bounding
- Plyometric activity

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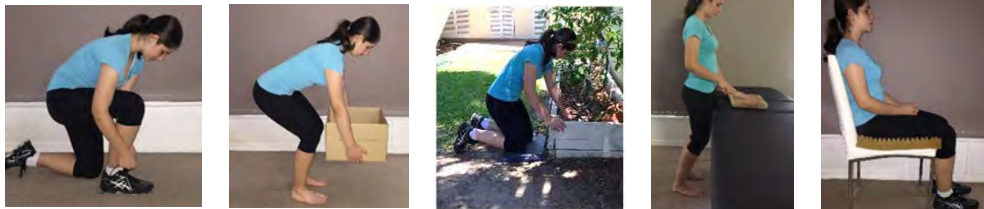
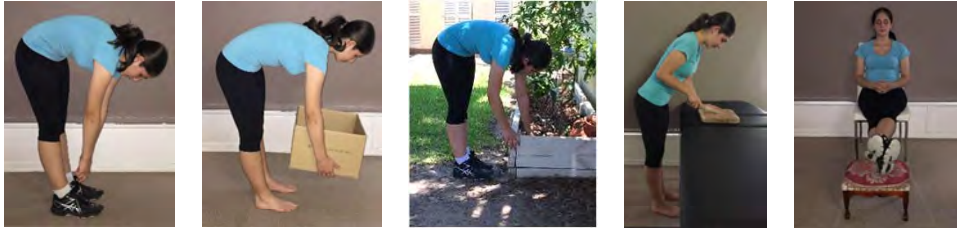
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## PROXIMAL HAMSTRING TENDINOPATHY Load Management in Activities of Daily Living



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## PROXIMAL HAMSTRING TENDINOPATHY

Load Management in Sport, Recreation



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## Exercise therapy for Proximal Hams Tendinopathy

Isometric Hamstrings  
(if useful for pain relief)



Bridging  
Progressions



Hamstring  
Curls



Kinetic Chain  
Strengthening



Gait training \*runners

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## Late stage rehab

Does late stage rehab need to progress the patient back to actions that involve highly compressive loads to ensure the patient is able to tolerate these loads?



What longer term loading program will maintain optimal tendon homeostasis?

Are positions of high compressive load an integral part of this individuals daily or sporting function?

Are there options to alter this?

If not, are high compressive load exercises necessary in the gym/rehab environment to 'adapt' the tendon back to these loads or should we be looking to balance the relative stimuli?

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Balancing Mechanobiological Stimuli

**Stiff Leg Deadlift**  
**Hip Extension Machine**  
**with Straight Legs**

Running/walking uphill/upstairs

Kicking  
Forward lean to play hockey,  
or hit a ball off the ground,  
perform a ballet or  
gymnastics manoeuvre

Emptying the dishwasher

Putting shoes on

Bending/lifting

Gardening/Cleaning

Forward lean at work

Heavy, slow tensile

loads with low

compression eg

prone hamstring curls

**Compression**

**Tension**

Homeostasis

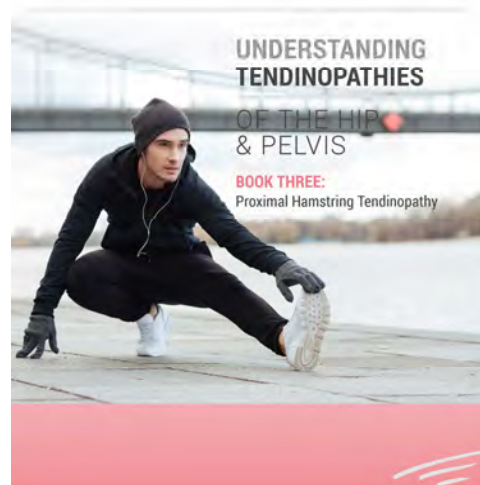
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For more reading on this topic, you might also like the online ebook on this topic

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[www.dralisongrimaldi.com](http://www.dralisongrimaldi.com)

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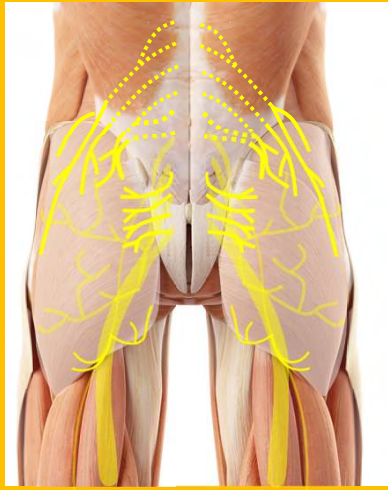
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

*Dr. Alison Grimaldi*

PHYSIOTHERAPIST, RESEARCHER & EDUCATOR

Referred & Nerve Related Pain



## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN Referred & Nerve Related Pain

Module 3 – Lesson 1

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Referred & Nerve Related Pain



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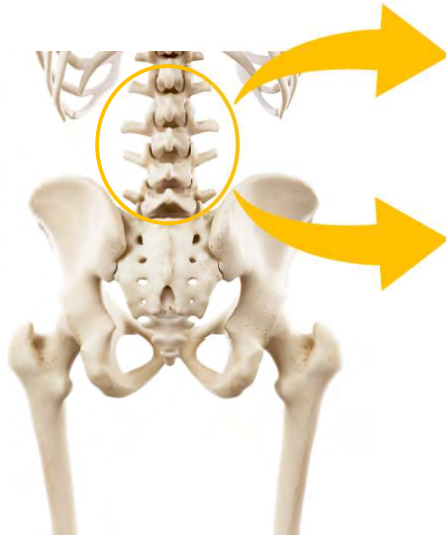
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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Lumbar spine related hip pain



**Radicular Pain**

**Somatic Referred Pain**

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## Radicular Pain

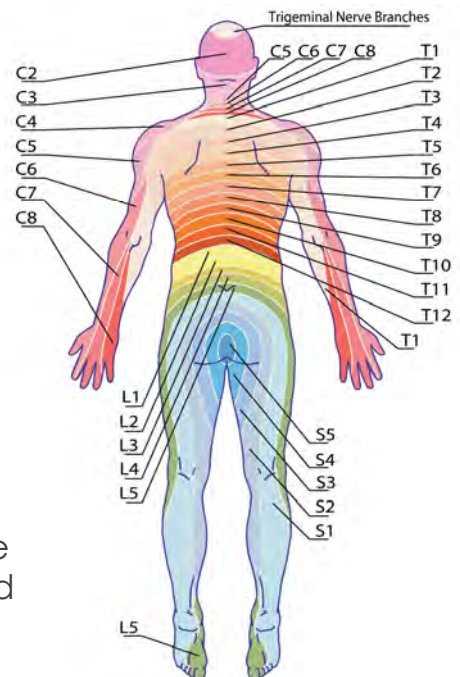
Arising from NR impingement/irritation  
L3 – S2 main levels referring to region

### Clinical Indicators

sharp, stabbing or shooting pains  
+/- additional deep, dull ache  
+/- tingling, itching, burning or numbness  
+/- change in reflexes, motor function,  
bladder/bowel symptoms

### Be Aware:

Up to 2/3 with entrapment neuropathy have symptoms that do not correlate with defined territorial distributions



Murphy et al 2009, Schmid et al 2018

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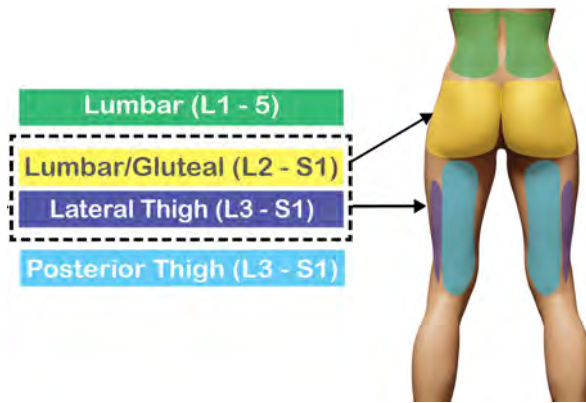
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Somatic Referred Pain

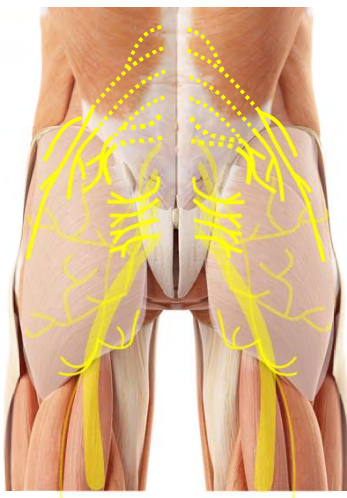


- commonly reported as a dull, aching or gnawing pain
- area of pain often wide and difficult to localise
- not related to nerve root impingement, but other structures such as facet joints & IV discs
- if somatic only, not associated with nerve-related symptoms such as tingling or numbness

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## Local nerve related pain

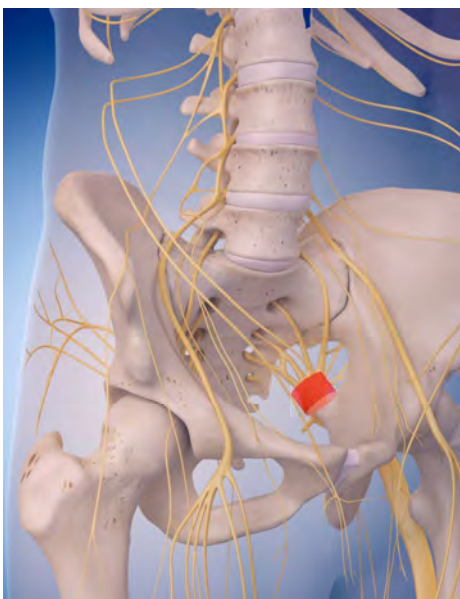


Irritation or entrapment of local peripheral nerves that transit and serve the lateral hip or buttock region

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## Local effects of peripheral nerve entrapment



Nerve compression as low as 20-30mmHg may create ischaemia

Prolonged or repetitive compression may lead to local demyelination

Abnormal Impulse Generating Sites (AIGS)

Debris & activation of immune cells

Local inflammatory response & oedema

Neural fibrosis (intra & extra neural) & impaired biomechanics



## Ischaemia & Night Pain

**Ischaemia explains night pain & position dependent symptoms where fluid flow is compromised**

**Pain is often worse at night but will be relieved by gentle movement**

**Due to physiological drop in nocturnal BP & related drop in pressure gradient that pushes axonal fluid flow**

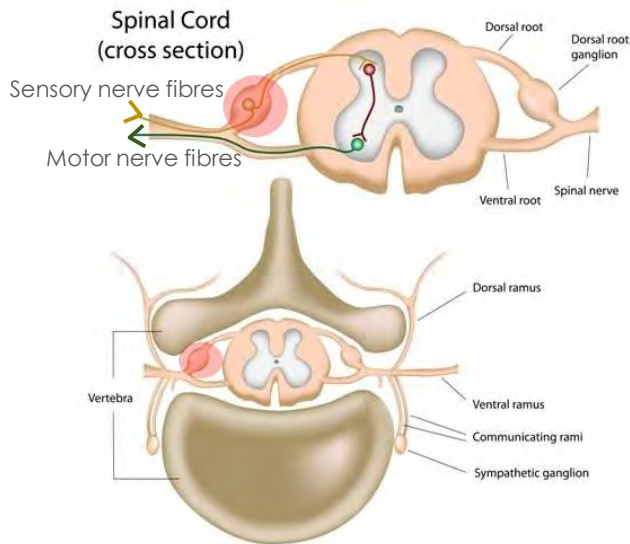
**If fluid flow is then compromised, there will be subsequent changes in metabolic activity and ectopic firing**

**This may explain night cramps that are experienced by those with nerve entrapments**

**Movement will usually reduce these symptoms as fluid flow is improved**



## Remote effects of peripheral nerve entrapment



Dorsal root ganglion (DRG) contains cell bodies of afferent nerve fibres  
Nerve fibres from multiple spinal levels pass through each dorsal root ganglion

Evidence has shown immune-mediated inflammation at DRG, 2° to peripheral nerve entrapment

More severe nerve injuries can also create a neuroinflammatory response in the spinal cord (esp dorsal horn) & higher pain centres

Effects may spread to the contralateral dorsal horn & DRG

Schmid et al 2013, 2018

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## Remote effects of peripheral nerve entrapment

Explain extraterritorial spread of symptoms

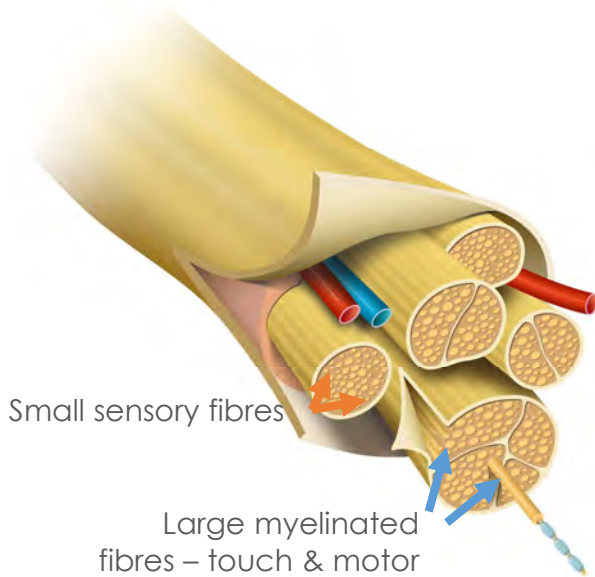
Explain mirror pain



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## Assessing nerve health



Initial/primary effect on thin sensory & nociceptive fibres – make up 80% of the nerve

Large fibres – undergo demyelination but axons remain intact with most entrapment neuropathy

Initial symptoms – pain and sensory disturbance. Motor disturbance only with more severe nerve injury

## Assessing nerve health

### Large Fibre Nerve Tests

Light touch

Vibrometry

Texture discrimination

Two point discrimination

Reflexes

Muscle testing

Electrodiagnostic testing

-ve light touch, motor or nerve condition tests  
**DO NOT** rule out entrapment neuropathy

## Assessing nerve health

Large Fibre Nerve Tests	Small Fibre Nerve Tests
Light touch	Pin-prick sensitivity
Vibrometry	Warm/Cold testing
Texture discrimination	Quantitative Sensory testing
Two point discrimination	Sympathetic Reflex Testing
Reflexes	Laser or heat evoked potentials
Muscle testing	Skin biopsy
Electrodiagnostic testing	

Schmid 2016, Schmid et al 2018

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## Neurodynamic Testing

Negative neurodynamic tests do NOT exclude the presence of nerve dysfunction

→ patients with more severe nerve damage are less likely to test +ve on NDT

Exaggerated responses to NDT may be due to generalised sensitisation, rather than sensitisation of peripheral nerves

NDT are not diagnostic for neuropathy but detect heightened neural mechanosensitivity



Baselgia et al 2016, Boyd et al 2010, Schmid et al 2018

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## Improving nerve health and reducing pain

Centrally directed treatment is required, particularly for those demonstrating signs of generalised sensitisation

- Explain Pain, Reduce Fear, Reduce general stress/anxiety, Increase Self efficacy, Sleep Health, General Health, Exercise, Socialisation

### **\*Importance of addressing local triggers – optimise health of local nerve & its interface with other tissues**

- Exercise or REST from exercise of adjacent muscles, optimise muscle health, resting tone, length, ND Rx
- Load management & exercise key principles

## Effects of neurodynamic treatments

### **Biomechanical effects??**

No evidence of increases in nerve excursion

**However ND treatment has been shown to:**

Produce short lasting hypoalgesia

Aid dispersal of intraneural oedema

Stimulate anti-inflammatory effects within DRG & higher pain centres



Activate endogenous opioid analgesic pathways

Facilitate peripheral nerve regeneration



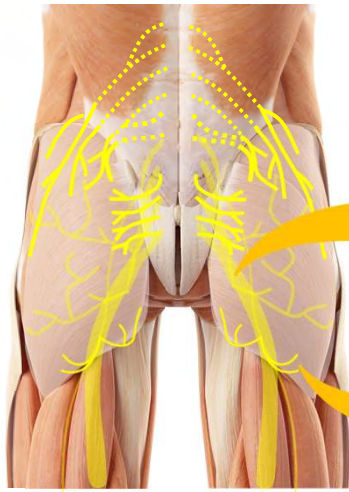
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

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## Local nerve related pain



Irritation or entrapment of peripheral nerves that transit or serve the lateral hip or buttock region

**Deep Gluteal Syndrome**

**Non-sciatic Neuralgia**

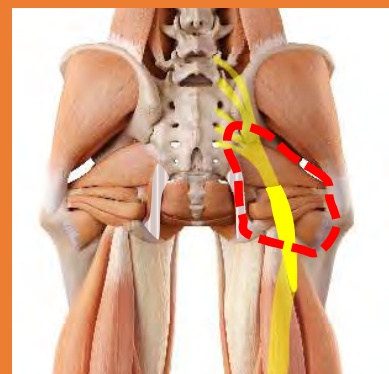
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## **LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN** **Nerve Related Pain** **Deep Gluteal Syndrome- Part 1**

**Module 3 – Lesson 2**

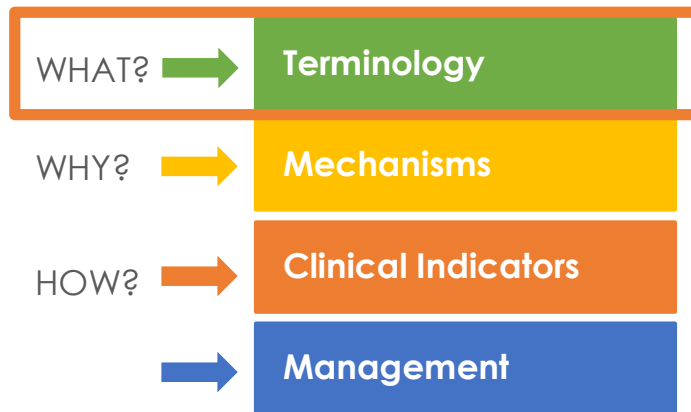
**Nerve Related Pain**  
**Deep Gluteal Syndrome**



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## Buttock Pain & Sciatic Neuralgia



## Terminology

### **Sciatic Nerve Entrapment/Impingement**

- Extraspinal, Non-discogenic, Extrapelvic

### **Deep Gluteal Syndrome:**

Buttock Pain & Dysaesthesia associated with sciatic nerve compression within the deep gluteal space

Encompasses

- 'Piriformis Syndrome', one source of potential compression within the deep gluteal space
- Gemelli-Obturator Internus Syndrome
- Ischial Tunnel Syndrome

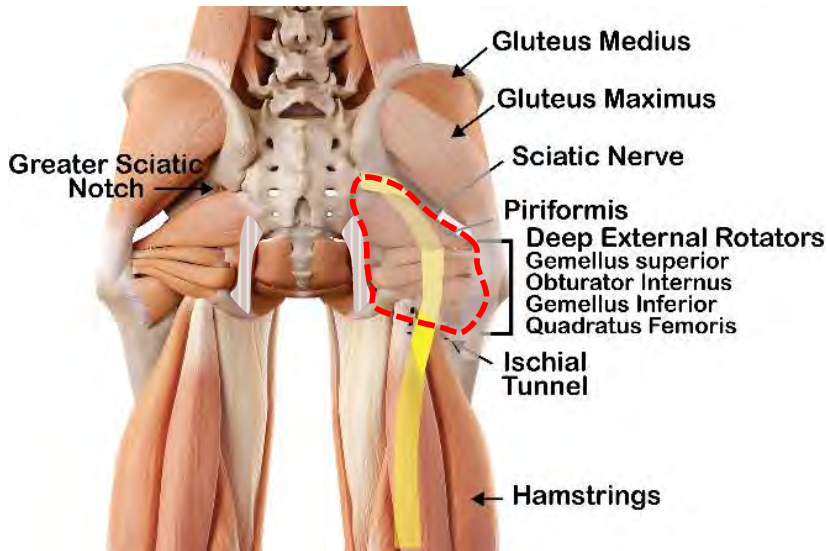
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

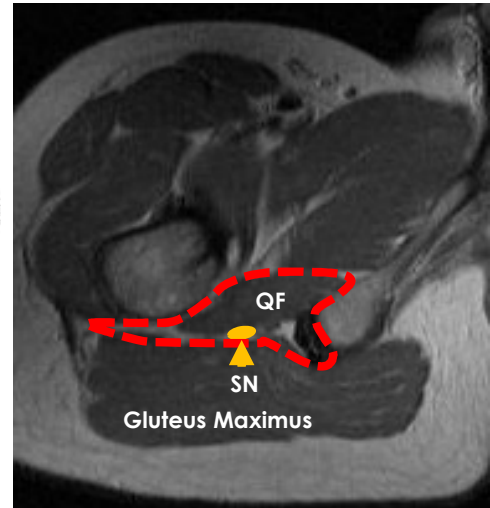
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## The Deep Gluteal Space



Axial MRI: Level of ITuberosity



Martin et al 2015

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Potential sites & structures

### Zone 1: Greater sciatic foramen/piriformis

Piriformis muscle (Piriformis syndrome)

### Zone 2: Posterior Hip

Gemelli – Obturator Internus Complex

### Zone 3: Ischial Tunnel

Hamstring Tendons of origin

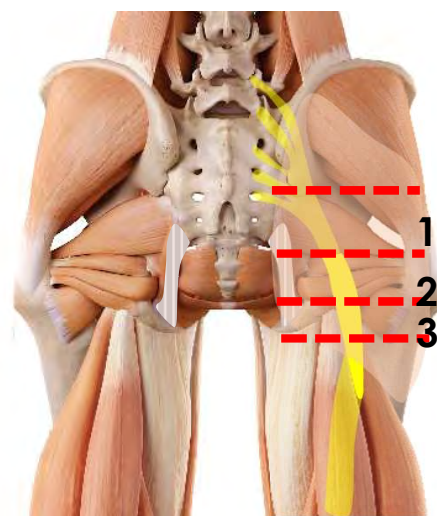
Ischial tuberosity & Femur

### Global:

Fibrous bands, Vascular Abnormalities

Space occupying lesions

– tumours, cysts – paralabral



Martin et al 2015, Hemando et al 2015

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 1: Greater sciatic foramen/piriformis

Piriformis muscle – anatomic variation, hypertrophy, dynamic impingement

### Zone 2: Posterior Hip

Relationship with Gemelli – OI Complex

### Zone 3: Ischial Tunnel

Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy, Avulsion

Ischiofemoral Impingement, QF pathology

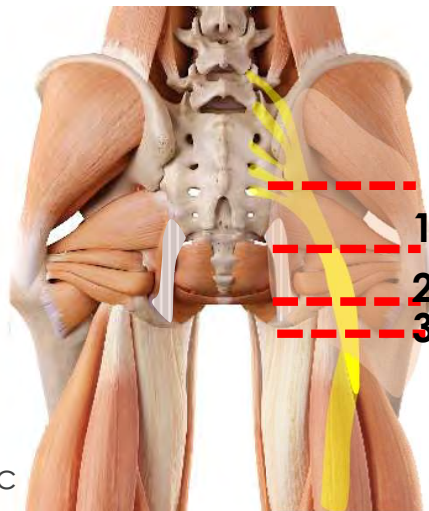
Greater Trochanter – Ischial Impingement

### Global:

Anatomic variation

Fibrous bands associated with trauma or inflammatory or infective process, iatrogenic

Carcinoma, lipoma, cysts – paralabral



Hernando et al 2015, Martin et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

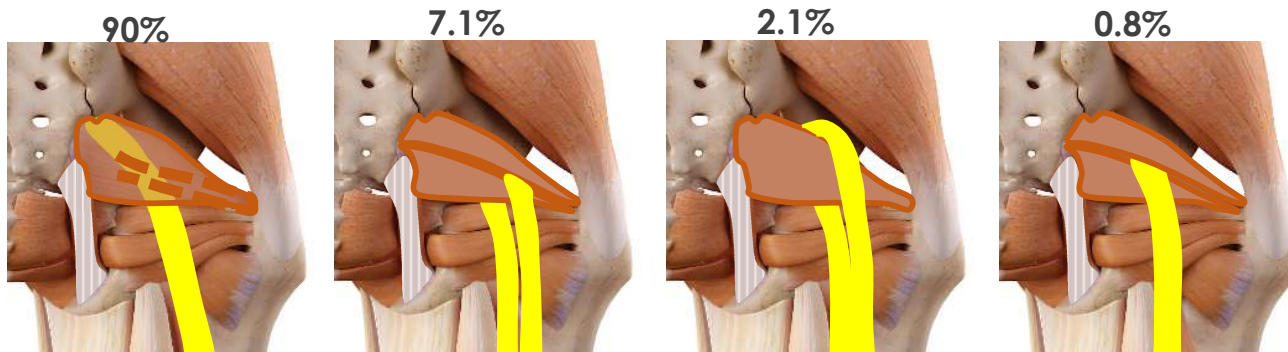
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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 1: Greater sciatic foramen/piriformis

Piriformis muscle – varying piri-SN anatomic relationship, varying anatomy of piri muscle or tendon



Beaton & Hanson 1937, Hernando et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019, Smoll 2010

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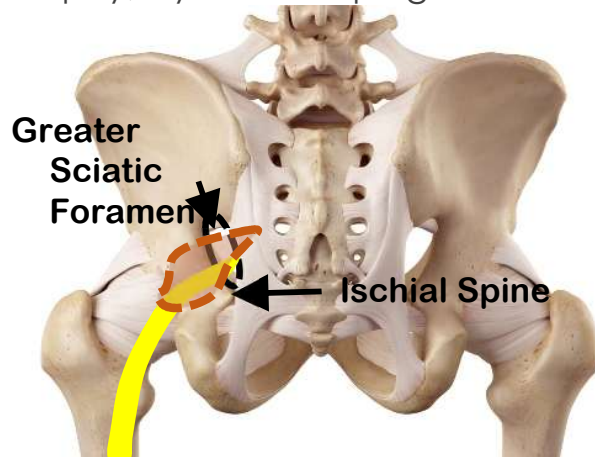
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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 1: Greater sciatic foramen/piriformis

Piriformis muscle – hypertrophy, dynamic impingement



Martin et al 2015, Hernando et al 2015

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Fibrous, fibrovascular & vascular bands

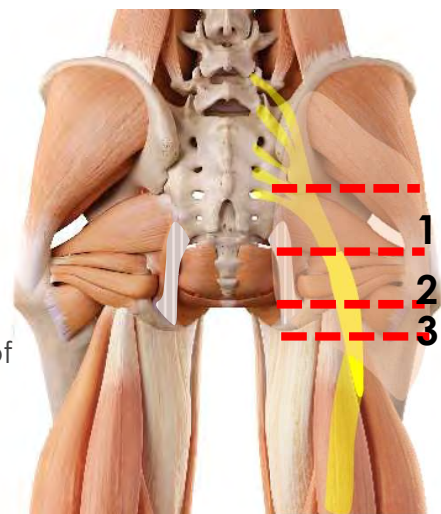
We all have fibrous bands in our DGS

Possible role in maintaining SN pathway

Strong constrictive bands can be problematic

- prevent normal nerve mobility
- may result in ischaemia & other changes common to peripheral nerve entrapment

Fibrous bands – like fibrous bands of scar tissues of various shapes and sizes and in various locations



Hernando et al 2015, Martin et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Fibrous, fibrovascular & vascular bands

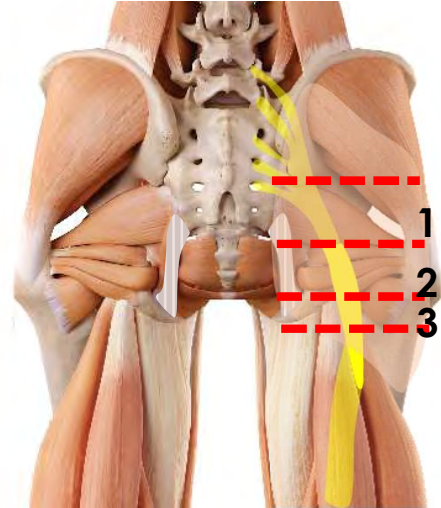
May develop secondary to:

- Trauma
- Inflammation or Infection
- Iatrogenic causes e.g. surgery, injection
- Vascular anomalies

Location described as:

- Proximal: Zone 1
- Middle: Zone 2
- Distal: Zone 3

Medial or Lateral to the sciatic nerve



Hernando et al 2015, Martin et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Fibrous, fibrovascular & vascular bands

Type 1: Compressive or bridge type bands

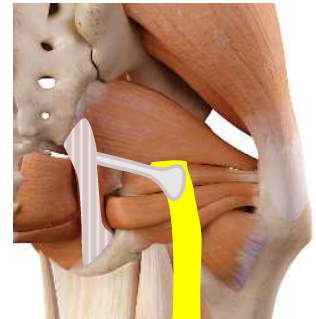
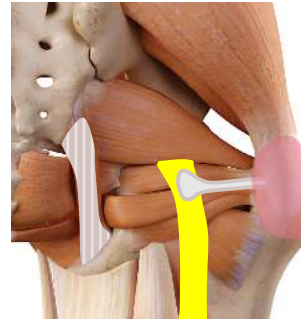
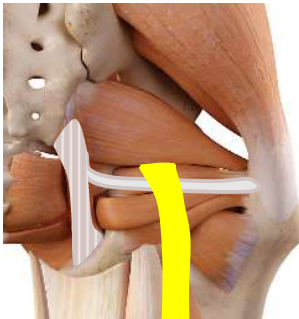
Type 2: Adhesive or horsetrap bands

Type 1A - Ant

Type 1B - Post

Type 2A - Lat

Type 2B - Med



Type 3 – Anchored to SN with undefined distribution

Hernando et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

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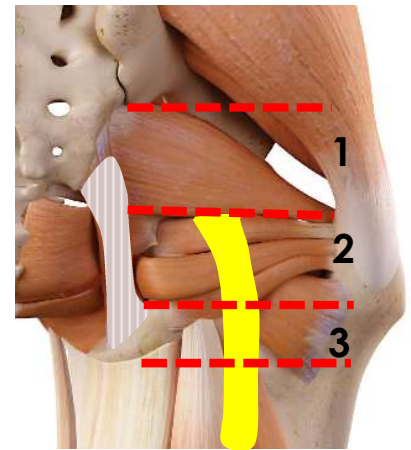
## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 2: Posterior Hip

Gemelli – Obturator Internus Complex

G-OI Related Sciatica has been related to:

- anatomical variation - SN running through OI
- hypertrophy, overuse, increased resting tone (Consider pelvic floor health & internal Ax)
- Scissor effect between piri & OI-G
- Fibrous connection OI-G & SN



Balius et al 2018, Meknas et al 2009, Hernando et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

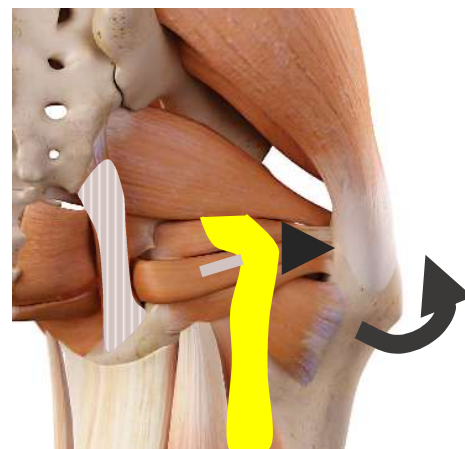
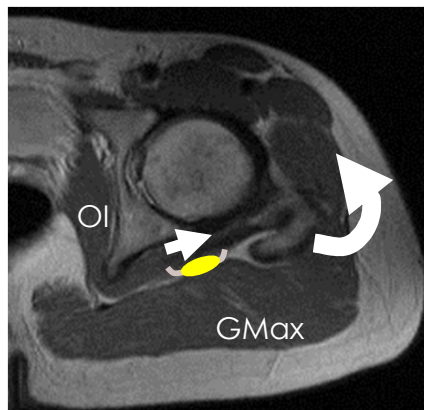
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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 2: Posterior Hip

Gemelli – Obturator Internus Complex



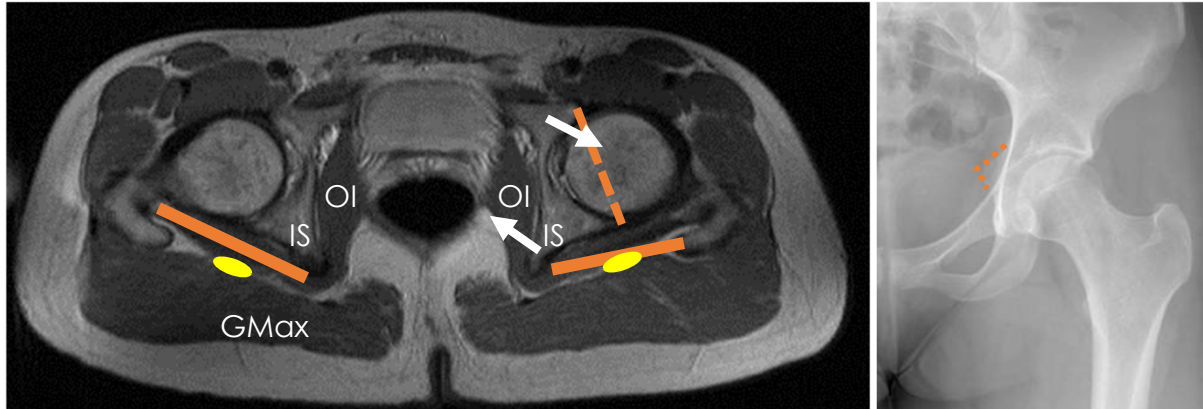
Balius et al 2018

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 2: Posterior Hip – G-OI Complex: Acetabular Morphology



Acetabular retroversion may in some individuals contribute to DGS

GMax: Gluteus maximus; OI: Obturator Internus; IS: Ischial Spine

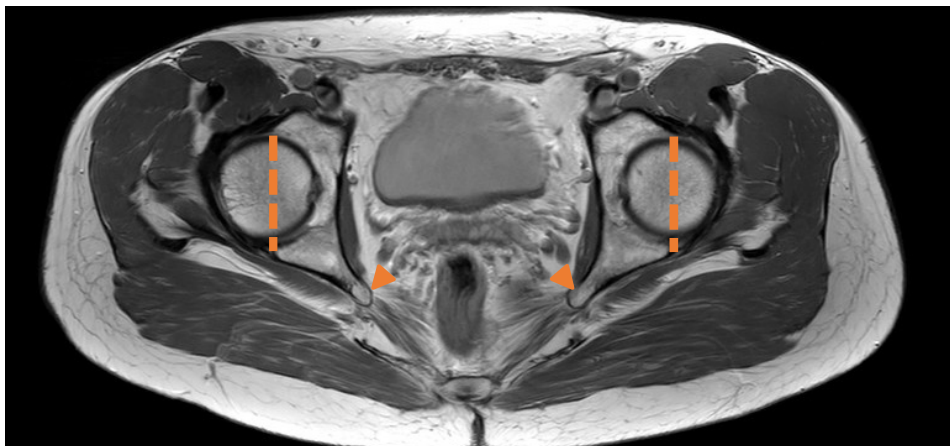
Filler 2008, Kalbera et al 2008

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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

### Zone 2: Posterior Hip – G-OI Complex: Acetabular Morphology



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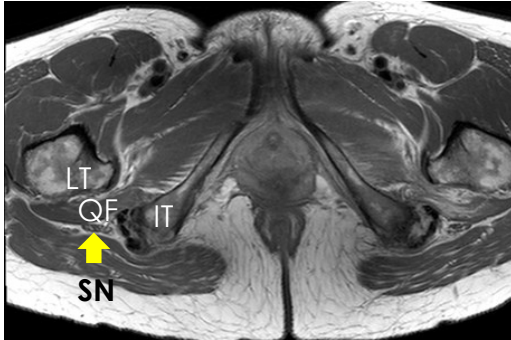
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## Deep Gluteal Syndrome: Mechanisms

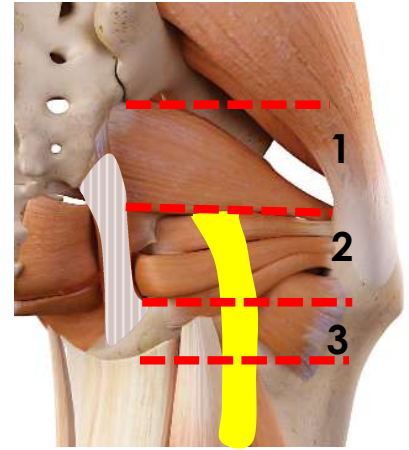
### Zone 3: Ischial Tunnel

Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy, Avulsion  
 Ischiofemoral Impingement, QF pathology  
 Greater Trochanter – Ischial Impingement



IFI: In  
 Hip Ext,  
 Adduction, ER

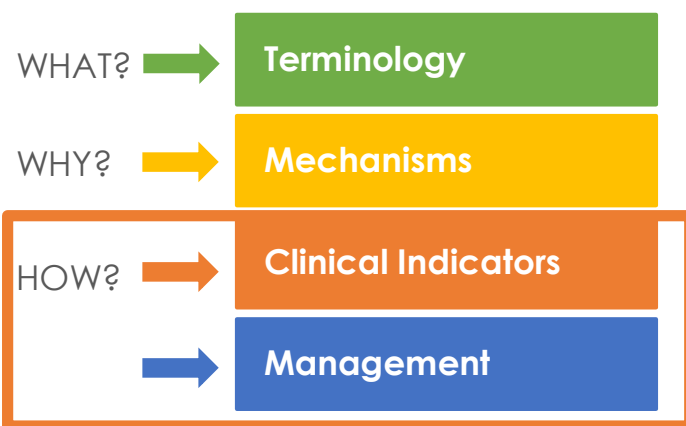
GT-II: In  
 Hip Flexion,  
 Abduction, ER  
 (FABER)



Hernando et al 2015, Kivlan et al 2016, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

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## Buttock Pain & Sciatic Neuralgia

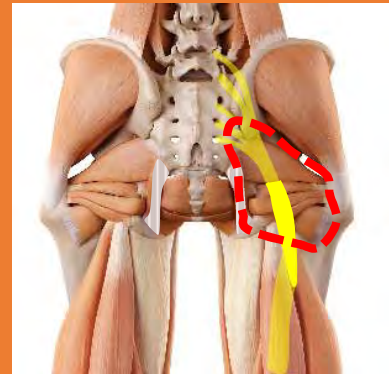


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## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN Nerve Related Pain Deep Gluteal Syndrome - Part 2

Module 3 – Lesson 3

Nerve Related Pain  
Deep Gluteal Syndrome



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## Buttock Pain & Sciatic Neuralgia

WHAT?



Terminology

WHY?



Mechanisms

HOW?



Clinical Indicators



Management



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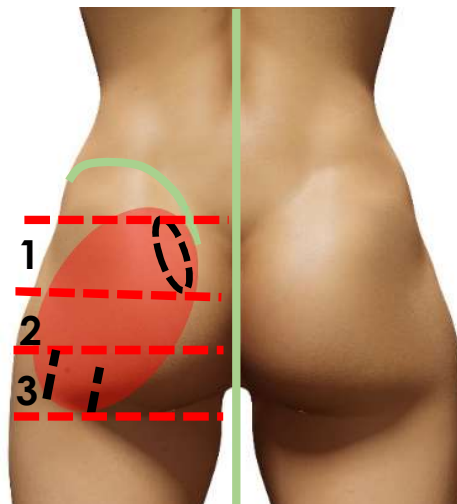
## Clinical Indicators of Deep Gluteal Syndrome

### Interview Features:

Buttock pain in deep gluteal space  
 +/- other lower limb pain – sciatica  
 +/- lower back pain  
 +/- paraesthesia

Pain on sitting  
 Pain in slump type postures or activities where SN is on stretch or moving between structures in buttock

Note any Hx trauma/surgery  
 \*Note Hx of gynae surgery or issues – rule out intra-pelvic SN entrapment



Hernando et al 2015, Martin et al 2015, Martin & Gómez-Hoyos 2019

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## Buttock Pain & Sciatic Neuralgia

WHAT?



Terminology

WHY?



Mechanisms

HOW?



Clinical Indicators



Management



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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Clinical Indicators of Deep Gluteal Syndrome

### Physical Features:

Contraction

Stretch of adjacent muscles – Piriformis & G-OI Complex



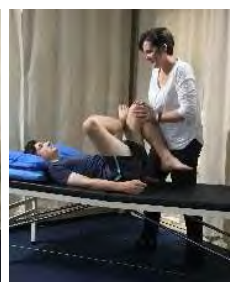
Active Piri Test  
(Beatty Test)



Seated Piri  
Stretch Test



FAIR Test



HCLK Test  
(Heel Contra-  
Lateral Knee)



Prone IR  
(Freiberg test)

SN:91%; SP:80%; +LR:4.57;-LR:0.11:DOR:42

**Can also add contraction to passive stretch**

Hopayian & Danielyan 2018, Martin et al 2015, Michel et al 2013

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## Clinical Indicators of Deep Gluteal Syndrome

### Physical Features:

Test for PHTears +/- Ischial Tunnel SN Entrapment

Tests for IFI & GT-II



Active Hamstring Test-  
@30°



vs Resisted knee F  
@90° F



Gómez-Hoyos et al 2016, Martin et al 2018

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## Other Investigations

### Imaging

MRI & MR Neurography

Ultrasound – Piriformis size & stiffness, dynamic Ax

### Electrodiagnosis

EMG: Delay in H-Reflex in FAIR/stretch position

Nerve Conduction Studies

### Injections

Guided injection LA/CSI into region of suspected entrapment

Fishman et al 2002, Fishman & Hosseini 2019, Koca et al 2018, Martin et al 2018, Zhang et al 2019

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## Management of Deep Gluteal Syndrome

### Medical Mx:

- Pharmacology – Oral & Injection - CSI/LA, Botox Piriformis
  - Botox Outcomes:  
'Very good/Good':77%; 'Average':7.4%; 'Poor':15.6%
- Surgery – decompression, piriformis release, OI release
  - Decision to operate in 50% cases made based on clinical findings & diagnostic investigations alone, other 50% require failure of non-operative Rx
  - Overall outcome studies are poor quality, high risk of bias or low subject numbers.
  - All report good outcomes with low complication rates
  - However others warn of skill required & risk of iatrogenic injury

Kay et al 2017, Martin et al 2015, Michel et al 2013, Meknas et al 2013, Nakano et al 2017

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## Management of Deep Gluteal Syndrome

### Non-Medical Mx:

- Load management/Education – Physical & Psychological
- Exercise therapy
  - Optimise health and compliance of tissues adjacent to the sciatic nerve - piriformis, deep ext rotators, hams
  - Neurodynamic exercises – sliders
  - Address other associated impairments
- Manual therapy as adjunct - avoid aggressive pressure in greater sciatic foramen, along line sciatic nerve

Schröder et al 2016

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## Load Management for Sciatic Nerve Impingement Minimise exposure to:

### Compression

- Positions of combined hip flexion & adduction +/- internal rotation especially with knee extension
- Consider sustained postures & stretches

### Compression & friction

- Activities with hips flexed (especially with knees close to extension) & with buttock musculature active

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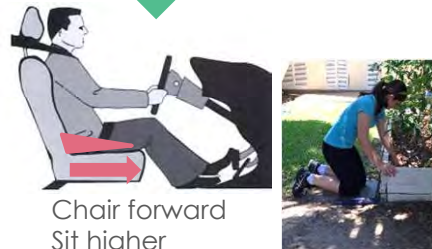
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

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## SCIATIC NERVE IMPINGEMENT Load Mx in ADL



Chair forward  
Sit higher  
Recline a little

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## SCIATIC NERVE IMPINGEMENT Load Mx in Sport, Recreation



Avoid/reduce hills  
Avoid/reduce stairs  
Avoid/minimise sustained forward leaning



Watch hip vs knee flexion  
R/T to upright frequently  
Check stick length



Reduce time spent on drops  
Avoid/minimise hills, heavy gears  
Optimise saddle height, crank length



Similar load management to proximal hamstring tendinopathy

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# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

Dr. Alison Grimaldi

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## Exercise therapy for Sciatic Nerve Impingement

Downtrain/lengthen  
buttock musculature  
as required/tolerated



\*avoid  
sustained  
stretch

Local mobilisation  
nerve – soft tissue  
interface



Global Sciatic  
Nerve Gliding  
- Flossing



'Kick your  
head off'  
... slowly  
& gently

Address individual impairments  
– closely monitor response



May require  
Women's/Men's  
Health Ax/Mx

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## Evidence for Non-operative management

### **Michel et al 2013:**

'Cure rate' of 51.2% of 250 combined medication & rehabilitation  
Physiotherapy 3x/week – massage & home ex – stretching/mobility ex's

### **Schröder et al 2016:** Case series of 6 patients

- Guided injection of local anaesthetic & steroid
- Neuropsychiatric counselling
- Home exercise program – Piri stretches (max 20s), nerve gliding, muscles strengthening, movement/proprioceptive retraining, pelvic floor therapy
- Manual therapy

All gained benefit from Rx, average time in treatment 20 weeks (6-36)

- VAS 7.16 – 1.6, mHHS 60.01 - 74

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## Looking to the future >>>

Growing awareness & understanding of the condition & mechanisms

Some evidence for diagnostic tests

Further high quality diagnostic accuracy studies required

Evidence on both surgical & non-surgical management still largely low quality

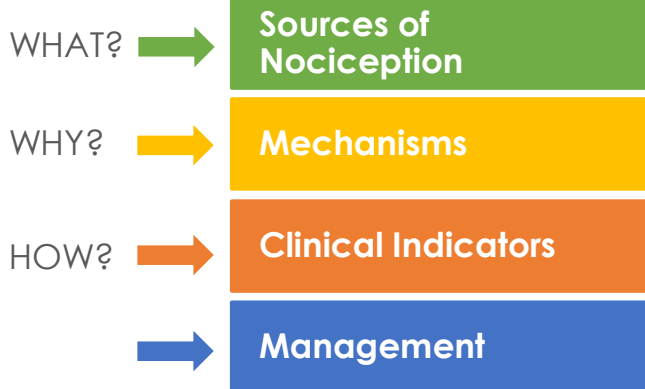
Further studies required to clarify which rehabilitative approaches are likely to produce best & most expedient outcomes

## **LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN** **Nerve Related Pain** **Non-Sciatic Neuralgia - Part 1**

### **Module 3 – Lesson 4**



## Nerve Related Pain: Non-sciatic Neuralgia



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## Non-sciatic neuralgia of the lateral hip & buttock

PART 1

### Neuralgia in the lateral hip region

- Iliohypogastric nerve
- Subcostal nerve

### Nerves serving the skin of the buttock

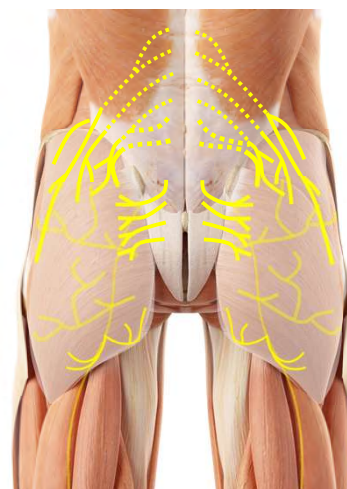
- Superior cluneal nerves
- Middle cluneal nerves

PART 2

### Posterior femoral cutaneous nerve & the Inferior cluneal nerves

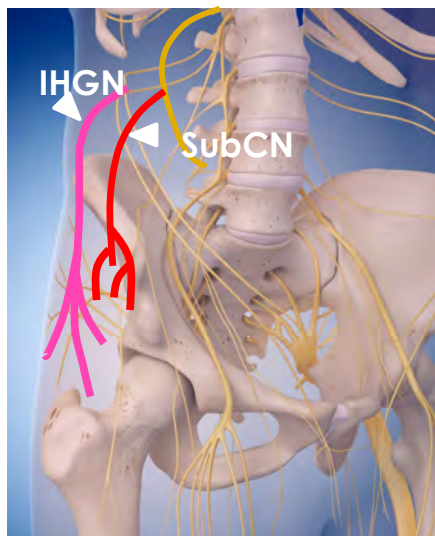
### Gluteal nerves (motor nerves)

- Superior gluteal nerve
- Inferior gluteal nerve



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## Neuralgia in the Lateral Hip Region

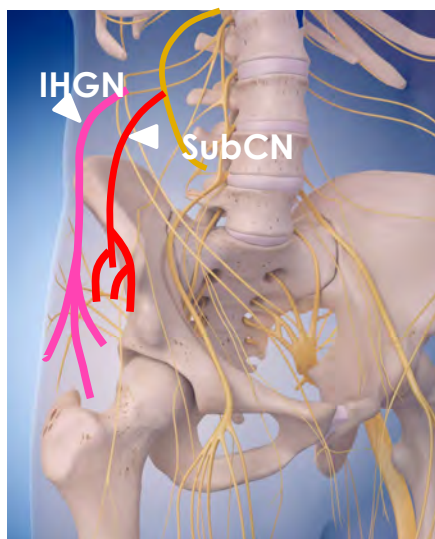


IHGN: Iliohypogastric Nerve; SubCN: Subcostal Nerve

Nielsen et al 2018, Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

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## Iliohypogastric & Subcostal Nerves



Nerves	Origin
Subcostal Nerve	Ventral ramus of T12
Iliohypogastric Nerve	Ventral ramus of L1

Lateral cutaneous branches cross the iliac crest to serve the skin of the lateral hip

Anterior branch IHGN:

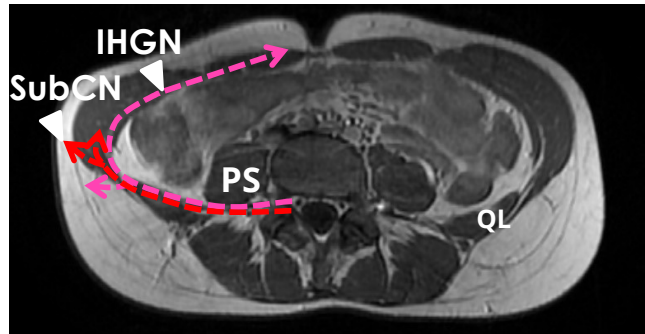
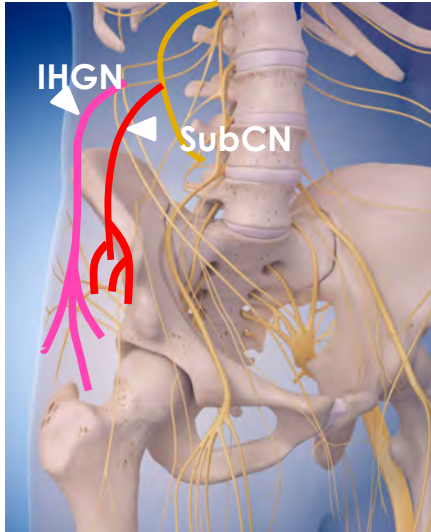
- suprapubic skin
- internal oblique & transversus abdominis

IHGN: Iliohypogastric Nerve; SubCN: Subcostal Nerve

Nielsen et al 2018, Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

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## Ilioypogastric & Subcostal Nerves



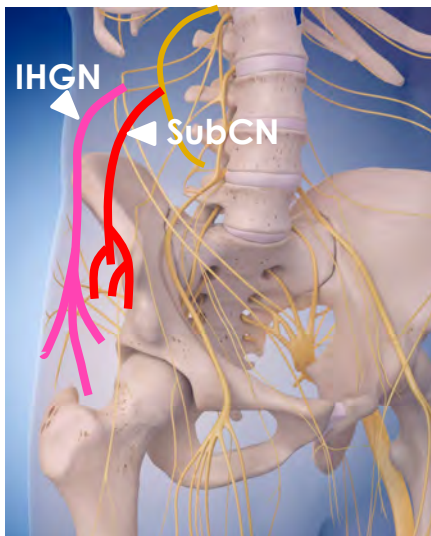
IHGN: Ilioypogastric Nerve; SubCN: Subcostal Nerve; PS: Psoas muscle; QL: Quadratus Lumborum

Nielsen et al 2018, Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

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## Ilioypogastric & Subcostal Nerves



Point at which IC crossed, posterior to ASIS:

SubCN: 2 - 7cm

IHGN: 7 - 11cm, through an osseo-fibrous tunnel

IHGN: Ilioypogastric Nerve; SubCN: Subcostal Nerve; IC: Iliac Crest; ASIS: Anterior Superior Iliac Spine

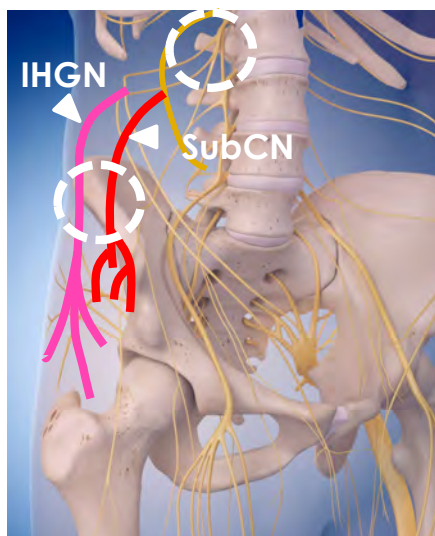
Maigne et al 1986

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## Iliohipogastric & Subcostal Neuralgia



IHGN: Iliohipogastric Nerve; SubCN: Subcostal Nerve

### Mechanisms:

- Tight clothing
- Trauma – direct impact
- Physical loading: traction/shearing/compression
  - Within abdominal wall
  - Within paraspinals
- Iatrogenic
  - bone graft, spinal sx, abdo sx
- Inflammatory neuralgia, tumours

Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

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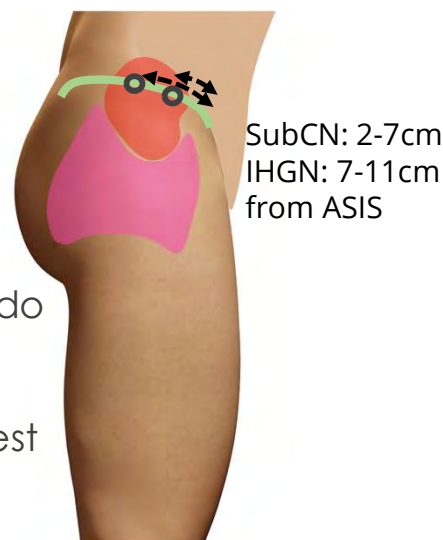
## Clinical Indicators of Neuralgia of the Lateral Hip

### Interview Features:

- Lateral hip pain
- +/- paraesthesia lateral hip
- Physical activity- abdo loading, impact
- Note any surgical Hx: bone graft/Lx/abdo

### Physical Features:

- \*Palpation: point tenderness on iliac crest
- May exhibit hyperalgesia



IHGN: Iliohipogastric Nerve; SubCN: Subcostal Nerve; ASIS: Anterior Superior Iliac Spine

Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

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## Clinical Indicators of Neuralgia of the Lateral Hip

### Physical Features:

Try stretching/loading adj soft tissues

(Pain relieved by local nerve block)



Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

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## Management of Neuralgia of the Lateral Hip

**Medical Mx:** Maigne et al 1986, McRory & Bell 1999

Pharmacological – oral, L/A block, CSI

RFN

Surgery – decompression

**Non-Medical Mx: (No evidence)**

Load Mx: Clothing & physical activity advice

Kinematics/technique – Strategies to reduce excessive pelvic tilt/trunk LF

Neurodynamic exercises – sliders

Reduce tension in adjacent soft tissues but stretching unhelpful?

Optimise health of adjacent soft tissues – abdo function, respiration

Lx manual therapy (mechanical/neurophysiological effect?)- PPIVMs

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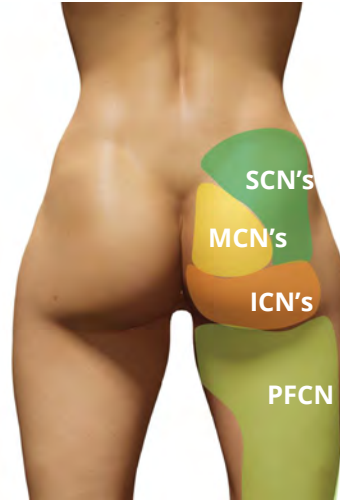
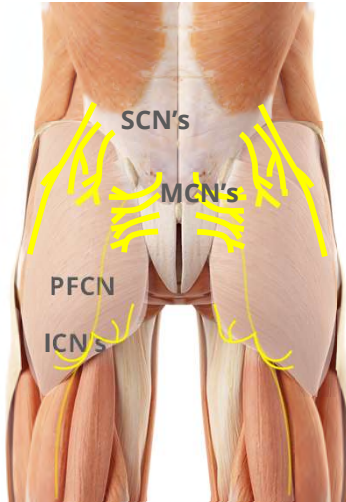
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

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## Cluneal Nerves

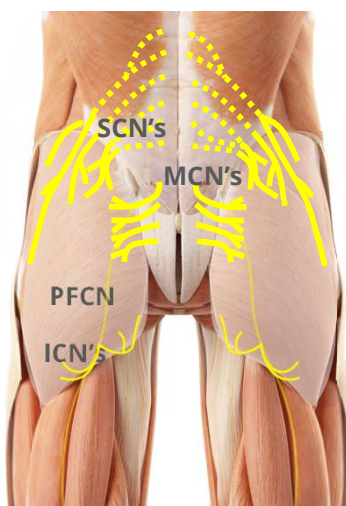


SCN's: Superior Cluneal Nerves; MCN's: Middle Cluneal Nerves;  
ICN's: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve.

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## Cluneal Nerves



Nerves	Origin
Superior Cluneal Nerves	L1- 3 May be as broad as T11-L5
Middle Cluneal Nerves	Posterior sacral foramina S1-4
Inferior Cluneal Nerves	Branch off PFCN, which arises from sacral plexus *S2

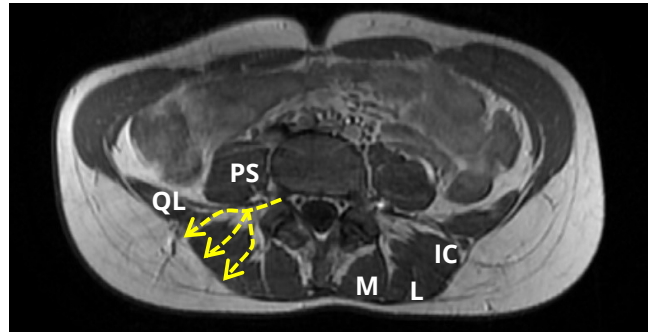
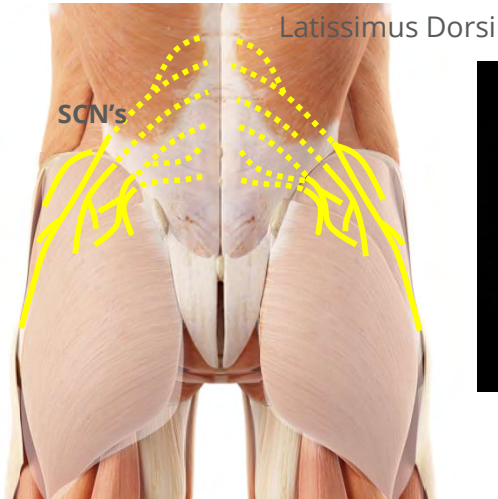
SCN's: Superior Cluneal Nerves; MCN's: Middle Cluneal Nerves;  
ICN's: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve.

Iwanaga et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Lu et al 1998, Tubbs et al 2010

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## Superior Cluneal Nerves



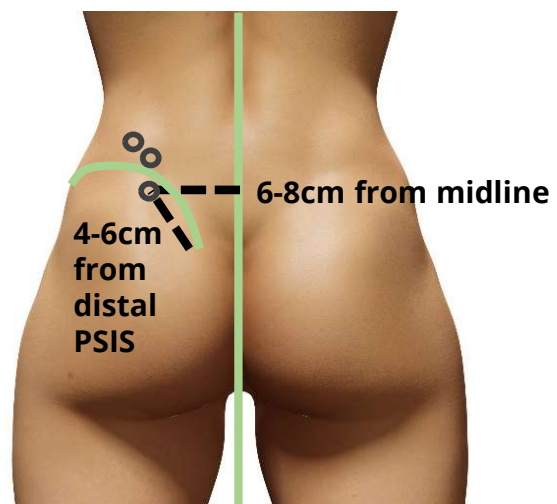
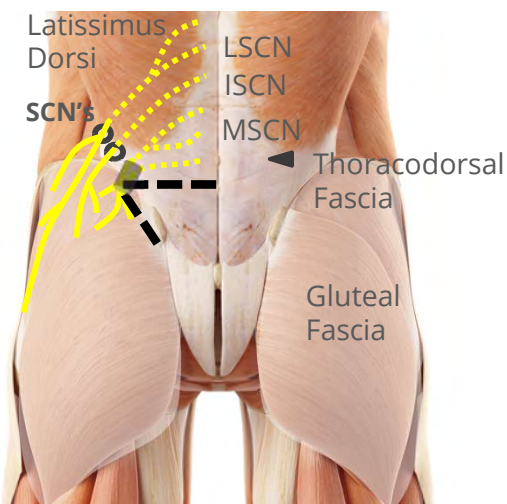
SCN's: Superior Cluneal Nerves; QL: Quadratus Lumborum muscle; PS: Psoas muscle; M: Multifidus muscle; L: Longissimus muscle; IC: Iliocostalis muscle.

Iwanaga et al 2018

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## Superior Cluneal Nerves



LSCN: Lateral Superior Cluneal Nerve; ISCN: Intermediate Superior Cluneal Nerve; MSCN: Medial Superior Cluneal Nerve; PSIS: Posterior Superior Iliac Spine

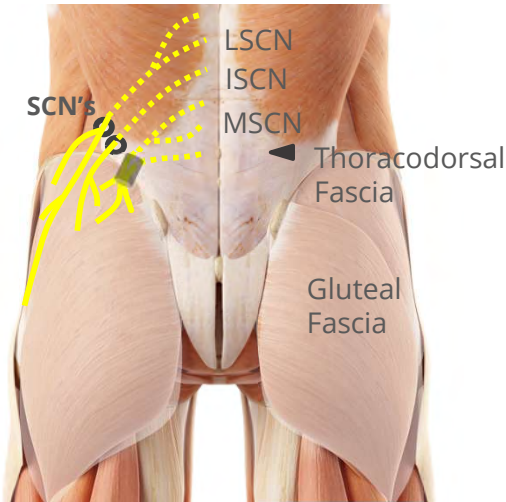
Iwanaga et al 2018, Isu et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Lu et al 1998, Tubbs et al 2010

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## Superior Cluneal Neuralgia



### Mechanisms:

- Trauma – direct impact
- Iatrogenic – bone graft, spinal surgery
- Physical loading: traction/shearing/compression
  - a. Paraspinal muscles – PS, QL, ES
  - b. Lat Dorsi & thoracodorsal fascia
  - c. Gluteus maximus & gluteal fascia
- Inflammatory neuralgia

LSCN: Lateral Superior Cluneal Nerve; ISCN: Intermediate Superior Cluneal Nerve; MSCN: Medial Superior Cluneal Nerve; PSIS: Posterior Superior Iliac Spine

Chiba et al, 2016, Isu et al 2018, Kim et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Lu et al 1998

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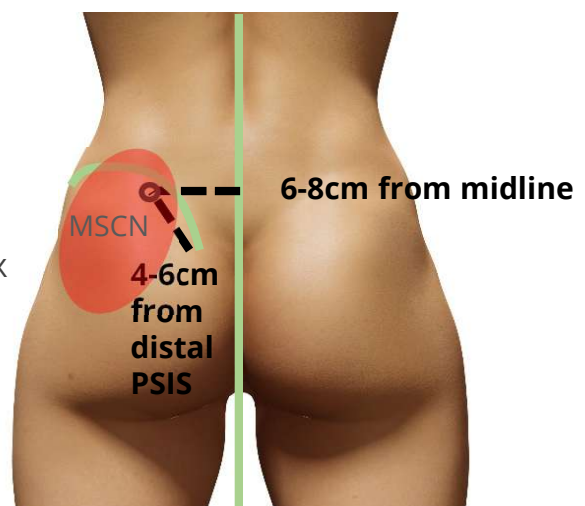
## Clinical Indicators of Superior Cluneal Neuralgia

### Interview Features:

- Upper buttock /L-Pelvic pain
- +/- paraesthesia upper buttock
- +/- other LL pain – 'pseudo-sciatica'
- Physical activity – Lx F, rotn, Ext
- Note any surgical Hx: bone graft/Lx

### Physical Features:

- Pain on palpation of MSCN tunnel
- Reproduction of buttock P/paraes (Pain relieved by local nerve block)



MSCN: Medial Superior Cluneal Nerve; PSIS: Posterior Superior Iliac Spine

Chiba et al, 2016, Isu et al 2018, Kim et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Lu et al 1998

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## Management of Superior Cluneal Neuralgia

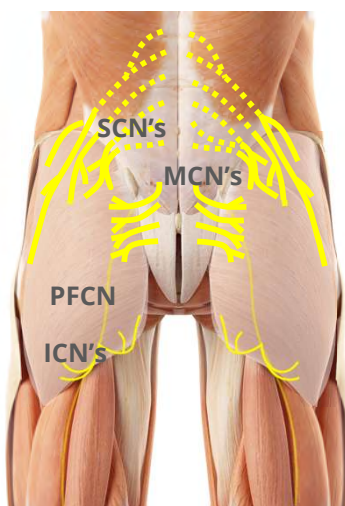
**Medical Mx:** Chiba et al, 2016, Isu et al 2018, Kim et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Morimoto et al 2013

- Local anaesthetic block +/- CSI
- RFN
- Surgery – decompression

**Non-Medical Mx: ?**

- Load Mx: High load & low load (ms activity at rest)
- Kinematics/technique – rowing/running
- Neurodynamic exercises – sliders
- Reduce tension in adjacent soft tissues but stretching unhelpful?
- Optimise health of adjacent soft tissues
- Lx manual therapy (mechanical/neurophysiological effect?)- PPIVMs

## Cluneal Nerves



Nerves	Origin
Superior Cluneal Nerves	L1- 3 May be as broad as T11-L5
Middle Cluneal Nerves	Posterior sacral foramina S1–4
Inferior Cluneal Nerves	Branch off PFCN, which arises from sacral plexus *S2

SCN's: Superior Cluneal Nerves; MCN's: Middle Cluneal Nerves;  
ICN's: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve.

Iwanaga et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Lu et al 1998, Tubbs et al 2010

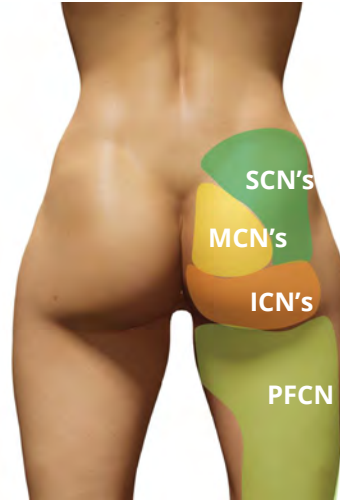
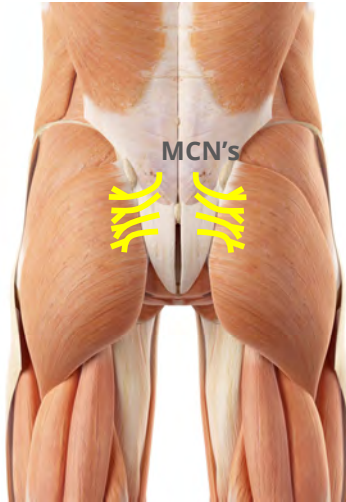
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

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PHYSIOTHERAPIST, RESEARCHER & EDUCATOR

## Middle Cluneal Nerves

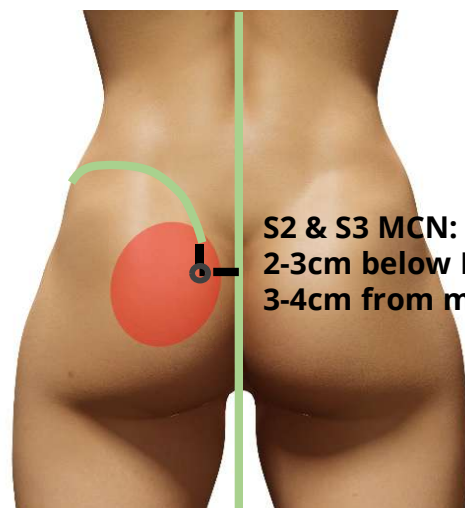
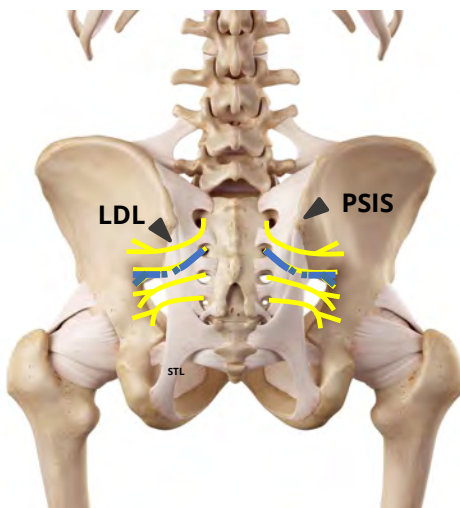


SCN's: Superior Cluneal Nerves; MCN's: Middle Cluneal Nerves;  
ICN's: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve.

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## Middle Cluneal Nerves



**S2 & S3 MCN:**  
2-3cm below PSIS  
3-4cm from midline

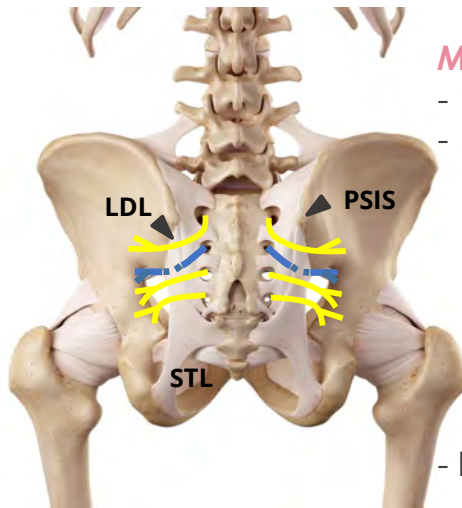
LDL: Long dorsal ligament; STL: Sacrotuberous Ligament; PSIS: Posterior Superior Iliac Spine,  
MCN: Middle Cluneal Nerve

Isu et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, McGrath & Zhang 2005, Tubbs et al 2010

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## Middle Cluneal Neuralgia



### Mechanisms:

- Trauma – direct impact – fall onto sacrum
- Physical loading:
  - a. Tensioning of the LDL (& STL)
    - o Counter-nutation – reduced Lx lordosis
    - o Effect of hamstring contraction/stretch
    - o Possibly effect of piriformis via STL
  - b. Tensioning of TDF & Gluteal Fascia
    - o Trunk extensors, lat dorsi, gluteals
- Inflammatory neuralgia, tumour

LDL: Long dorsal ligament; STL: Sacrotuberous Ligament;  
PSIS: Posterior Superior Iliac Spine; TDF: Thoracodorsal Fascia.

Isu et al 2018, Konno et al 2017, Vleeming et al 2012

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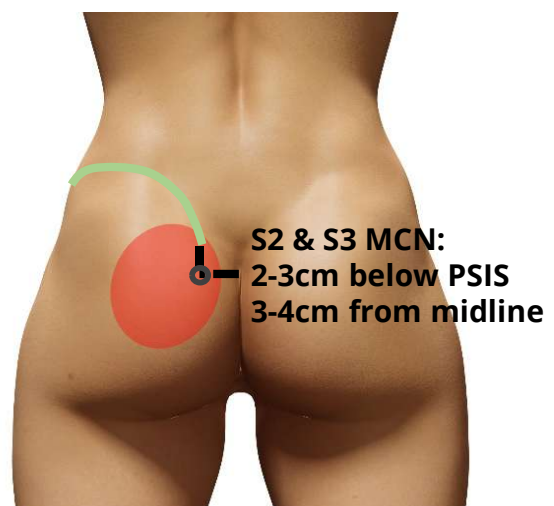
## Clinical Indicators of Middle Cluneal Neuralgia

### Interview Features:

- Mid/medial buttock/L-pelvic pain
- +/- paraesthesia in local region
- +/- other LL pain – ‘pseudo-sciatica’
- Physical activity – walking, standing, bending/lifting, sitting, rolling
- +/- associated with pregnancy

### Physical Features:

- Pain on palpation of LDL
- Reproduction of buttock P/paraes (Pain relieved by local nerve block)



MCN: Middle Cluneal Nerve; PSIS: Posterior Superior Iliac Spine

Isu et al 2018, Konno et al 2017

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## Middle Cluneal Neuralgia & the SIJ

Many pain provocation tests for determining whether SIJ may be a source of pain, will also load the LDL & the Middle Cluneal Nerves



In some cases, tenderness of the LDL may indicate a local Middle Cluneal Nerve entrapment, rather than SIJ dysfunction

## Management of Middle Cluneal Neuralgia

**Medical Mx:** Aota 2016, Isu et al 2018, Konno et al 2017

- Local anaesthetic block; CSI
- RFN
- Surgery – decompression

**Non-Medical Mx: evidence?**

- Load Mx: High load & low load (ms activity at rest)
- Kinematics/technique – load sharing – triple flexion not fwd lean
- Neurodynamic exercises – sliders
- Reduce tension in adjacent soft tissues but stretching unhelpful?
- Optimise health of adjacent soft tissues

## Non-sciatic neuralgia of the lateral hip & buttock

PART 1

Neuralgia in the lateral hip region

- Iliohypogastric nerve
- Subcostal nerve

Nerves serving the skin of the buttock

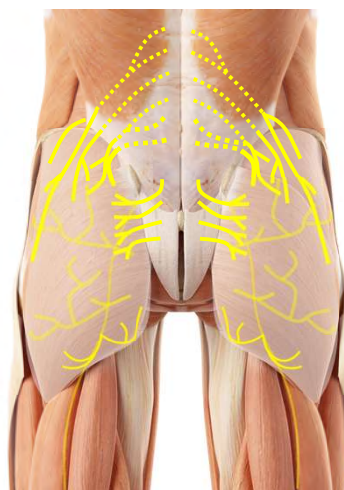
- Superior cluneal nerves
- Middle cluneal nerves

PART 2

- Posterior femoral cutaneous nerve & the Inferior cluneal nerves

Gluteal nerves (motor nerves)

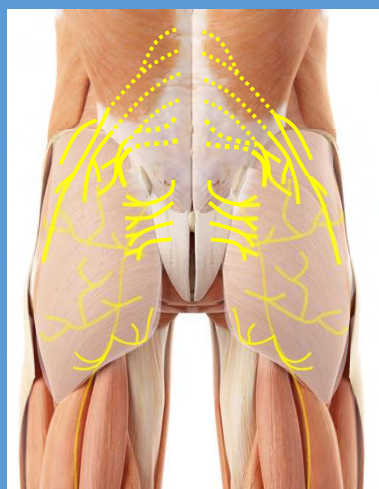
- Superior gluteal nerve
- Inferior gluteal nerve



## LATERAL HIP & BUTTOCK PAIN Nerve Related Pain Non-Sciatic Neuralgia - Part 2

Module 3 – Lesson 5

Nerve Related Pain  
Non-Sciatic Neuralgia



## Non-sciatic neuralgia of the lateral hip & buttock

**PART 1**

Neuralgia in the lateral hip region

- Iliohypogastric nerve
- Subcostal nerve

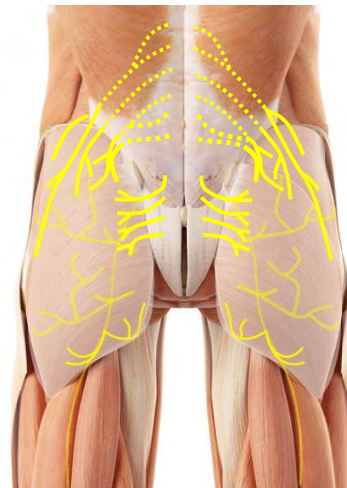
Nerves serving the skin of the buttock

- Superior cluneal nerves
- Middle cluneal nerves
- Posterior femoral cutaneous nerve & the Inferior cluneal nerves

**PART 2**

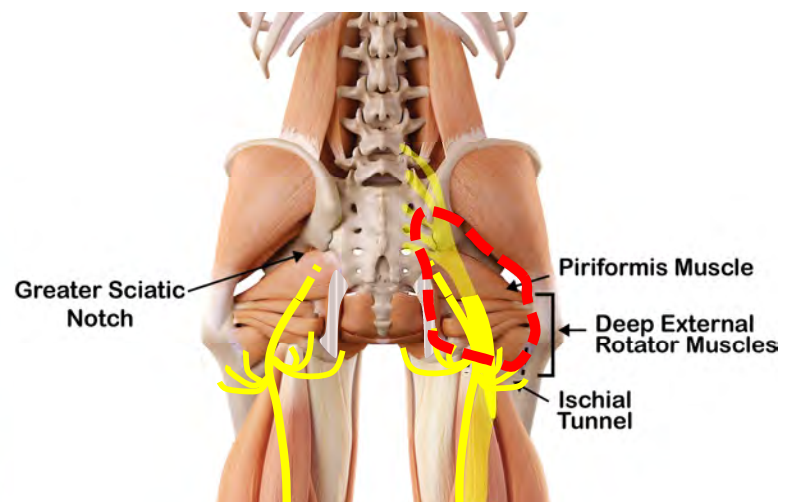
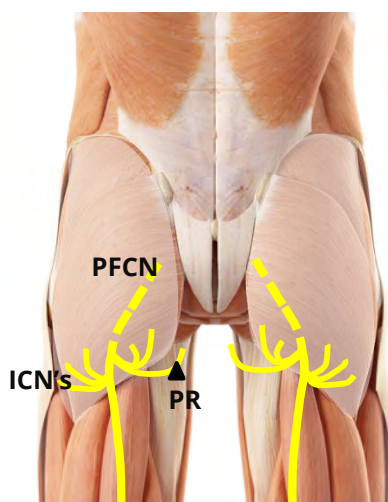
Gluteal nerves (motor nerves)

- Superior gluteal nerve
- Inferior gluteal nerve



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## Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve & Inferior Cluneal Nerves



PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve; ICN: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PR: Perineal ramus

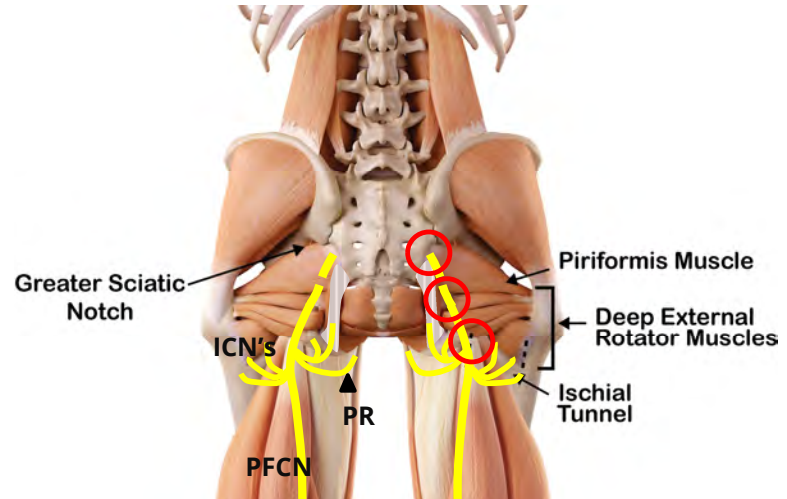
Darnis et al 2008, Ploteau et al 2017

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## Neuralgia of the Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve & the Inferior Cluneal Nerves

### Areas of entrapment:

- Infra-piriform space
- Ischial region
  - Lateral fibrous expansion
- Deep gluteal space



PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve; ICN: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PR: Perineal ramus

Darnis et al 2008, Ploteau et al 2017

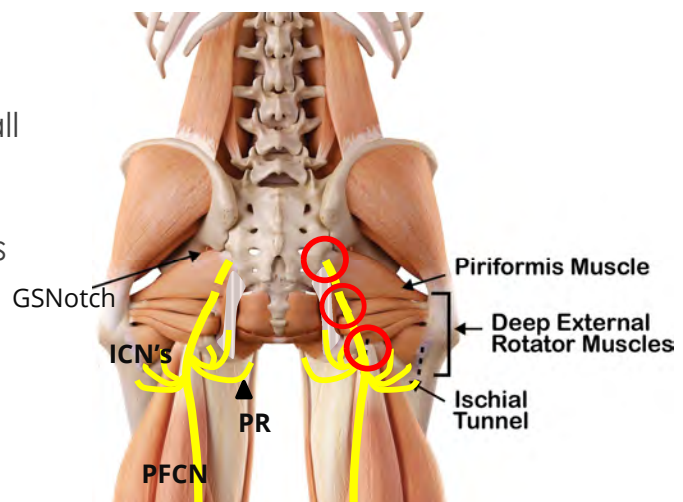
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## Neuralgia of the Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve & the Inferior Cluneal Nerves

### Mechanisms:

- Inflammatory neuralgia
- Trauma – direct impact – fall onto buttock or ischium
- PHT, avulsion
- DGS: muscles/fibrous bands
- Vascular Abnormalities
- Tumours, cysts



PR: Perineal ramus, ICN's: Inferior Cluneal Nerves; PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve; PHT: Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy; DGS: Deep Gluteal Space

Darnis et al 2008, Ploteau et al 2017

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## Clinical Indicators of Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve & the Inferior Cluneal Nerves

### Interview Features:

- Pain in infragluteal fold, genitofemoral fold, ischial region & posterior thigh
- PR: Lateral perineum/scrotum/labia majora +/- paraesthesia in these regions
- Agg factors: sitting; other if M-T causes

### Physical Features:

- Symptoms may sometimes be reproducible by palpation of ischium

Usually the diagnosis is based on symptoms, exclusion of other causes & confirmed by local nerve block



ICN: Middle Cluneal Nerve; PFCN: Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve; PR: Perineal Ramus

Darnis et al 2008, Ploteau et al 2017

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## Management of Posterior Femoral Cutaneous Nerve & the Inferior Cluneal Nerves

### Medical Mx: Darnis et al 2008, Ploteau et al 2017

- L/A block; CSI
- RFN
- Surgery – decompression

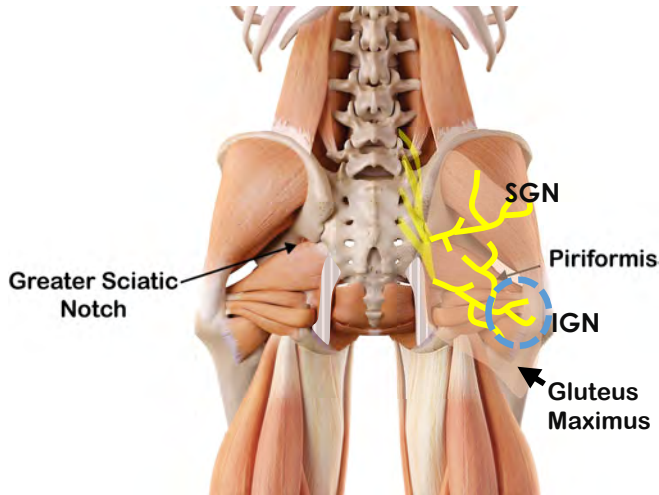
### Non-Medical Mx: ?

- Load Mx: Seating, Physical loading modification if relevant
- Neurodynamic exercises – sliders
- Reduce tension in adjacent soft tissues but stretching unhelpful?
- Optimise health of adjacent soft tissues

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## Superior & Inferior Gluteal Nerves



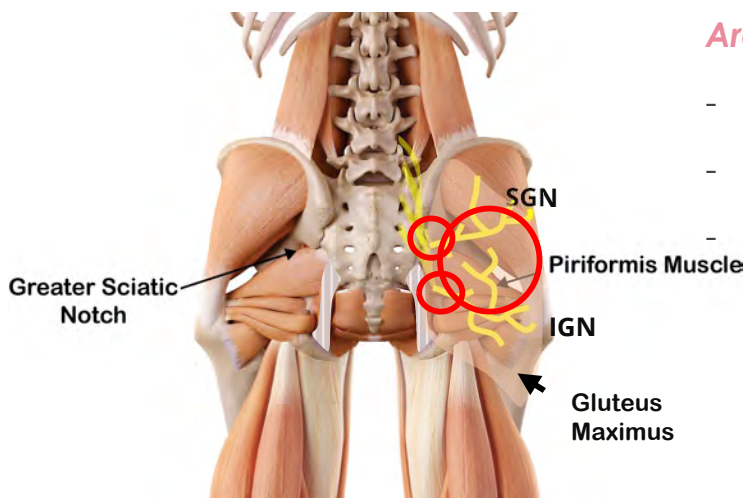
Nerve	Origin	Supply
Superior Gluteal Nerve	L4, L5, S1 Exits above piriformis	Gluteus medius Gluteus minimus TFL
Inferior Gluteal Nerve	L5, S1, S2 Exits below piriformis	Gluteus maximus Small area of skin in retrotrochanteric area.

SGN: Superior Gluteal Nerve; IGN: Inferior Gluteal Nerve

Florian-Rodriguez et al 2016, Iwanaga et al 2018a&b, McRory & Bell 1999

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## Superior & Inferior Gluteal Nerves



### Areas of entrapment/injury:

- SGN: Supra-piriform space
- IGN: Infra-piriform space
- Deep gluteal space

SGN: Superior Gluteal Nerve; IGN: Inferior Gluteal Nerve

Florian-Rodriguez et al 2016, Iwanaga et al 2018, McRory & Bell 1999

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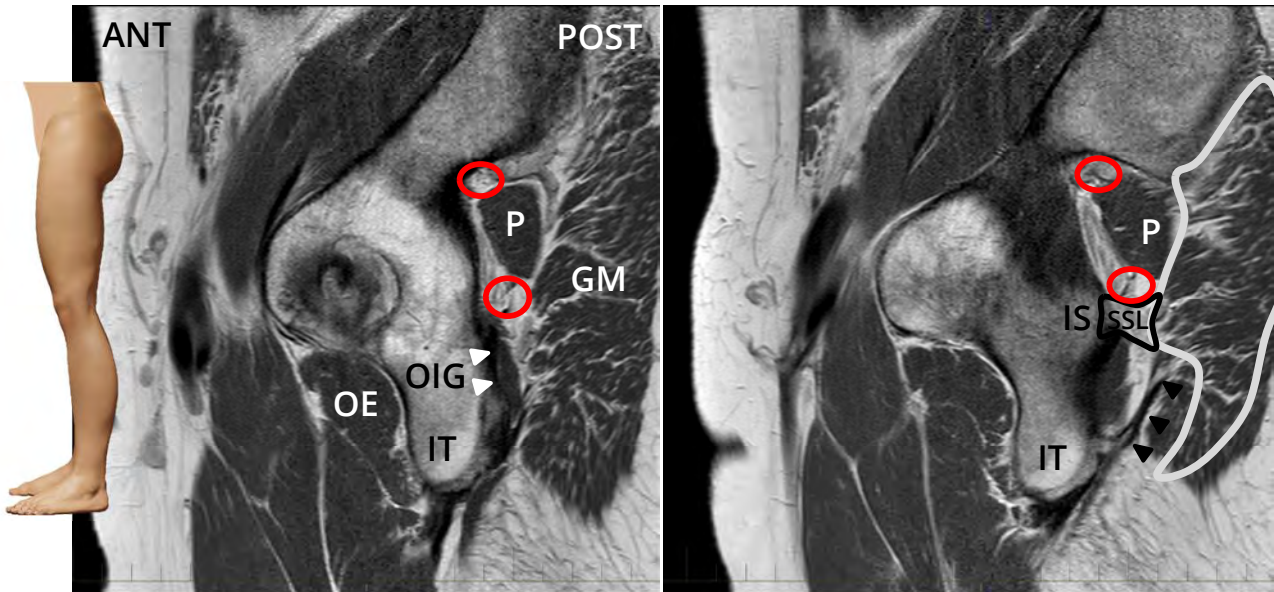
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

Contemporary Diagnostic & Management Strategies

Dr. Alison Grimaldi

PHYSIOTHERAPIST, RESEARCHER & EDUCATOR

## Sagittal Plane MRI's

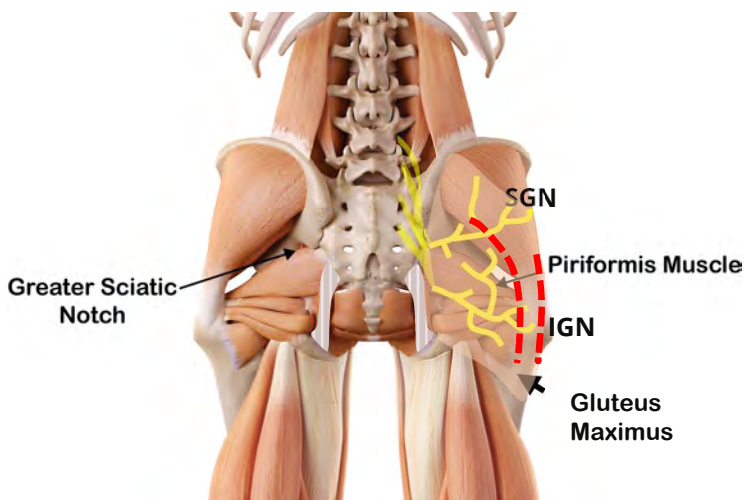


P: Piriformis; GM: Gluteus Maximus; OE: Obturator Externus; OIG: Obturator Internus-Gemelli Complex; IT: Ischial Tuberosity; SSL: Sacrospinous Ligament

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## Superior & Inferior Gluteal Neuralgia/Injury



SGN: Superior Gluteal Nerve; IGN: Inferior Gluteal Nerve

Florian-Rodriguez et al 2016, Hasija et al 2018, Iwanaga et al 2018, McRory & Bell 1999

### Mechanisms:

- Piriformis hypertrophy
- Trauma – pelvic #
- Iatrogenic
  - a. THA – lat/a-lat/posterior
  - b. Intramuscular injections
- DGS: muscles/fibrous bands
- Inflammatory neuraglia
- Vascular Abnormalities
- Tumours, cysts

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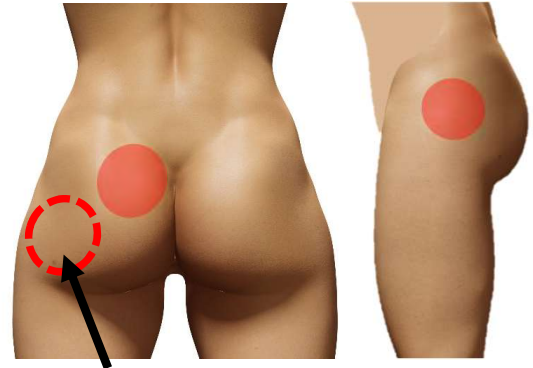
# Lateral Hip & Buttock Pain

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## Clinical Indicators of Superior & Inferior Gluteal Neuralgia/Injury

### Interview Features:

- Pain most likely to develop in the region of the nerve entrapment or injury
- May note weakness or a limp, or functional difficulties with single leg loading or hip extension functions
- May be small area of sensory disturbance if IGN involved
- Agg factors: Pain often aggravated by weightbearing activity – walking, squatting, stairclimbing



Area of sensory disturbance for IGN

IGN: Inferior Gluteal Nerve

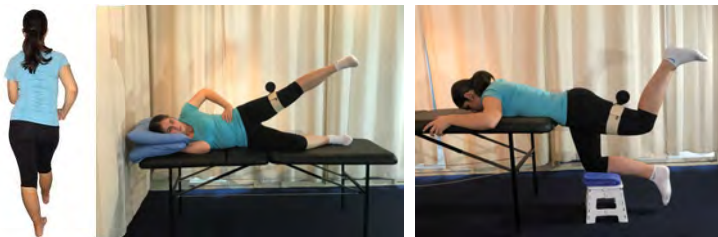
Diop et al 2002

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## Clinical Indicators of Superior & Inferior Gluteal Neuralgia/Injury

### Physical Features:

#### Muscle Wasting & Motor Disturbance



SGN: Abd Weakness

Function; Active ROM; Strength Test

IGN: Ext Weakness

Function; Active ROM; Strength Test

#### Pain Provocation



Seated Piri Stretch Test

Active Piri Test

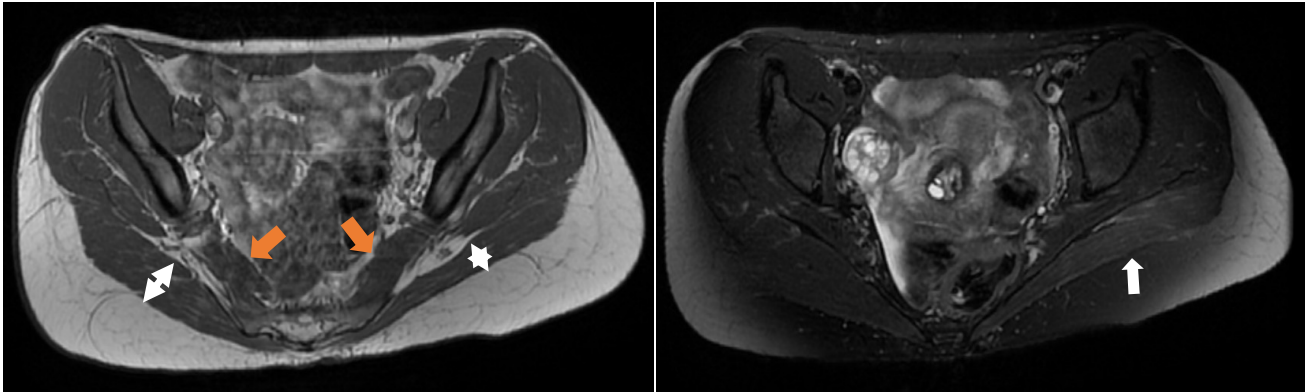
IGN: Inferior Gluteal Nerve; SGN: Superior Gluteal Nerve; Piri: Piriformis

Diop et al 2002, Martin et al 2015

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## Imaging Features – Inferior Gluteal Nerve Entrapment



Gluteus Maximus wasting & increased signal intensity

Acute/subacute denervation – high signal intensity on T2 or STIR images

Chronic denervation (>6 months) – increased signal on T1 as well

Kamath et al 2008

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## Management of Superior & Inferior Gluteal Neuralgia/Injury

**Medical Mx:** Diop et al 2002, Donofrio et al 1998, Mondelli et al 2008, Rask 1980

- Rest, monitor
- LA/CSI
- Surgery – decompression; & prevention of iatrogenic injury

**Non-Medical Mx:**

- Load management
- NMES – neuroelectrical muscle stimulation
- Exercise therapy – take care to avoid agg with piri stimulus, aim to lengthen & relax piri, not hypertrophy
- Neurodynamic exercises – sliders
- Manual therapy as adjunct - avoid aggressive pressure in greater sciatic foramen

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## Non-sciatic neuralgia of the lateral hip & buttock

PART 1

Neuralgia in the lateral hip region

- Iliohypogastric nerve
- Subcostal nerve

Nerves serving the skin of the buttock

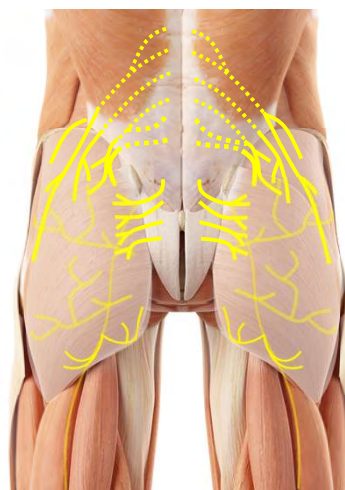
- Superior cluneal nerves
- Middle cluneal nerves

PART 2

- Posterior femoral cutaneous nerve & the Inferior cluneal nerves

Gluteal nerves (motor nerves)

- Superior gluteal nerve
- Inferior gluteal nerve



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