

The Hip

Clinical assessment:

Symptoms: *Pain* → hip pain is felt in the groin, front of the thigh & even the knee, while pain at back of hip is from lumbar spine.

Stiffness, Deformity & Snapping.

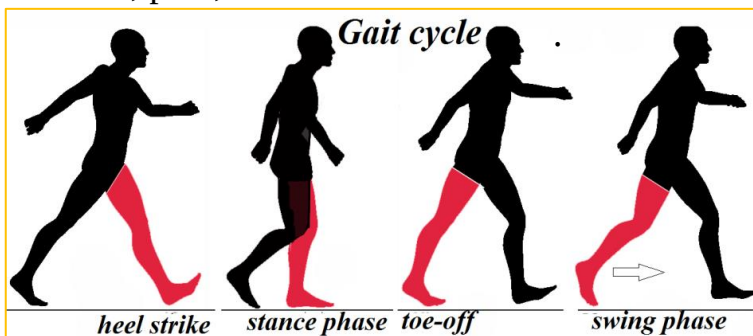
Signs:

Gait → normal gait has 4 phases: *heel strike*, *stance phase*, *toe-off* & *swing phase*. Any abnormality in gait is called **limp**.

Causes of limping are: **1- pain** anywhere (antalgic gait),

2- short leg.

3- hip problems → abductor weakness, dislocation, subluxation, pain, short neck. These cause Trendelenburg's gait.



Look: skin → scar, sinus, crease.

Shape: wasting, swelling, position of the limb & **limb length:** in supine position with both ASIS at the same level, measure the distance between medial malleolus & ASIS.

Feel: skin temperature, tenderness, soft tissue & bony points.

Move: flexion, extension, abduction, adduction & rotation (in flexion & in extension).

Investigations: x-ray, U/S, CT, MRI, arthrogram, arthroscopy, biopsy.

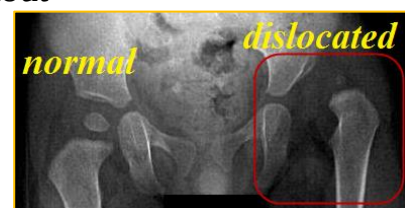
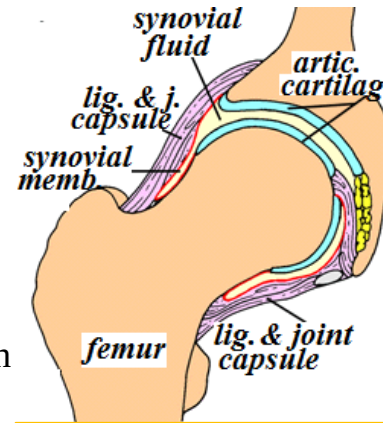
Developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH)

Is a state of hip instability in the newborn. Normally, the hips are **stable** at birth, but if **dislocated**, **subluxated** or **dislocatable** with or without **acetabular dysplasia**, this means hip instability.

Incidence:

At birth → **10/1000**; after 3 wks (hip become > stable): **1/1000**.

It is > common in female with a ratio of ♀ **7:1** ♂; more on left



side with ratio of Lt. **3:1** Rt.& bilateral **1** in every **5** cases.

Etiology: 1- **Genetic factors**: DDH tends to run in families & populations (northern Italians).

2- **Hormonal factors**: before birth, there is ↑ in the level of estrogen, progesterone & relaxin hormones in maternal blood → ↑ ligament laxity in infant. So DDH is rare in premature baby.

3- **Intrauterine malposition**: ↑ incidence in breech position.

4- **Postnatal factors**: may play role in the persistence of instability e.g. societies that **swaddle** their babies → ↑ incidence while in those who carry them astride the back with legs **abducted** will have ↓ incidence.

Pathology: according to the **age**

At birth → the hip is normal but the capsule is **stretched**.

During infancy: many changes will occur secondary to abnormal position: the **femoral head** dislocate posteriorly & with hip extension it becomes superolateral to acetabulum. The femoral neck become more anteverted. The **acetabulum** become shallow & anteverted. The **capsule** become more stretched. The **lig. teres** become elongated & hypertrophied. The **labrum** is pushed into acet. by the FH (**limbus**).

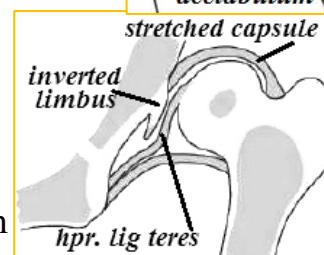
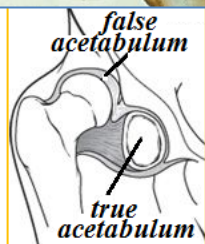
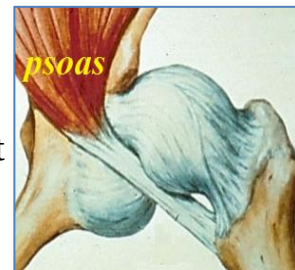
After weight bearing: all these changes will ↑. The FH will form a **false socket** above the true acet.; the capsule will be squeezed between psoas muscle & the acet. taking the shape of **hour glass**. The surrounding muscles with time will become **shorter**.

CF: every newborn should be examined for hip instability especially if there is family history or breech position.

In neonate: **Ortolani's test** (for dislocated hip) → hold the thigh with your thumb medially & other fingers on greater trochanter → flex the hip 90° → abduct the hip, normally abduction will reach **90°**. If **stop** anywhere this means dislocation. Press on by your fingers on greater trochanter to reduce the hip to complete the abduction (**reducible dislocation**) otherwise it is irreducible dislocation.

Barlow's test: (for dislocatable hip) the same but push by your thumb the FH out of the socket during adduction & return back during abduction (**dislocatable hip**).

Late features: limited hip abduction, asymmetrical skin



crease, short & externally rotated leg & limping. In bilateral dislocation: wide perineal gap & waddling gait.

Imaging: during first 6 mths, x-ray is not useful because both FH & acet. are cartilaginous, so U/S is the best.

After 6mths, X-ray become more useful:

Shenton's line: normally, a line with inferior border of **femoral neck** is continuous with inferior border of upper **pubic ramus**, if **broken** → dislocation or subluxation.

Perkin's line: horizontal with **triradiate** cartilage & vertical with acetabular **edge**. Normal position of FH is **medial** to vertical & **below** horizontal; if not → dislocation or subluxation.

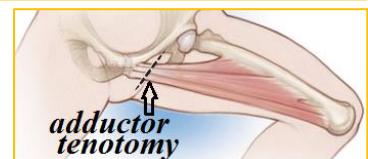
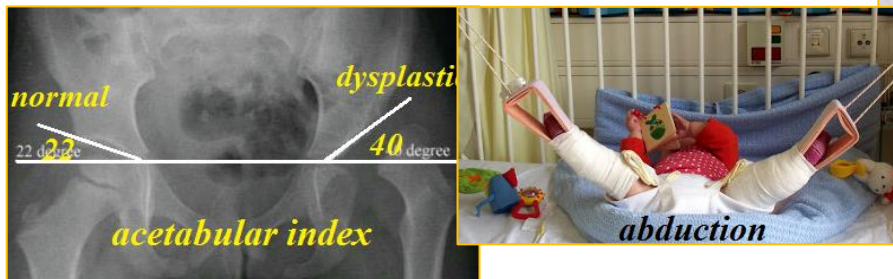
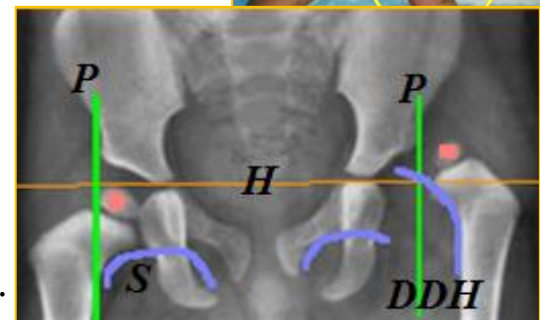
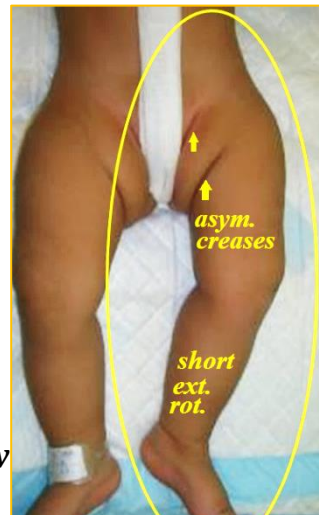
Management: according to the age

0-6 months → **90%** of unstable hips will be stabilized spontaneously at **3 wks**; So at **3 wks**, if reduced & stable → observe till **6 mths**.

If reduced & unstable (dislocatable) → abduction splint.

If dislocated → reduce & put in abduction splint.

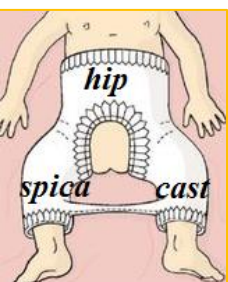
Splint: either **Pavlik harness**, **Von Rosen splint** or other **hip abduction splint**. The splint should be used until x-ray shows good acetabular **roof**.



6-18 months → hip dislocation must be reduced either by closed or open method:

Closed reduction: this should be gradual. Apply traction to both legs using vertical frame (**Gallows traction**) with ↑ **abduction** gradually for **3 weeks** (**adductor tenotomy** may be done if abduction is limited). Reduction is performed **UGA** & **spica cast** is applied for **2-3 months** → abduction **splint** for **3-6 months**.

Open reduction: if closed reduction failed, do open reduction → hip spica → splint. Sometimes, for reduction to be stable, the leg should be internally rotated, if so, **femoral derotation osteotomy**



in subtrochanteric region is done at the same time or later.

18mth- age limit→ is surgical by:

open reduction± femoral derotation(± varus) osteotomy±pelvic osteotomy. Then hip spica for 3 mths → abduction splint for 3 mths.

Above age limit→ for unilateral dislocation, the age limit is **10** yrs. while for bilateral dislocation is **6** yrs. because with bilateral, the deformity is symmetrical & failure on one side will make it asymmetrical & noticeable.

Persistent dislocation in adult→ **THR**.

Acetabular dysplasia & hip subluxation:

the acet. is shallow & the femoral head is only partly covered.

Causes: 1- genetic factors; 2- incomplete reduction of DDH; 3-damage to the lateral acetabular epiphysis.

CF: infant→ limited abduction; child→ symptomless but painful hip & limp following exercise. adult→ OA of the hip.

X-ray→ the roof of acet. is **sloping** & the head is **uncovered**.

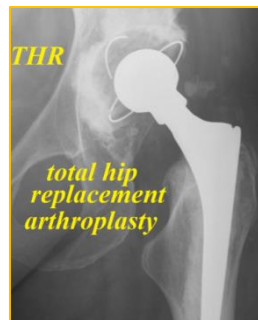
If there is subluxation, the Shenton's line is broken.

R: Infant→ similar to DDH.

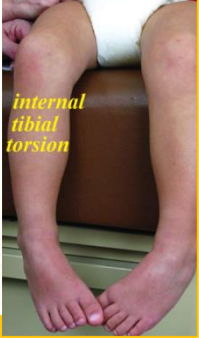
Children→ similar to DDH & may require **acetabuloplasty ± varus femoral osteotomy**.

Adolescent & young adult→ acetabuloplasty, **Chiari or shelf** operation ± varus femoral osteotomy.

Old adult→ **THR** for OA of the hip.



Acquired hip dislocation: occurring **after first year** of life is usually due to: 1- **trauma**; 2- **muscle imbalance**; 3- **pyogenic arthritis**.



Femoral anteversion(in-toe gait)

The toes are directed **inward** during walking making the child trips over his feet during running.

Causes: below 3 yrs. → **forefoot adduction** or **tibial torsion**.

Above 3 yrs.: excessive femoral neck **anteversion** (hip internal rotation).

CF: clumsy gait. The child sits in(Wposition) **television position** & when standing both patellae directed inward (**squinting patellae**).

Diagnosis is clinical; to assess the degree of anteversion → CT to measure the angle between the femoral neck & the transverse axis of femoral condyles.

R → it usually will correct **Spontaneously** with time.

If it persists above the age of 8 yrs: femoral corrective osteotomy may be needed.



Irritable hip syndrome(transient synovitis) :

transient synovitis characterized by transient hip pain & limping in an otherwise healthy child. It is the commonest cause of hip pain in children.

CF: usual age 6-12 yrs. Boys affected 3x than girls. The child presents with groin, thigh or even knee pain with limping.

O/E: only the extreme of hip movements are painful.

The symptoms last 1-2 weeks, then subsides spontaneously investigations are normal except **U/S** showing small joint effusion.

DD:1-Pyogenic arthritis: ill, toxic child with high fever & all hip ROM are more severely restricted & painful, **ESR** ↑, **WBC** ↑, blood culture 50% +ve, **ASO** titer ↑.

2-Tuberculous arthritis: can be similar to transient synovitis because the C.F. are subacute. **ESR** ↑. **X-ray** → osteoporosis, lytic lesion & later joint destruction. In difficult cases, bone & synovial biopsy are needed.

3-Perthes' disease: last >2 wks & x-ray: ↑ joint space.

4- Juvenile chronic arthritis: ESR ↑ with systemic features.

5- Slipped epiphysis: may presents as irritable hip, later x-ray is characteristic.

R → bed rest at home; in severe cases, admission for continuous traction. Weight bearing is allowed only when symptoms & joint effusion resolve.