

Iliopsoas



- TVP of L1-L5, lateral surfaces of l_x vertebra and intervertebral discs
- Iliacus - iliac fossa
- Lesser Trochanter
- Hip flex and ext rot
- Bursa lies between iliopsoas musculotendinous junction and bony pelvis

A clicky Hip

- Consider muscular/tendinous causes if it happens everytime the hip moves
- Tightness of iliopsoas is the usual cause (rubbing of tendon over underlying bony landmarks - anterior capsule of femoral head, lesser trochanter, iliopectineal eminence and ASIS)
- Painless = asymptomatic internal snapping hip
- Painful = painful internal snapping hip, internal coxa saltans, iliopsoas tendinitis, iliopsoas tendinosis, iliopsoas tendinopathy, bursitis, iliopsoas syndrome
- External snapping hip should be considered too - iliotibial band/glut max tightness - rubs over GT
- Intraarticular snapping = loose bodies, labral tears, dislocation

Causes

- Irritation of tendon by injury (direct or eccentric contraction)/repetitive microtrauma (flex and ext rot)
- Dancers, jumpers, football, running, hurdling, gymnastics, rowing susceptible
- Adolescents (growth spurts - inflexibility of the hip flexors)

Hx

- Palpable/audible snapping provoked by flex and ext of the hip
- Deep groin pain radiates to anterior hip/thigh
- Can have altered gait/weakness if chronic
- Lower back pain
- Difficulty standing straight

PE

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- Hip in flex and ext rot and ant pelvic tilt (can be present in hip effusion - open packed position)
 - Gait - shortened stride length and increased knee flexion
 - TTP femoral triangle, lesser trochanter
 - Pain/limited PROM hip ext, AROM/RROM discomfort
 - +ve Thomas test
 - +ve ASLR
 - Weakness/pain during iliopsoas strength test - look for patient rotating their body (core weakness)
 - Assess for hip abductor weakness, LCS, spinal instability, dysfunctional breathing, foot hyperpronation
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DDx

- Colon cancer
- Diverticulitis
- Prostatitis
- Salpingitis
- Renal calculi
- Appendicitis
- Psoas abscess
- Tendon avulsion
- Muscle contusion
- Myotendinous strain
- Femoral bursitis
- Hip OA
- Lx disc

Imaging

- Not usually needed unless red flags (bony pathology, f#, avulsion, OA)
- Cause of anterior groin pain from GI, GU systems
- Rule out SCFE if child/adolescent
- US/MRI for bursitis/ iliopsoas tendinopathy

Management

- Exercise (hip flex & rotators - psoas inhibition, trunk curl, bum walk)
- If abductor weakness/spinal instability consider single leg squats, monster walks, core strengthening
- Reassurance and education
 - Cross friction massage
 - Acupuncture
 - Laser therapy
 - Ice
 - Manipulation/mobilisation - LP and Lx
 - STW iliopsoas
 - Avoidance of prolonged hip flex (sitting)
 - Orthotics for hyperpronators
 - LL inequality
 - Steroid injections and Sx if no better

