





# Reference Review And Discussion On Orthoses &

## Hip: Developmental Hip Dysplasia Legg-Calve-Perthes

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### Reference Review And Discussion On Orthoses



#### Hip: Developmental Hip Dysplasia

Edward A. Hurvitz MD

#### Description

Legg-Calve-Perthes disease is an avascular necrosis of the hip in children.

Etiology/Types

Temporary loss of blood flow to the femoral head

Epidemiology

- \_Children aged 4 to 10
- \_Male:female 5:1
- International incidence 1 in 1200
- \_Bilateral in 10% to 12%

#### Pathogenesis

- Death and necrosis of femoral head
- Related to pattern of vascular supply running alongside the femoral neck—can be sensitive to changes in the growth plate and other problems
- Changes with age, which allows for healing by molding with the femoral head positioned in the acetabulum
- Inflammation and irritation

#### **Risk Factors**

- Malnutrition
- \_Hypercoaguable states
- Low birthweight
- Older parents
- Delayed bone age
- Does not appear to be genetic

#### **Clinical Features**

- Child walks with a limp
- Pain in groin, also in thigh and knee
- \_Muscle spasm around hip

#### Natural History

- Can have complete recovery, especially in younger children
- May lead to early arthritis and eventual joint replacement

#### Diagnosis

#### Differential diagnosis

- Transient synovitis
- \_Hip trauma
- \_Joint infection 25
- Slipped capital femoral epiphysis (generally seen in older children)
  *History*
- \_Limp, usually over a few weeks
- Pain in groin, starts mild over weeks or months
- Pain in other parts of leg—knee, thigh
- \_Often the child does not complain of pain until asked
  *Exam*
- Pain increases with stressing range of motion (ROM) of the hip
- \_ROM of hip decreased
- \_Antalgic limp

#### **Pitfalls**

Missing diagnosis with knee pain presentation

#### Red Flags

Continuing pain and symptoms, or lack of improvement of x-rays, surgical treatment may be indicated

#### Treatment

Medical

Containment—position the hip to help the femoral head recover to as close to normal as possible. The goal is to keep the hip in the acetabulum as much as possible, while still allowing motion, which is needed for cartilage health. The hip should be kept in abduction as much as possible during recovery.

- \_Anti-inflammatory medication
- Traction, including home traction

#### Exercises

- ∎\_ROM
- Strengthen hip adductors, abductors, and rotators

Ambulation training without weightbearing— crutches, wheelchair use—moving back to weightbearing with healing

Therapy can begin immediately after diagnosis

#### **Modalities**

\_Hip abduction orthosis, such as a Scottish Rite Orthosis, or similar, can be worn during ambulation

Sometimes Petrie casts are used: hold the legs in abduction with a bar worked into the cast at the knees

#### Injection

Botulinum toxin may be useful to reduce adductor spasm and to improve positioning in braces and therapy compliance

#### Surgical

- Tendon lengthenings of contracted muscles
- Femoral or pelvic osteotomy for realignment. Plates and screws are used to hold alignment Complications
- Inadequate treatment and/or healing leads to immobility of the hip joint and decreased mobility Prognosis
- Most children return to normal activities in 18 months to 2 years
- \_Girls usually have more extensive involvement, and can have worse prognosis
- Problems may develop years later, leading to arthritis and joint replacement