

Common Overuse Musculoskeletal Injuries

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Shoulder

1. Rotator Cuff Impingement
2. Rotator Cuff Tendinopathy
3. AC joint Inflammation/Degeneration



Rotator Cuff Impingement:

- **Impingement** is a clinical sign – not diagnosis
- Occurs when rotator cuff tendons are impinged as they pass thru the SA space – formed bw the acromion, coracoacromial arch & AC joint above & the glenohumeral joint below
- Causes mechanical irritation of the RC tendons – may result in swelling & damage



Rotator Cuff Impingement

■ Types:

1. Primary External Impingement

- Encroachment from above due to structural abnormalities eg acromial spurs, AC joint degeneration

2. Secondary External Impingement

- Encroachment from above due to functional abnormalities:
 - weak scapular stabilisers - anteroinf movement of acromion or anterior instability
 - RC weakness and imbalance bw humeral elevators (deltoid) & stabilisers (rc muscles) resulting in humeral elevation
 - Ant instability – anterosuperior elevation of humeral head

Rotator Cuff Impingement

3. Internal Impingement:

- Occurs mainly in overhead athletes during late phase of cocking or catch and pull phase of swimming when impingement of RC occurs against the post – sup surface of the glenoid



Rotator Cuff Tendinopathy:

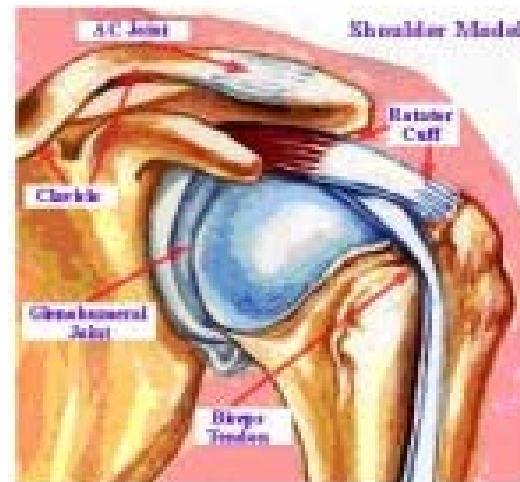
- Common cause of shoulder pain and impingement
- Results in swelling and weakness of tendons
- Major determination of onset is the volume of work
- Apoptosis (cell death) & assoc pathways are increased in overuse tendinopathy & may play a role in tendinopathy



Rotator Cuff Tendinopathy:

■ Clinical Features:

1. Pain with overhead activity
2. More severe cases – pain in bed at night



Rotator Cuff Tendinopathy:

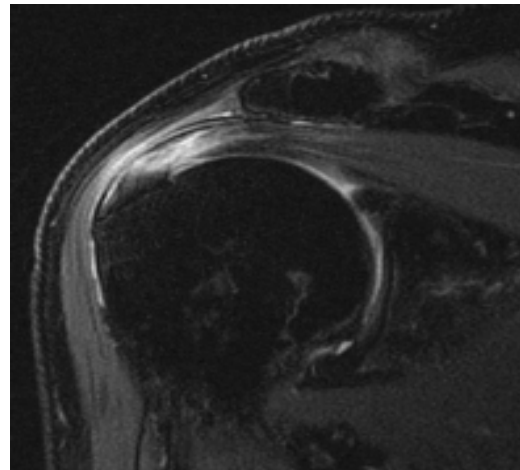
Examination:

- Painful abduction arc bw 70 and 120 degrees
- Internal rotation commonly reduced
- Pain at extremes of abduction
- Positive impingement testing
- Pain with resisted contraction of supraspinatus (resisted upward movement in 90' abd, 30' HF and IR

Rotator Cuff Tendinopathy:

Investigations:

- Ultrasound or MRI – swelling &/or partial tearing of the supraspinatus, or occasionally subscap, often swelling of the subacromial bursa



Rotator Cuff Tendinopathy:

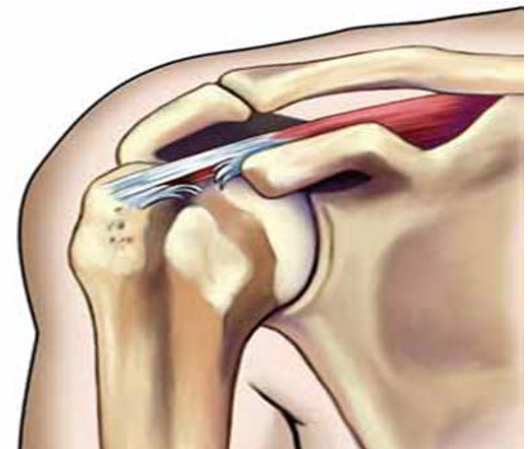
Treatment:

1. Rest
2. Physiotherapy – strengthening of the rotator cuff and scapulothoracic muscles
3. Corticosteroid injection into the SA space
4. Surgery – shoulder arthroscopy and decompression



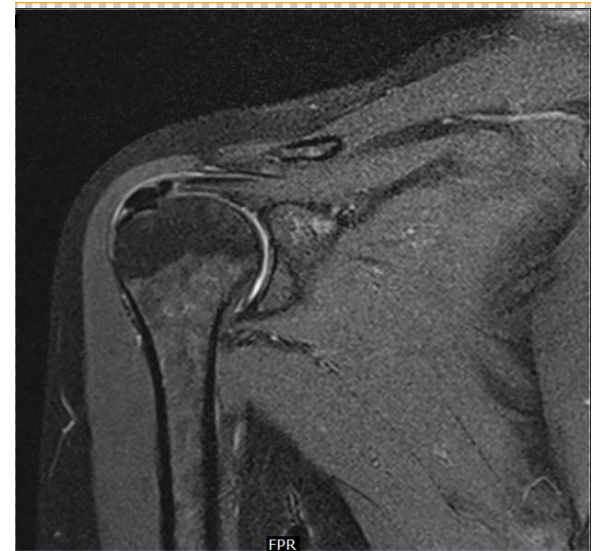
Rotator Cuff Tears:

- Complete and partial tears of the RC tendons common in older athletes
- Present with pain with activity and lying in bed at night
- Examination – similar to RC tendinopathy but with weakness on SS testing
- Treatment:
 - Partial – conservative
 - Full thickness - surgery



Calcific Tendinopathy

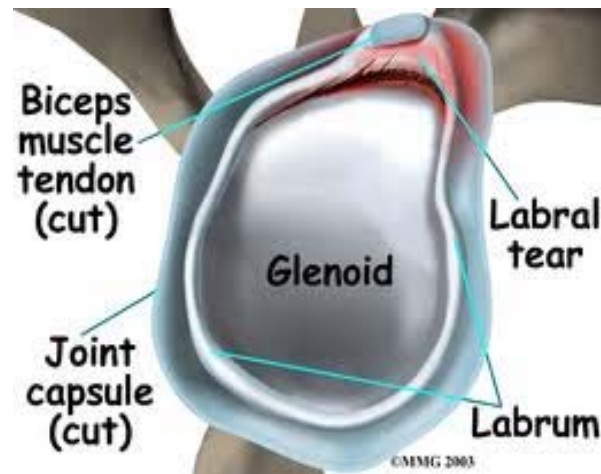
- Calcification within RC tendons esp SS
- Cause – previous damage to the tendon
- Presentation: pain – often severe – at rest, with movements & in bed
- Diagnosis: Xray and US
- Treatment:
 - Cortisone injection
 - Physiotherapy
 - ?ESWT



Labral Tears

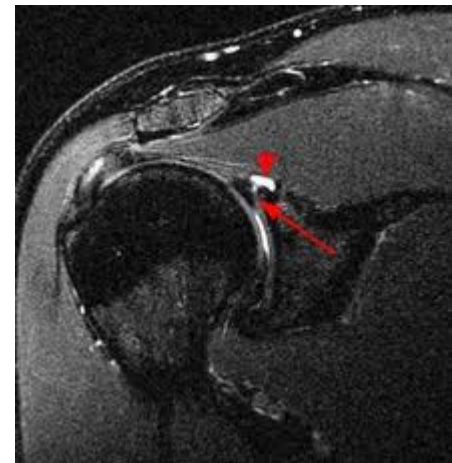
- Divided into:

- SLAP – superior labral tears extending from ant to biceps tendon to post
- Non SLAP



SLAP lesions

- Cause: repetitive overhead activity and excessive inferior traction
- Present: poorly localised pain with overhead and behind the back arm motions
- Examination: tenderness over ant joint, pos ant slide, Obrien's and Crank Test
- Investigations: MRI
- Treatment: surgery



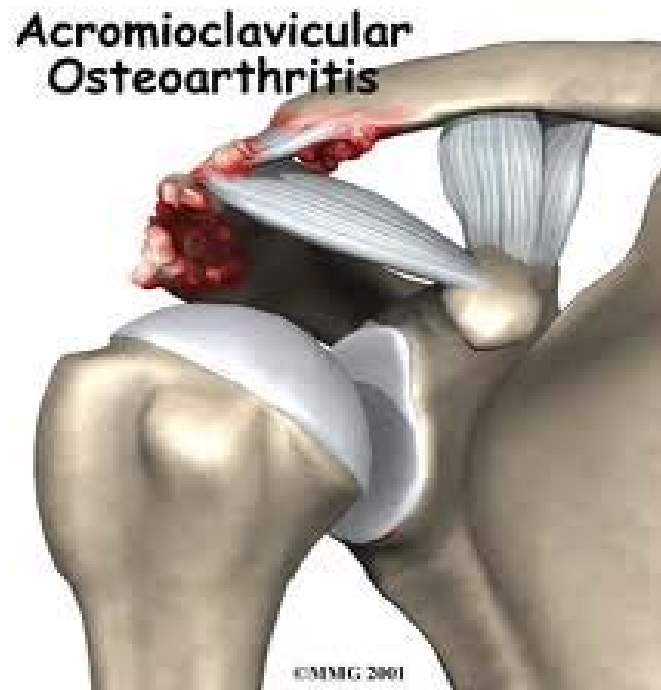
Adhesive Capsulitis

- Glenohumeral joint stiffness
- Cause:
 - Spontaneous – us. in 40 – 60 yo age group, esp Female
 - Post trauma or Surgery
- Present: pain and stiffness
- Examination: painful generalised reduction in ROM
- Treatment: Hydrodilation and followup physiotherapy

Chronic AC joint Pain

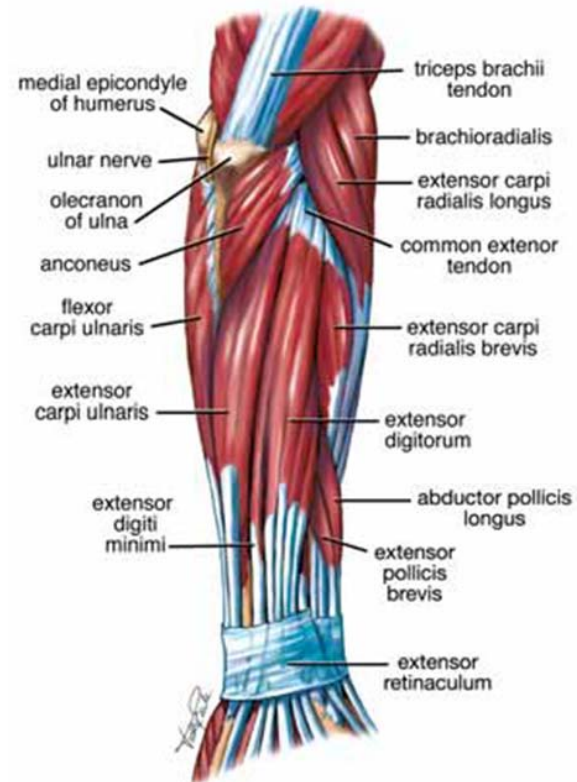
- Cause: repetitive minor injuries or following previous trauma may result in damage to fibrocartilaginous menisci in joint or osteolysis of distal end of clavicle (esp wt lifters)
- Present: Pain with HF & signs of impingement
- Diagnosis: Xray – osteophytes or osteolysis
- Treatment:
 - Physiotherapy – electrotherapy , strengthening
 - Corticosteroid injection
 - Occas surgery

Acromioclavicular Joint Arthritis



Elbow:

1. Tennis Elbow
2. Golfer's Elbow
3. Posterior Impingement
4. Triceps Tendinopathy
5. Olecranon Bursitis
6. Osteochondritis Dissecans



Tennis Elbow

= Extensor Tendinopathy – inflam +/- degen of the ECRB tendon at the lateral epicondyle



Tennis Elbow

Cause: marked tightness of the wrist extensors secondary to repeated wrist extension resulting in a shearing force on the tendon

Can be related to racquet sports, computer use etc

Onset: us. slow & insidious but may come on after a heavy load of work

Examination:

- tenderness us. 1-2 cm distal to lateral epicondyle
- Pain with resisted wrist and 3rd finger extension

Tennis Elbow

Treatment:

■ Combination required:

- Massage forearm extensors
- Ice, NSAIDS
- Brace
- Corticosteroid injection
- Autologous blood injection – may instigate an inflammatory cascade & promote healing – initial studies show a 79% success rate
- Surgery – debridement & release of ECRB tendon from lat epicondyle



Golfer's Elbow

- Excessive activity of the wrist flexors results in inflammation +/- degeneration of the tendons of pronator teres & the flexor group = flexor/pronator tendinopathy



Golfer's Elbow

- Presentation: medial elbow pain with lifting or activity
- Examination:
 - Tenderness at or just below the medial epicondyle
 - Pain with resisted wrist flexion & resisted forearm pronation
- Treatment: similar to tennis elbow

But particular attention to tennis or golf technique



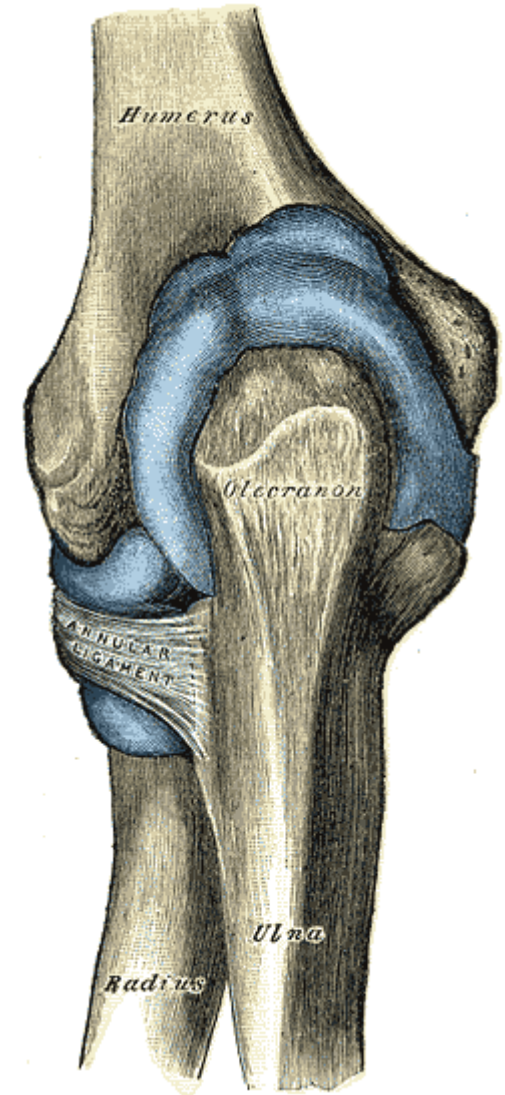
Olecranon Bursitis

- A subcutaneous bursa overlying the olecranon that becomes filled with blood & fluid
- Cause: single episode of trauma or more commonly after repeated trauma eg Student's elbow
- Treatment: rest, NSAIDs, ice
 - If not settling – aspiration and corticosteroids
 - If chronic – may require excision
- **RISK** –
may occasionally become infected



Posterior Impingement

- Most common cause of posterior elbow pain
- Causes:
 1. Younger – “hyperextension valgus overload syndrome” = results in impingement of the posteromedial olecranon tip on the olecranon fossa
 2. Older – us. arthritis of the radiocapitellar joint. Impingement of osteophytes results in posterior pain



Posterior Impingement

■ Presentation:

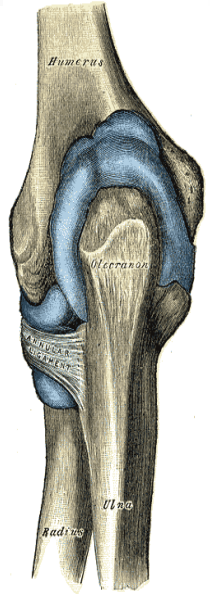
- posterior elbow pain with extension.
- With increasing severity or duration may result in flexion deformity of the elbow

■ Examination:

- Tenderness of the posterior joint line
- Pain with forced extension

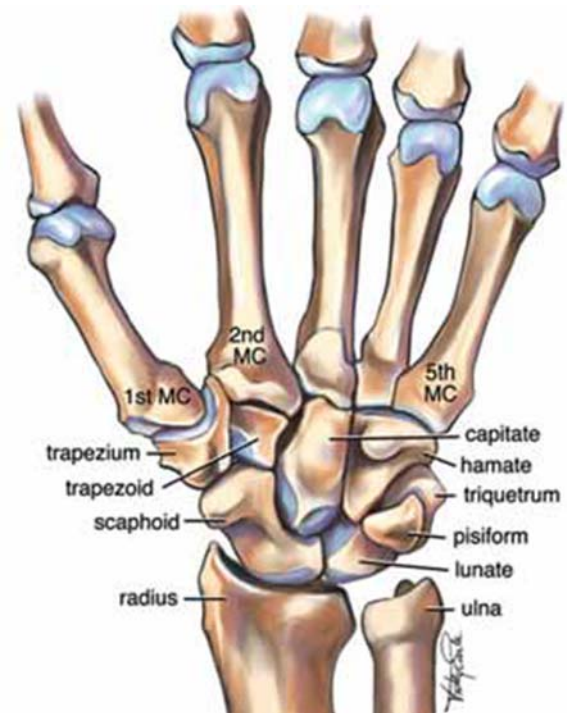
■ Treatment:

- Rest, NSAIDS
- Corticosteroid injection
- Surgery – removal of inflamed tissue and osteophytes



Wrist:

1. Ganglions
2. Ligament Tears
3. Tendinopathies/
Tenosynovitis



Ganglions

= synovial cyst communicating with the joint space

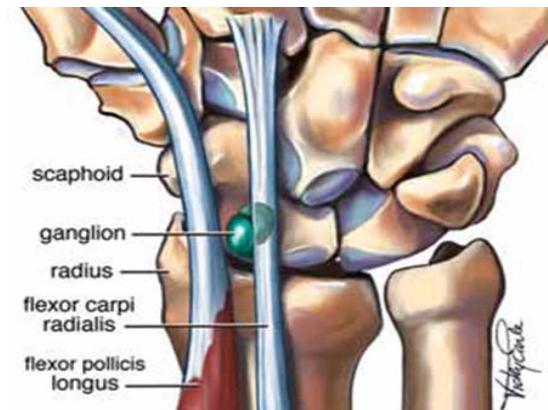
■ Occur at several sites, but mainly in the scapholunate space

Presentation:

- Painless swelling
- Intermittent wrist pain & reduced movement

Examination:

- +/- palpable swelling
- Localised tenderness
- Pain with wrist extension



Ganglions

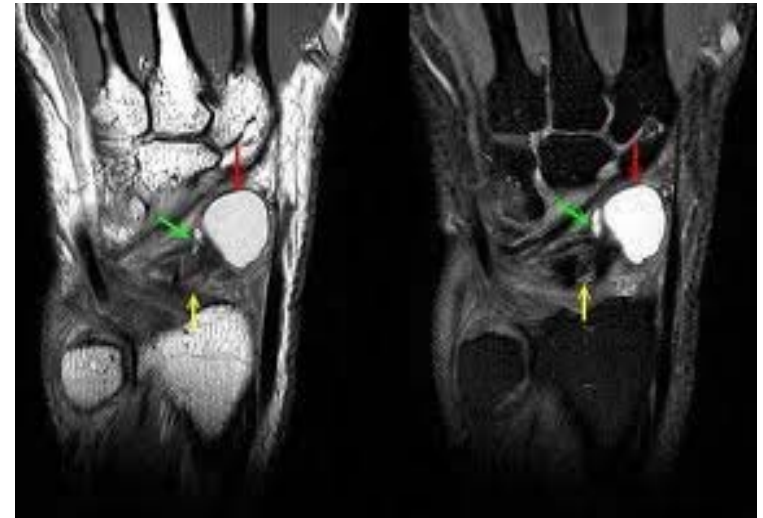
■ Diagnosis:

- MRI gold standard
- US

■ Treatment

*only indicated if painful

- Aspiration and corticosteroid injection
- Surgery if recurrent or failure with conservative management



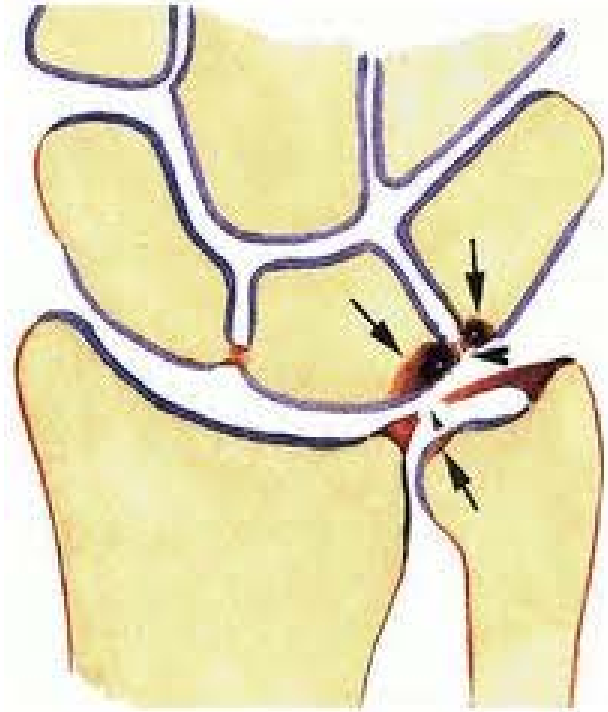
Ligament Tears

1. TFCC Tear

*Lies bw the ulnar and carpus

*Main stabiliser of the distal radio-ulnar joint

□ Cause = compressive loads to the wrist esp if accompanied by ulnar deviation eg gymnastics, diving, golf, racquet sports



Ligament Tears

Examination:

- Tenderness & swelling along the dorso-ulnar aspect of the wrist joint
- Pain on resisted wrist extension & ulnar deviation
- Clicking
- Reduced grip strength

Investigations:

- MRI

Treatment:

- Brace, strengthening
- Surgery: arthroscope



De Quervain's Tenosynovitis

= inflammation of the synovium of APL and EPB tendons as they pass thru a fibro-osseous tunnel at the level of the radial styloid

*occurs esp in racquet sports, 10 pin bowlers, rowers, canoeists

De Quervain's Tenosynovitis



De Quervain's Tenosynovitis

Presentation:

- Activity related radial sided wrist pain

Examination:

- Localised swelling & tenderness at the level of the radial styloid
- Positive Finkelstein's test

Treatment:

- Brace, ice, massage, NSAIDS
- US guided corticosteroid injection into tendon sheath
- Surgery – surgical release

Intersection Syndrome

- Bursitis at the site where APL & EPB cross over the ECR tendons
- Cause:
 - Friction at the site of crossing or
 - tenosynovitis of the 2 extensor tendons within their synovial sheaths
- Occurs in: rowers, canoeists, wt trainers, racquet sports



Intersection Syndrome

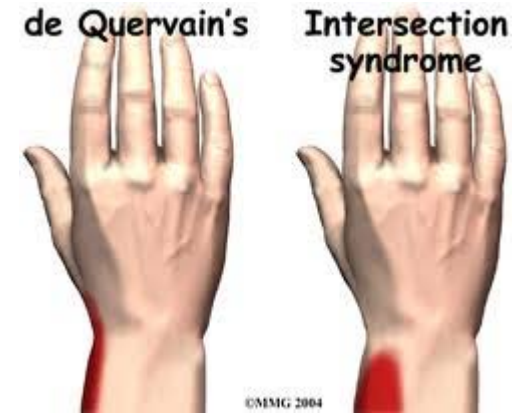
Examination:

- Tenderness radio-dorsally
- Crepitus proximal to the radial styloid

Investigations: ultrasound

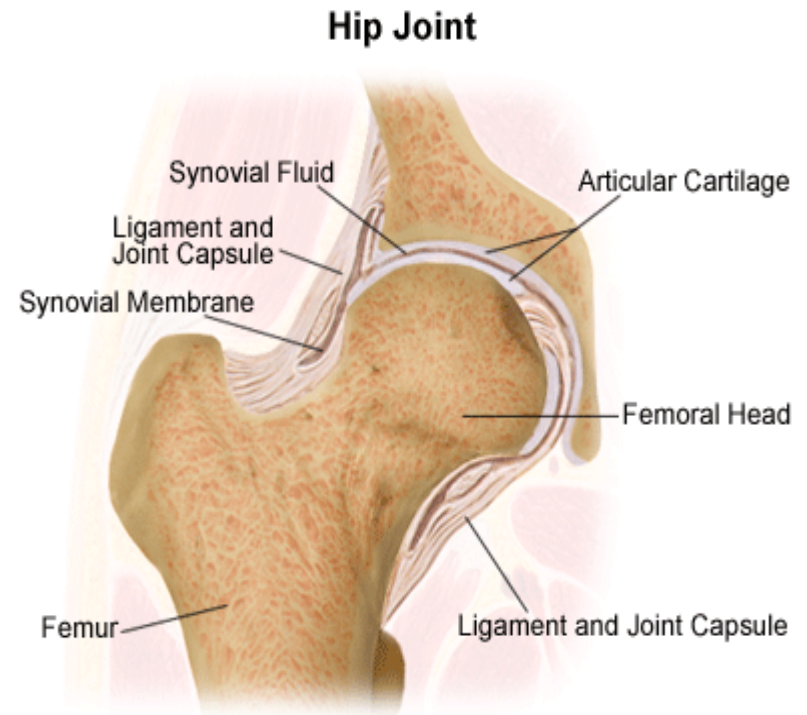
Treatment:

- Rest, NSAID, ice
- Early intervention with corticosteroid inj into bursa
- Correction of technique
- Surgical Decompression rarely



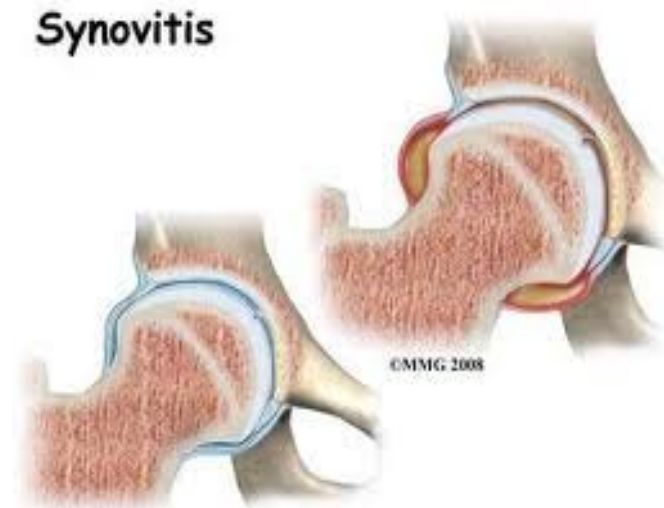
Hip

1. Synovitis
2. Labral Tear
3. FAI
4. Gluteal
Tendinopathy/Troch
anteric Bursitis



Hip Synovitis

- Inflammation of the hip joint
- May be associated with most hip injuries but can also represent underlying structural issues:
 - Arthritis
 - FAI



Hip Synovitis

Presentation:

- Anterior groin pain associated with:
 - Activity
 - Flexion &/or rotation of the hip joint

Examination:

- Tenderness in anterior groin
- Pain &/or restriction with flexion and IR

Investigations:

- Xray – structural
- MRI



Hip Synovitis

Treatment:

- Xray guided corticosteroid injection
- Physiotherapy – soft tissue therapy to hip flexors, strengthening of gluteal muscles
- If degenerative – role for synvisc inj



Labral Tears

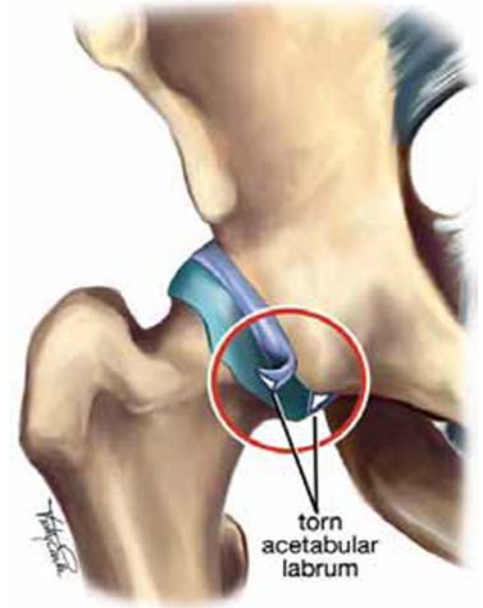
Cause:

■ Extrinsic:

- Lifting/twisting incidents
- Squatting/loading
- Passive impingement: cyclists, horse-riders, truck drivers, up adders
- Active impingement – dancers, martial arts, water polo

■ Intrinsic

- Dysplasia
- Old slipped Fem Epiphyses
- FAI – ganz lesions etc



Labral Tears

Presentation:

- Anterior groin pain with flexion & rotation movements
- Clicking

Examination:

- Anterior groin tenderness
- Pain +/- restriction with flexion and IR of hip

Investigations:

- MRI

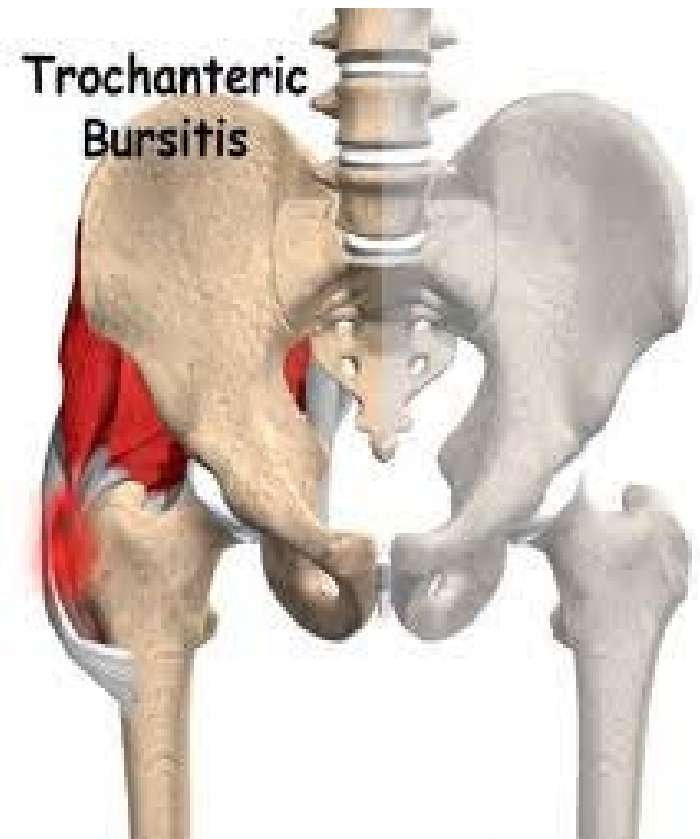
Treatment:

- Surgery - arthroscope
- Strengthening of gluteal and pelvic stabilising muscles



Trochanteric Bursitis/Gluteal Tendinopathy

- Trochanteric bursitis and Gluteus Tendinopathy/enthesopathy often co-exist
- Cause:
 - Weakness of pelvic stabilising muscles
 - Excessive tightness of gluteal, TFL muscles
 - Leg length discrepancy



Trochanteric Bursitis/Gluteal Tendinopathy

Presentation:

- Pain in the lateral hip which may radiate down the lateral thigh
- Aggravated with:
 - Prolonged sitting
 - Lying on it in bed
 - Stairs

Examination:

- Tenderness posterior and superior to greater trochanter
- Pain with stretching the gluteal tendons

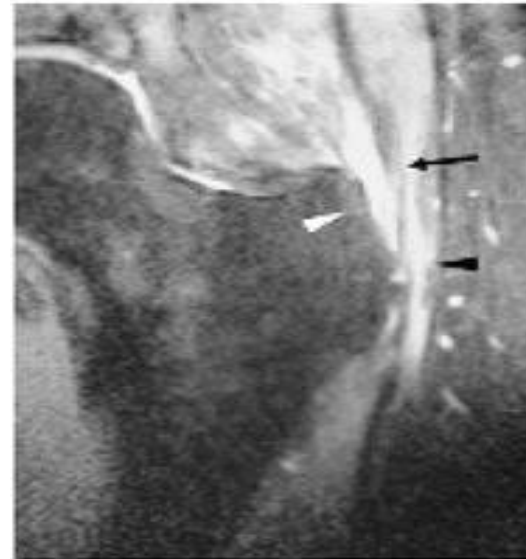
Trochanteric Bursitis/Gluteal Tendinopathy

Investigations:

- Ultrasound
- MRI

Treatment:

- Rest, massage, NSAIDs
- Corticosteroid inj into Bursa
- Strengthening of gluteal and pelvic stabilising muscles
- If moderate tendinopathy – autologous blood injections



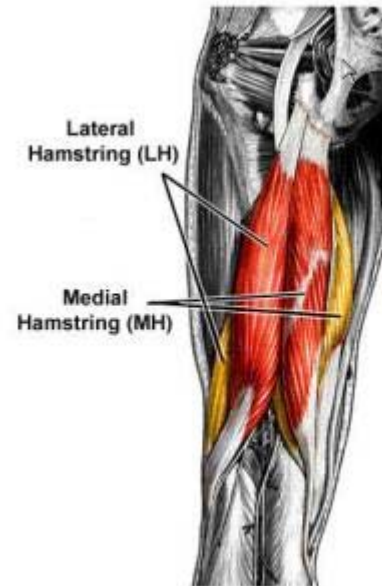
Buttock Pain

1. Hamstring Tendinopathy
2. Referred from Lumbar Spine



Hamstring Tendinopathy

- May occur near the ischial tuberosity after an inadequately treated tear or more commonly as a result of overuse
- Occurs either at:
 - the attachment site
 - Within the tendon
 - Musculotendinous junction



Hamstring Tendinopathy

Clinical:

- Usually insidious onset of buttock pain aggravated by running, stairs and prolonged sitting

Examination:

- Localised tenderness
- Pain on passive stretch or resisted contraction of the hamstring

Investigation:

- Ultrasound or MRI

Treatment:

- Rest, massage
- Physiotherapy – strengthening of core and pelvic stabilising muscles, eccentric strengthening of the hamstring
- Autologous Blood Injections

Lumbar-related Buttock Pain

- May or may not be back pain
- Us referred from either the disc or facet joint



Lumbar-related Buttock Pain

Presentation:

- Diffuse buttock pain often aggravated with prolonged sitting

Examination:

- Lumbrosacral stiffness or tenderness
- Positive slump
- Painfree hamstring stretch or resisted hamstring contraction

Investigation:

- MRI

Lumbar-related Buttock Pain

Treatment:

- Physiotherapy – lumbrosacral mobilisation, soft tissue therapy progressing to strengthening of core muscles
- NSAIDS
- CT guided nerve root or facet joint injections

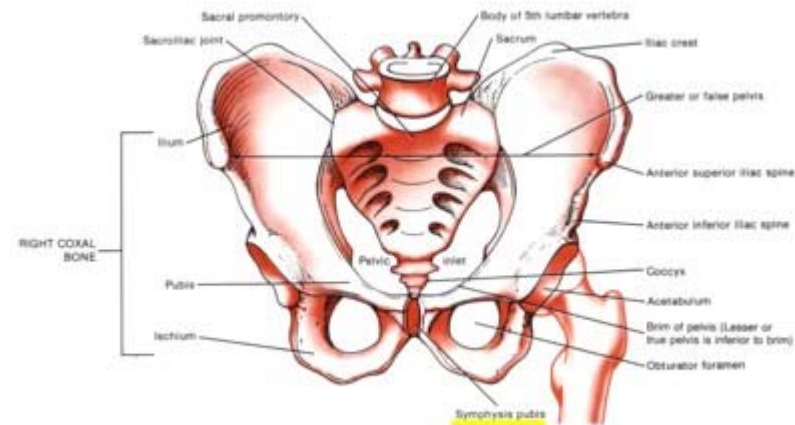


Osteitis Pubis

- Inflammation of pubic symphysis
- Rarely isolated – us assoc with:
 - Adductor tendinopathy &/or
 - Rectus Abdominus tendinopathy

Often with underlying:

- FAI
- Pelvic Instability



Osteitis Pubis

Presentation:

- Activity related unilateral or bilateral groin pain

Examination:

- Tenderness of pubis symphysis and pubic bone
- Often with:
 - Tenderness at the adductor tubercle
 - Superior pubis – insertion of rectus abdominis
 - Generalised muscle tightness – iliopsoas, adductor, rectus abdominis
- Positive Squeeze Test
- Lumbopelvic weakness



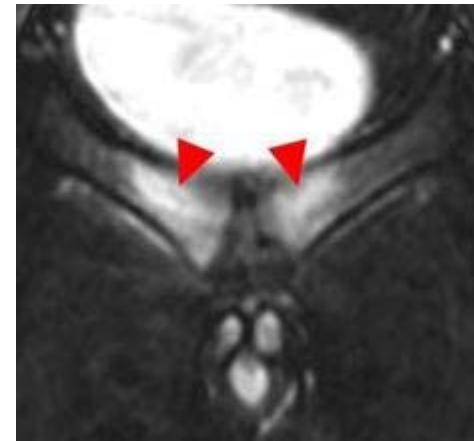
Osteitis Pubis

Investigations:

- MRI – gold standard
- Bonescan – may be negative

Treatment:

- Rest
- Massage
- Strengthening of lumbopelvic muscles
- Corticosteroid – pubic symphysis, adductor tendon sheath
- Prolotherapy
- Surgery
- Graduated return to sport when painfree



Knee

1. Patellofemoral Inflammation
2. Patella tendinopathy
3. Fat Pad Inflammation



Patellofemoral Inflammation

= inflammation bw the patella & underlying femur

■ Us associated with maltracking of the patella within the femoral trochlea

■ Possible Contributing factors:

- Weak gluteal muscles
- Weak VMO muscle
- Tight VL, ITB and lateral structures
- Pronation

Patellofemoral Inflammation

Presentation:

- Anterior knee pain often aggravated by:
 - Prolonged sitting
 - Walking downstairs or hills
 - running
- Occasional swelling

Examination:

- Tenderness underneath the patella
- Lat tracking patella
- Signs of underlying cause



Patellofemoral Inflammation

Investigations:

- Us not required, but if not settling MRI

Treatment:

- Rest, NSAIDs
- Correction of underlying cause:
 - Physiotherapy – strengthening of gluteal and vmo muscles, stretching ITB and gluteal muscles
 - Podiatry – assessment and correction of biomechanics and footwear

Patella Tendinopathy

= inflammation and degeneration of the patella tendon

*patella = pulley bone within quadriceps tendon to give power on knee extension

*most common site is at the attachment of the patella tendon to the inf pole of the patella

*commonly seen in jumping sports, and sports requiring rapid changes in direction



Patella Tendinopathy

Presentation:

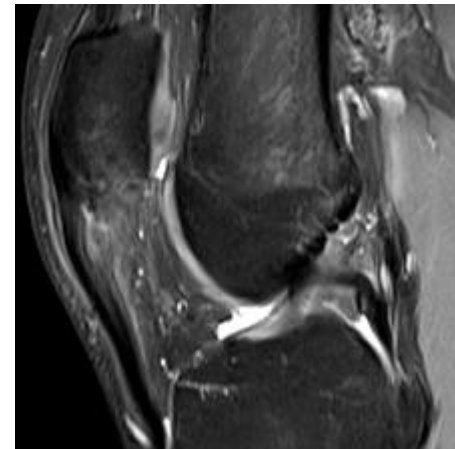
- Anterior knee pain aggravated by running, jumping, bounding

Examination:

- Tenderness localised to the inferior pole of the patella
- Pain with a deep lunge or jumping

Investigations:

- Ultrasound or MRI



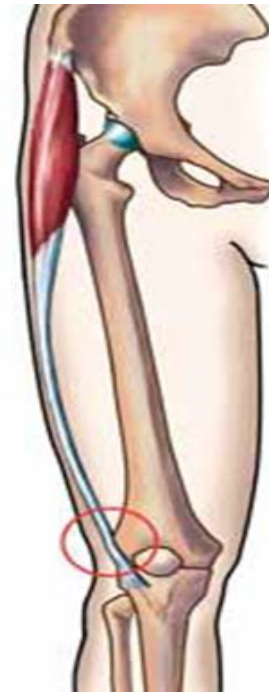
Patella Tendinopathy

Treatment:

- Rest, Ice, NSAIDs
- Massage
- Strengthening of gluteal and VMO muscles, progressing to eccentric loading of the tendon
- Corticosteroid injection administered by injection or ionophoresis
- Autologous Blood Injections
- Surgery – only after failure of conservative management

ITB Bursitis/Friction Syndrome

- Occurs as a result of friction between the ITB & underlying lateral femoral epicondyle
- Us occurs in runners and cyclists – 2' to repetitive knee flexion
- Associated with weak gluteal muscles



ITB Bursitis/Friction Syndrome

Presentation:

- Ache over the lateral knee aggravated by running
- Pain usually comes on at the same distance

Examination:

- Tenderness over the lateral epicondyle of the femur
- Repeated flex/extension of the knee reproduces the pain

Investigations:

*if required

- US or MRI – thickening of the ITB over the lateral femoral condyle often with an associated collection of fluid

ITB Bursitis/Friction Syndrome

Treatment:

- Rest, NSAIDs, ice
- Massage and Stretching – ITB & Gluteal Muscles
- Corticosteroid injection into the ITB bursa
- Strengthening of the Gluteal and VMO muscles
- Correction of biomechanical abnormalities – podiatrist
- Surgery – excise bursa & release ITB if failure of conservative management

Shin/Calf Pain

1. Shin Splints
2. Stress Fracture
3. Chronic Exertional Compartment Syndrome



Tibial Tenoperiostitis (Shin Splints)

= inflammatory, traction associated pain on the medial aspect of the leg esp in running sports

■ Contributing factors:

- Excessive pronation
- Muscle weakness – calves, gluteal
- Incorrect shoes
- Increased load
- Inappropriate running surface – hard, uneven



Tibial Tenoperiostitis (Shin Splints)

Presentation:

- Diffuse pain along the medial border of the tibia which us warms up, but aches after

Examination:

- Diffuse tenderness & thickening along the posteromedial border of the tibia
- Often assoc calf tightness
- Assoc muscle weakness – gluteal, calf

Investigations:

- Xray – nad
- Bonescan/MRI – diffuse increase in activity



Tibial Tenoperiostitis (Shin Splints)

Treatment:

- Rest, ice, NSAIDs
- Cross train – swim, bike, pool run
- Massage – calf muscles, periosteal border
- Physiotherapy – strengthen gluteal, calf muscles etc
- Podiatry – assessment & correction of biomechanics & footwear
- Graduated return to activity

Chronic Exertional Compartment Syndrome

- Defined as an increased pressure within a closed fibro-osseous space causing reduced blood flow leading to ischaemic pain
- Thought repetitive overuse may lead to fibrosis & reduced elasticity of the fascia surrounding the muscles – leading to an inability for the muscle to expand with exercise



Chronic Exertional Compartment Syndrome

Presentation:

- Increasing pain and tightness with exercise us dissipating within mins of ceasing (maybe achey for up to 30 min)
- If moderate-severe paraesthesiae or motor weakness with exertion
- Painfree at rest

Examination:

- At Rest – unremarkable
- With Exertion – palpable tenseness within the muscle compartment

Chronic Exertional Compartment Syndrome

■ Compartments involved:

□ Anterior

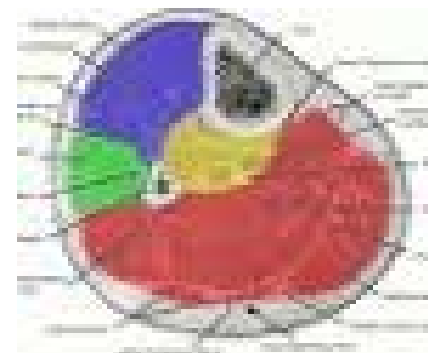
- Anterolateral pain

□ Lateral

- Lateral pain often with paraesthesiae on dorsum of foot (sup peroneal n)

□ Deep Posterior

- Posteromedial pain



Chronic Exertional Compartment Syndrome

Investigations:

- Intracompartmental pressure measurements – assess peak pressure and time to recovery (N <10 mmHg, Pos >25mmg Hg)

Treatment:

- Mild – Mod: deep massage, correction of biomechanical abnormalities
- Mod – severe: surgical release – fasciotomy +/- fasciectomy (80-90% success rate)

Achilles Tendinopathy

= thickest & strongest tendon in body

*combined tendon of gastrocnemius & soleus



Achilles Tendinopathy

- 2 main sites:
 - Mid body
 - Insertional
- Cause: increased training volume or intensity
- DDx:
 - Achilles bursitis (bw achilles insertion & skin)
 - Retrocalcaneal bursitis (bw post calc & achilles insertion)

Achilles Tendinopathy

■ Presentation:

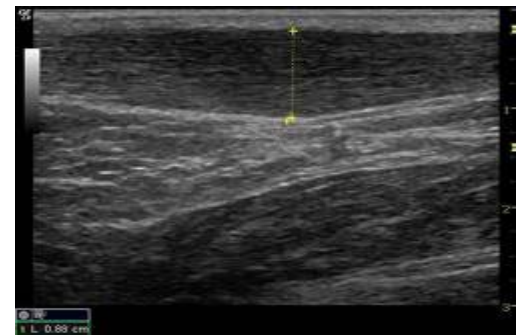
- Post heel pain & stiffness in am & post activity
- Pain init warms up but aches after activity

■ Examination:

- Swollen/thickened achilles
- Pain with heel raise or hop
- Often pronated, tight calves etc

■ Investigations:

- US or MRI – abnormal signal in tendon, often with partial tearing
- Doppler US – assess degree of abnorm vascularity
?sclerotherapy



Achilles Tendinopathy

****Treatment** – important to differentiate bw mid achilles and insertional achilles tendinopathy

1. Mid Achilles:

- Correct causes – podiatrist, massage, ice, stretching
- Physiotherapy – heel drop program
- Sclerosing injections – if considerable neovascularisation
- Autologous blood injections
- Other – GTN, ESWT, csi

Achilles Tendinopathy

2. Insertional:

- Us coexist with: retrocalcaneal bursitis & Haglund's Deformity (prominence of posterolateral calcaneum)
- Prominence of the calcaneum predisposes to mechanical irritation of the bursa & tendon
- Furthermore – strain on the tendon insertion with dorsiflexion



Achilles Tendinopathy

2. Insertional

■ Treatment:

• Must treat all 3 contributing factors:

- RC bursitis – NSAIDs, csi, silicone heel sleeves, remove heel counters
- Achilles - ?sclerotherapy ?ABI
- Haglunds deformity

*Often requires surgery

Ankle

1. Impingement – Anterior and Posterior
2. Peroneal Tendinopathy
3. Tibialis Posterior Tendinopathy

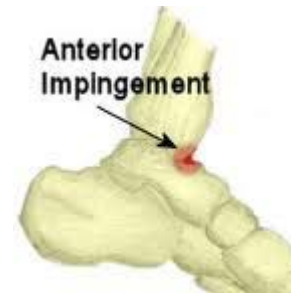


Anterior Ankle Impingement

= additional soft or bony tissue is trapped between the tibia and talus during dorsiflexion

■ Causes:

- Exostoses on ant rim of tibia & upper ant surface of neck of talus due to repetitive extreme dorsiflexion (osseous impingement)
- Ligamentous injuries following inversion injuries – imp of damaged ligament fibres



Anterior Ankle Impingement

■ Presentation:

- Ant ankle pain worse with activity – esp running, stairs, kicking
- Stiffness

■ Examination:

- Tenderness – ant ankle joint
- Restricted dorsiflexion
- Lunge – ant pain

■ Investigations:

- Xray – exostoses, and lunge Xrays – bony impingement



Anterior Ankle Impingement

■ Treatment:

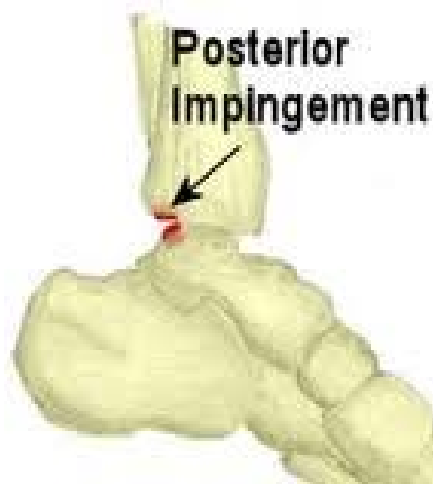
- Rest, heel lift, NSAIDS
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry ?taping ?orthotics
- Csi
- Surgery - arthroscope



Posterior Ankle Impingement

= impingement of post talus by the post tibia in plantarflexion

- often an associated and enlarged posterior talar tubercle or an os trigonum is present



Posterior Ankle Impingement

- Presentation:

- Pain & tenderness at post aspect of ankle with pos post impingement test

- Investigation:

- Xray

- Treatment:

- Rest, NSAIDs
- Corticosteroid injection
- Surgery – often requires debridement & removal of os trigonum

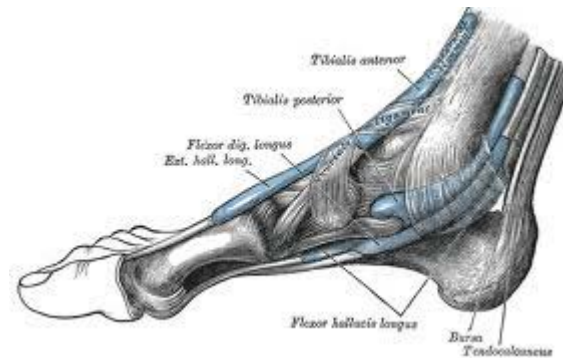


Tibialis Posterior Tendinopathy

= inverts the subtalar joint & is the main stabiliser of the hindfoot. Also maintains the arch

■ Causes:

- Overuse
- Occas traumatic
- Inflammatory – RhA, seroneg arthropathies



Tibialis Posterior Tendinopathy

■ Presentation:

- Medial ankle/foot pain – often worse in am and warms up, but as severity increases becomes worse with activity
- Occas swelling

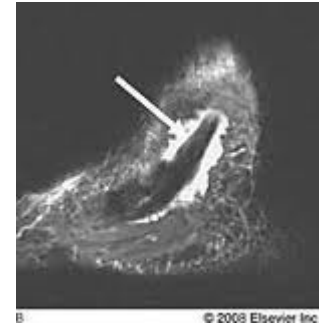
■ Examination:

- Tenderness along tendon esp post and inf to med malleolus
- Resisted inversion – pain and weakness
- Single Heel Raise (from behind) – lack of inversion of hind foot

Tibialis Posterior Tendinopathy

■ Investigations:

- MRI or US – MRI most sensitive
- Bloods – if suspect an inflammatory tenosynovitis – serological and inflam markers



■ Treatment:

- Mild – ice, rest, podiatry, physiotherapy – init electrotherapy and later strengthening
- Mod – immobilise in cam walker then as for mild
- Severe: surgical reconstruction often required

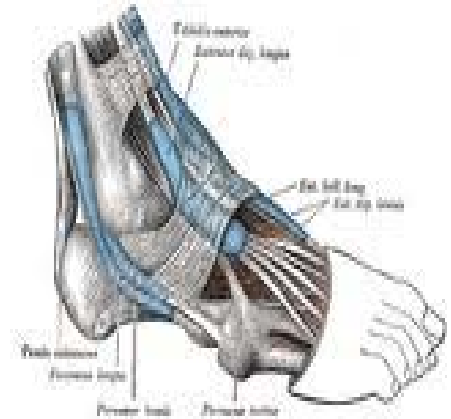
Peroneal Tendinopathy

* Either peroneal longus, brevis or both

* Primary evertors and dorsiflex the ankle

■ Causes:

- Traumatic – post ankle inversion injury
- Overuse:
 - Excessive eversion – running on slopes
 - Excessive pronation
 - Soft footwear
 - Tight ankle plantarflexors (soleus) increasing the load on the peroneals
- Inflammatory



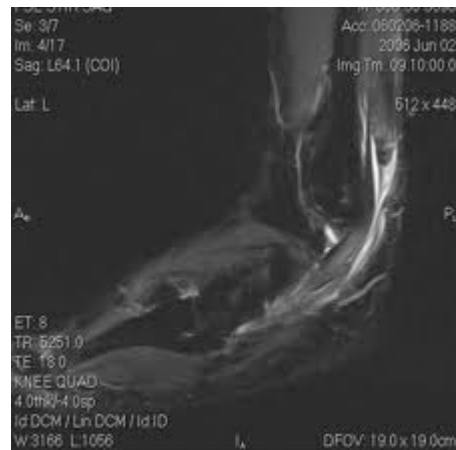
Peroneal Tendinopathy

- Presentation:
 - Lateral ankle or heel pain aggrav with activity
- Examination:
 - Local tenderness over the peroneal tendons
 - Painful passive inversion & resisted eversion
 - Often xs pronation or stiff subtalar joint
- Investigations:
 - MRI or US – MRI gold standard
 - Blood tests – if suspect inflammatory arthropathy

Peroneal Tendinopathy

■ Treatment:

- Mild – ice, rest, podiatry, physiotherapy – init electrotherapy and later strengthening
- Mod – immobilise in cam walker then as for mild
- Severe: surgical reconstruction often required

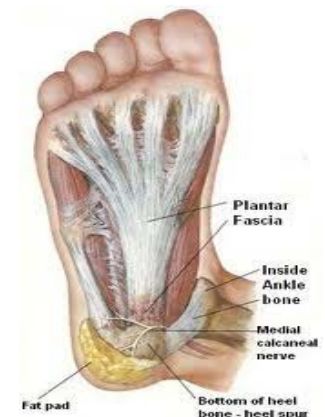


Plantar Fasciitis

= overuse condition of the pl fascia at its attachment to the calcaneus

■ Causes:

- Pes cavus (high arches) or Pes planus (flat) – increased strain on pl fascia as it tries to maintain a stable arch during gait (planus) or inability to evert the heel to absorb the shock (cavus)
- Inappropriate footwear
- Activities involving max plantarflexion with simultaneous dorsiflexion of 1st mtp joint – dancing, running
- Tight calves, hamstrings etc



Plantar Fasciitis

■ Presentation:

- Medial heel pain & stiffness that init warms up, but aches post activity
- Morning and post rest stiffness
- As worsens – pain increases with wt bearing

■ Examination:

- Localised tenderness at med calcaneal tuberosity
- Tight pl fascia with pain with stretching
- Assoc – supination, pronation, muscle tightness

Plantar Fasciitis



■ Investigations:

- US – swelling of pl fascia =/- microtears
- Xray – not necessary – may reveal spurs, but spurs DO NOT cause pain

■ Treatment:

- Rest, ice, NSAIDs, massage – ball, frozen bottle
- Corticosteroid injection
- Podiatry – biomechanical correction
- Other: ESWT, night splints etc
- Surgery – endoscopic pl fascia release

QUESTIONS:

