

Femoroacetabular impingement: What is it, does it matter and what can we do to manage it?

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INTRODUCTION

The hip is commonly injured in young and middle-aged people

Hip commonly placed into positions of impingement in activity
(eg: 12 - 14% of all football injuries)

Walden 2005, Ekstrand 2011



INTRODUCTION

In susceptible people, this can result in impingement related pain
(and pathology)



What morphology is typically seen in FAI?

Normal

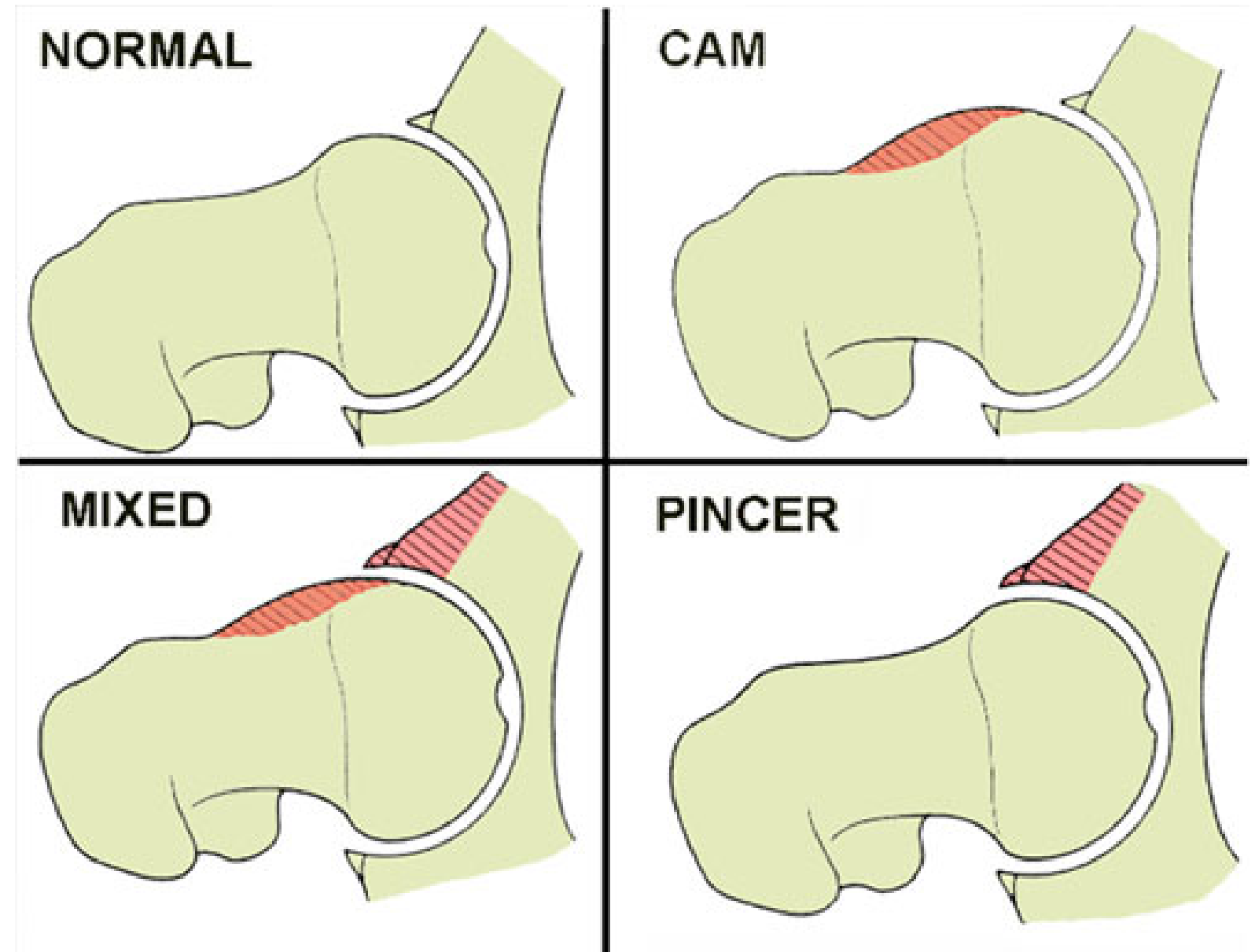
- scoop on NOF, acetabular anteversion

Cam

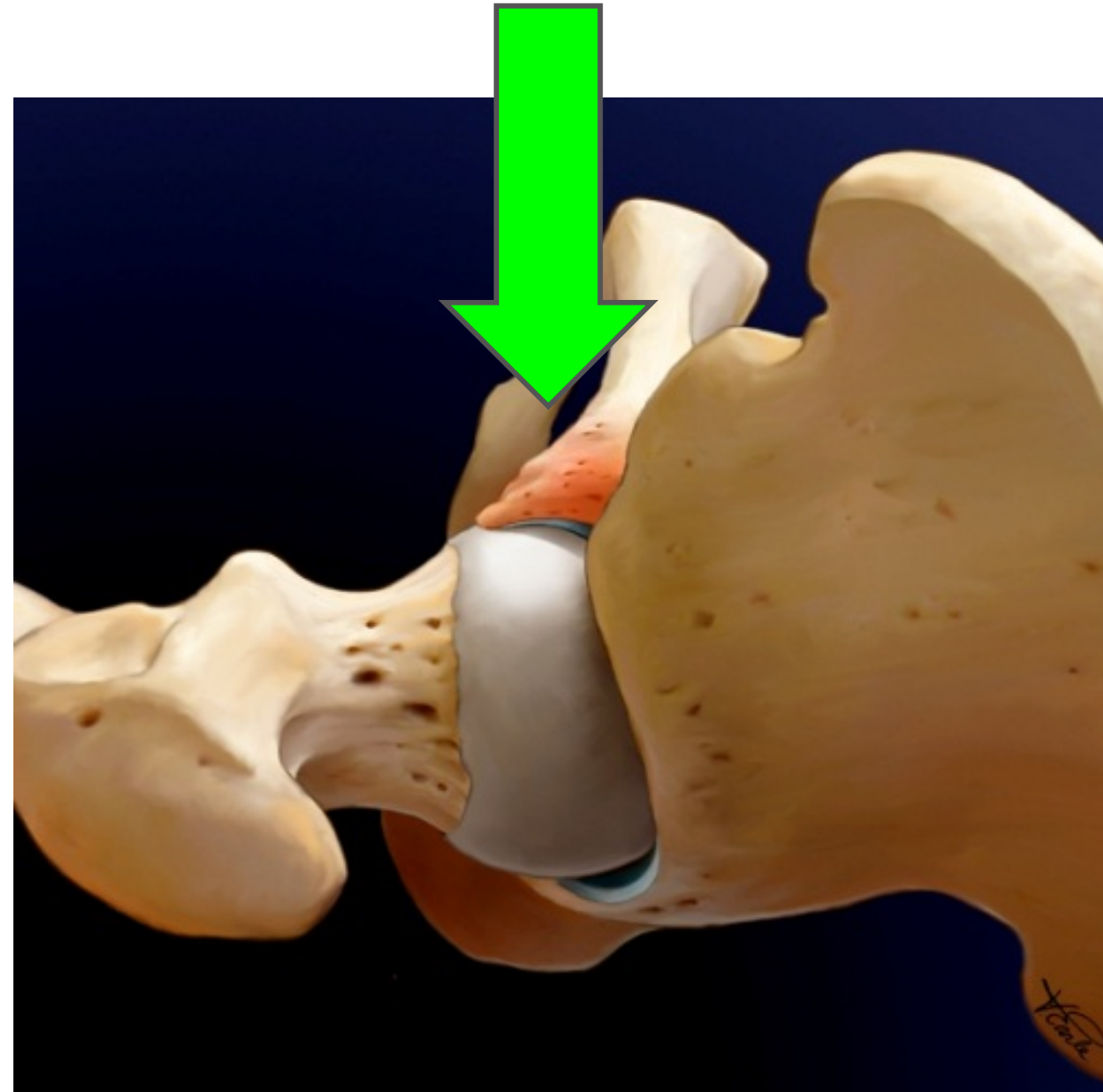
- bony growth on anterior/superior neck of femur

Pincer

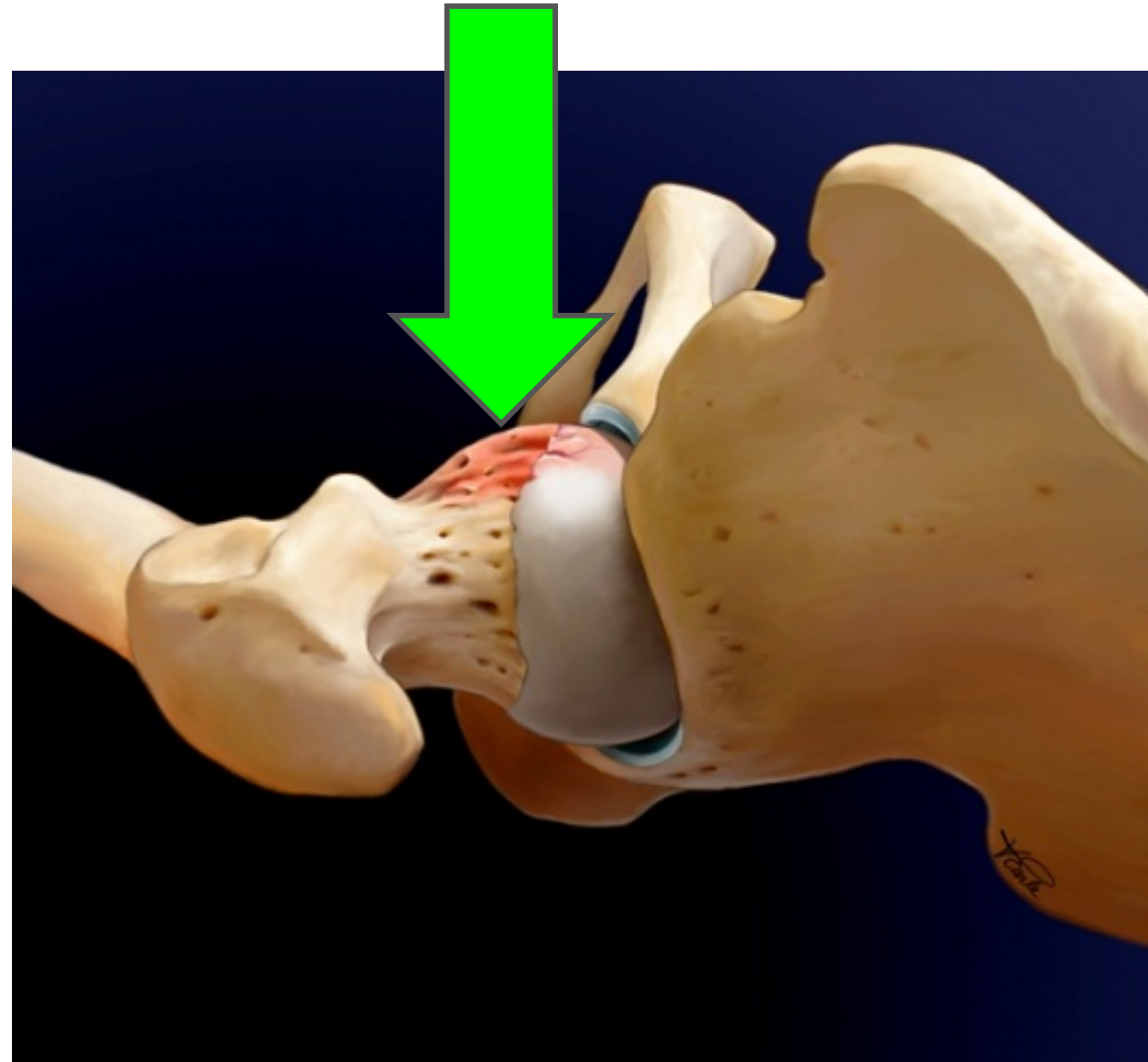
- Acetabular retroversion
- Deep socket



FAI - Pincer



FAI - Cam

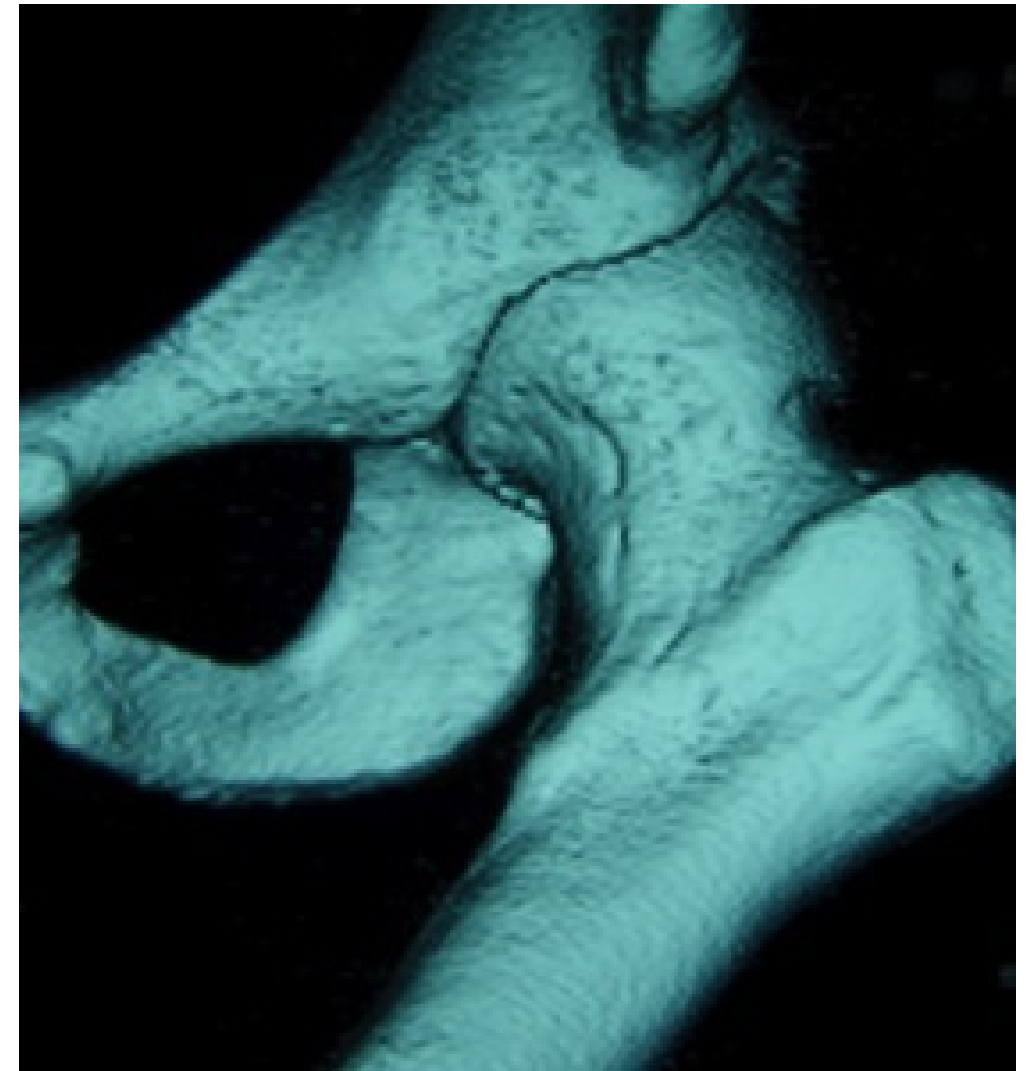


Is cam lesion a pathology?

Incidence

- ✓ 25% of population (Ganz et al 2003)
- ✓ 25-50% men, but 0-10% women
- ✓ 89% athletes, but 9% non athletic controls
- ✓ 88% bilateral deficits
- ✓ 23% of these painful
- ✓ 42% with cam also have pincer (Allen et al 2009)

Many people live with cam for a lifetime without symptoms.



Cam is **NOT** a pathology (Pollard 2010, Bardakos & Villar 2009, Byrd & Jones 2009, Croft et al 1991)

Cam creates FAI pathology when repetitive impingement (or major traumatic impingement) occurs

Impingement usually occurs in flexion and IR (+/- adduction)

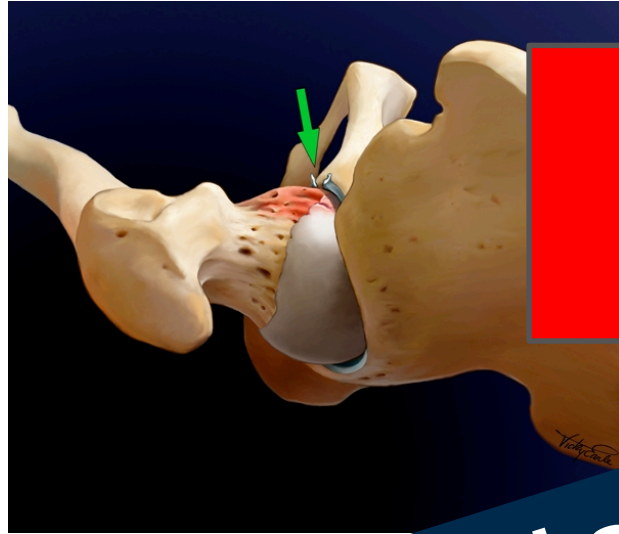


Cam lesion not FAI

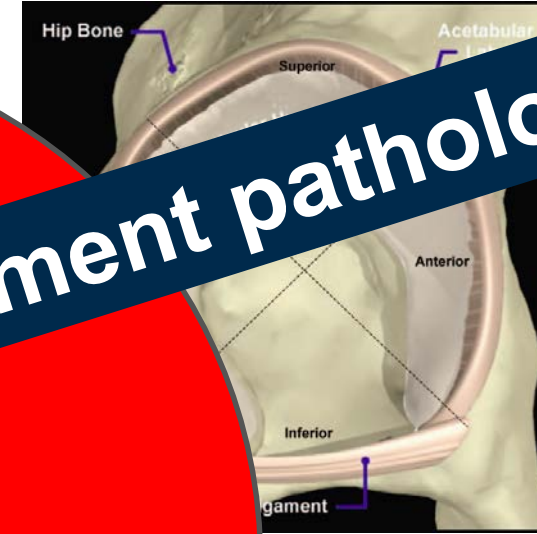
FAI refers to pain and pathology that occurs when cam lesion impinges on acetabular structures in susceptible people

Likely abnormal premature contact between femur and acetabulum leading to soft tissue pathology seen in FAI

Femoro-acetabular Impingement



Labral pathology



FAI = FAI and associated impingement pathologies

Chondropathy



**95% of patients with
cam also have chondral
and labral pathology**

Is there a standard definition of FAI?

The Warwick Agreement on femoroacetabular impingement syndrome (FAI syndrome): an international consensus statement

D R Griffin,^{1,2} E J Dickenson,^{1,2} J O'Donnell,^{3,4} R Agricola,⁵ T Awan,⁶ M Beck,⁷ J C Clohisy,⁸ H P Dijkstra,⁹ E Falvey,^{10,11} M Gimpel,¹² R S Hinman,¹³ P Hölmich,^{9,14} A Kassarian,^{15,16} H D Martin,¹⁷ R Martin,^{18,19} R C Mather,²⁰ M J Philippon,²¹ M P Reiman,²⁰ A Takla,^{3,22,23,24} K Thorborg,¹⁴ S Walker,²⁵ A Weir,^{9,26} K L Bennell²³

► Additional material is published online only. To view please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2016-096743>).

For numbered affiliations see end of article.

Correspondence to

Professor DR Griffin, Clinical Sciences Research Institute, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, Coventry, CV2 2DX, UK;

The Warwick Agreement on femoroacetabular impingement syndrome has been endorsed by the following 25 clinical societies: American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports and Exercise Medicine (ACPSEM), Australasian College of Sports and Exercise Physicians (ACSEP), Austrian Sports Physiotherapists, British Association of Sports and Exercise Medicine (BASEM), British Association of Sport Rehabilitators and Trainers (BASRaT), Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM), Danish Society of Sports Physical Therapy (DSSF), European College of Sports and Exercise Physicians (ECOSEP), European Society of Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery and Arthroscopy (ESSKA), Finnish Sports Physiotherapist Association (SUFT), German-Austrian-Swiss Society for Orthopaedic Traumatologic Sports Medicine (GOTS), International Federation of Sports Physical Therapy (IFSPT), International Society for Hip Arthroscopy (ISHA), Gruppo di Interesse Specialistico dell'A.I.F.I., Norwegian Association of Sports Medicine and Physical Activity (NIMF), Norwegian Sports Physiotherapy Association (FFI), Society of Sports Therapists (SST), South African Sports Medicine Association (SASMA), Sports Medicine

Warwick Consensus agreement

For a patient to be diagnosed with FAI Syndrome, must have

1. Positive imaging findings
2. Symptoms of hip or groin pain
3. Signs of FAI, including physical impairments and positive impingement tests.

Imaging findings for FAI

Imaging

Remember imaging is only indicative of morphology. Many people have “positive” imaging findings without symptoms.

To measure cam or pincer morphology, plain x-ray (AP pelvis and Dunn 45 view) is adequate and is the gold standard.

To measure associated pathology (eg: labral, chondral), cross-sectional imaging (eg: MRI) is the best option but not perfect

Typical presentation seen on imaging

What morphology is typically seen in FAI?

Normal

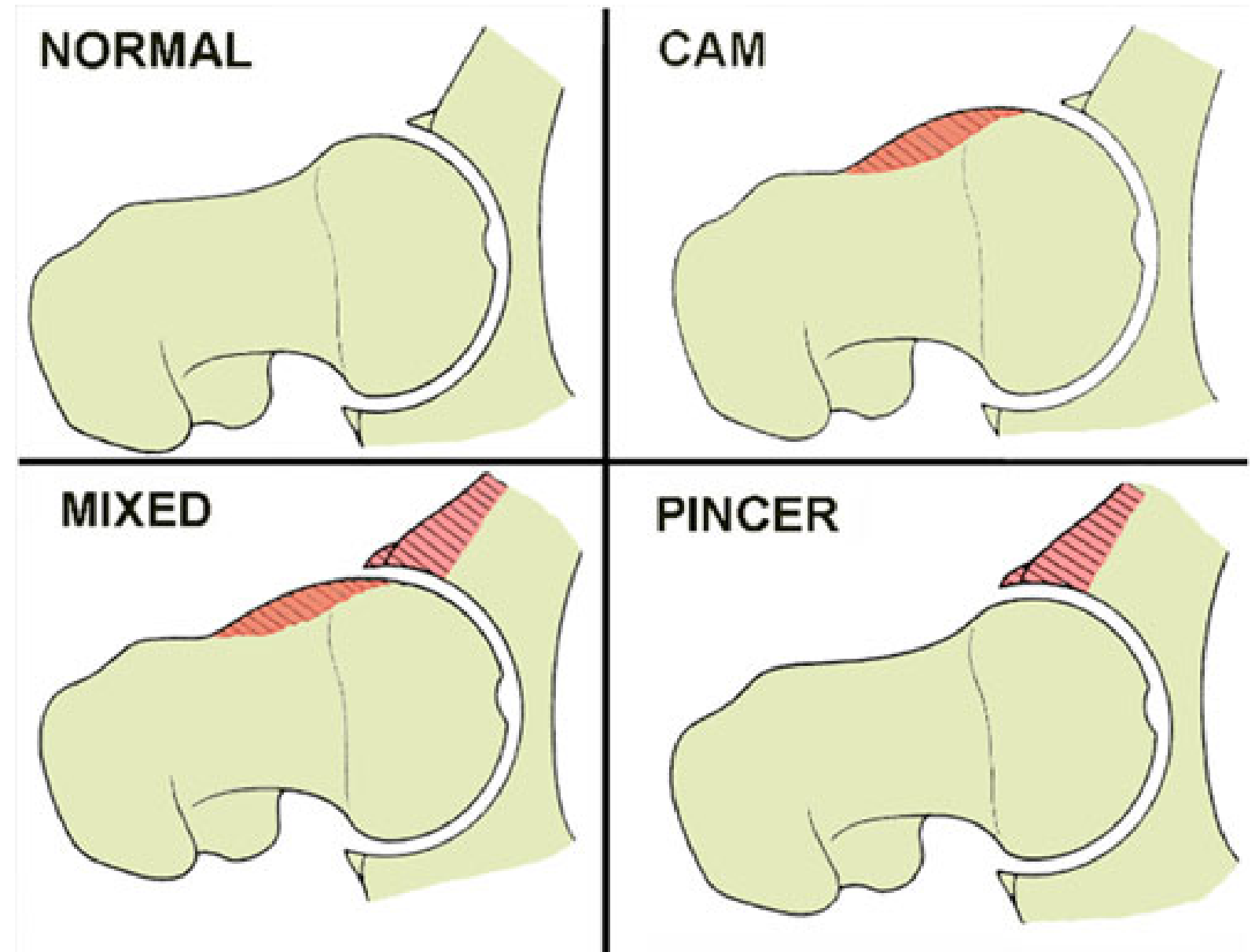
- scoop on NOF, acetabular anteversion

Cam

- bony growth on anterior/superior neck of femur

Pincer

- Acetabular retroversion
- Deep socket



Osteoarthritis and Cartilage



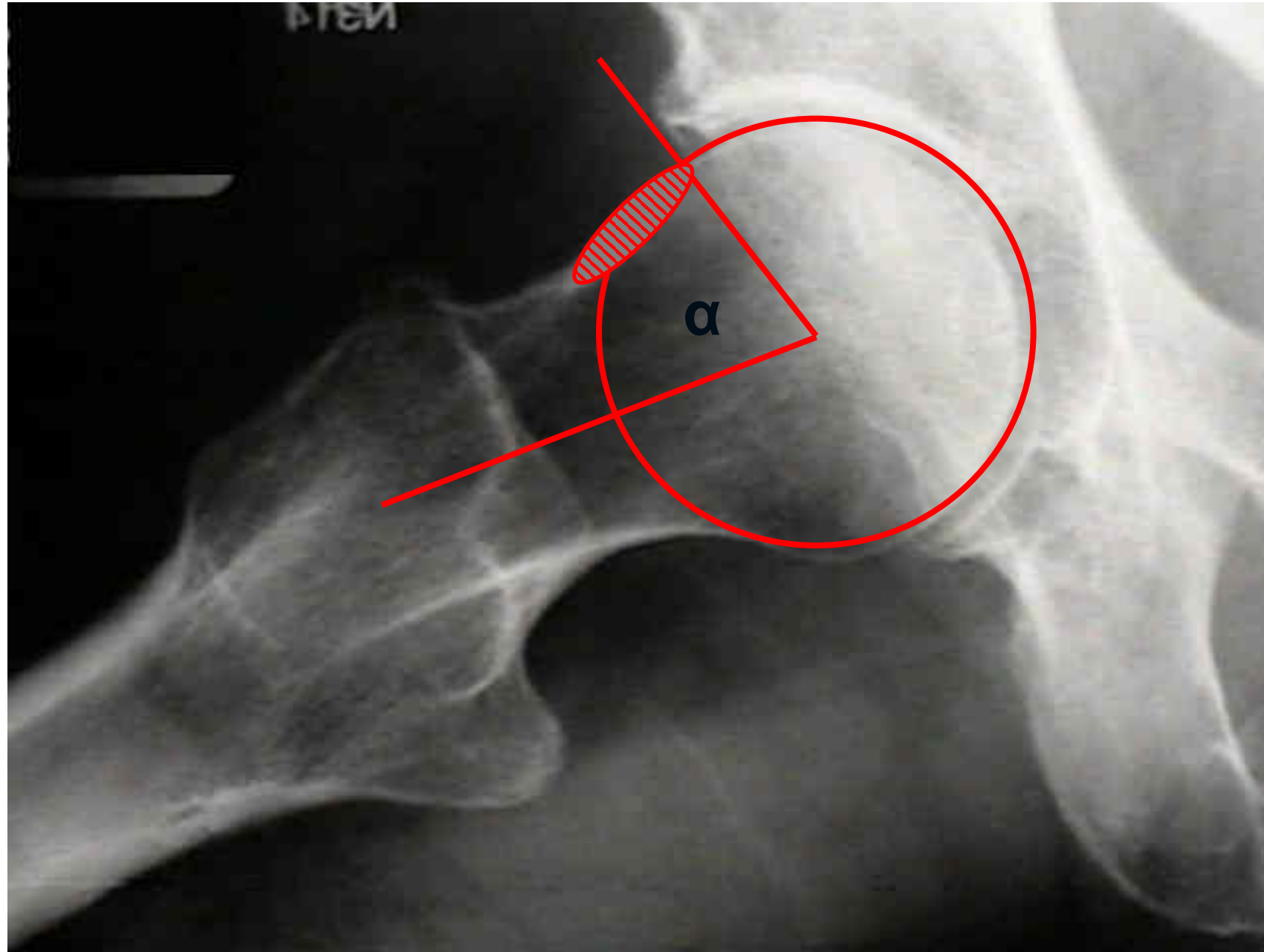
Cam impingement: defining the presence of a cam deformity by the alpha angle



Data from the CHECK cohort and Chingford cohort

R. Agricola^{†*}, J.H. Waarsing[†], G.E. Thomas[‡], A.J. Carr[‡], M. Reijman[†],
S.M.A. Bierma-Zeinstra^{†§}, S. Glyn-Jones[‡], H. Weinans^{†||¶}, N.K. Arden[‡]

How to measure cam lesion



What does the alpha angle mean?

Alpha angle > 60 = presence of cam lesion

Alpha angle > 78 = pathological cam deformity (associated with end stage OA) Agricola 2014 OAC

Alpha angle > 83 = OR 9.7 (4.7 to 19.8) for end stage OA within 5 years CHECK cohort Agricola 2012 ARD

For every degree increase in alpha angle, increased risk of end stage OA by 5% Chingford cohort, Nicholls 2011 AR, Thomas 2014 OAC

.....larger alpha angles = greater risk of hip OA

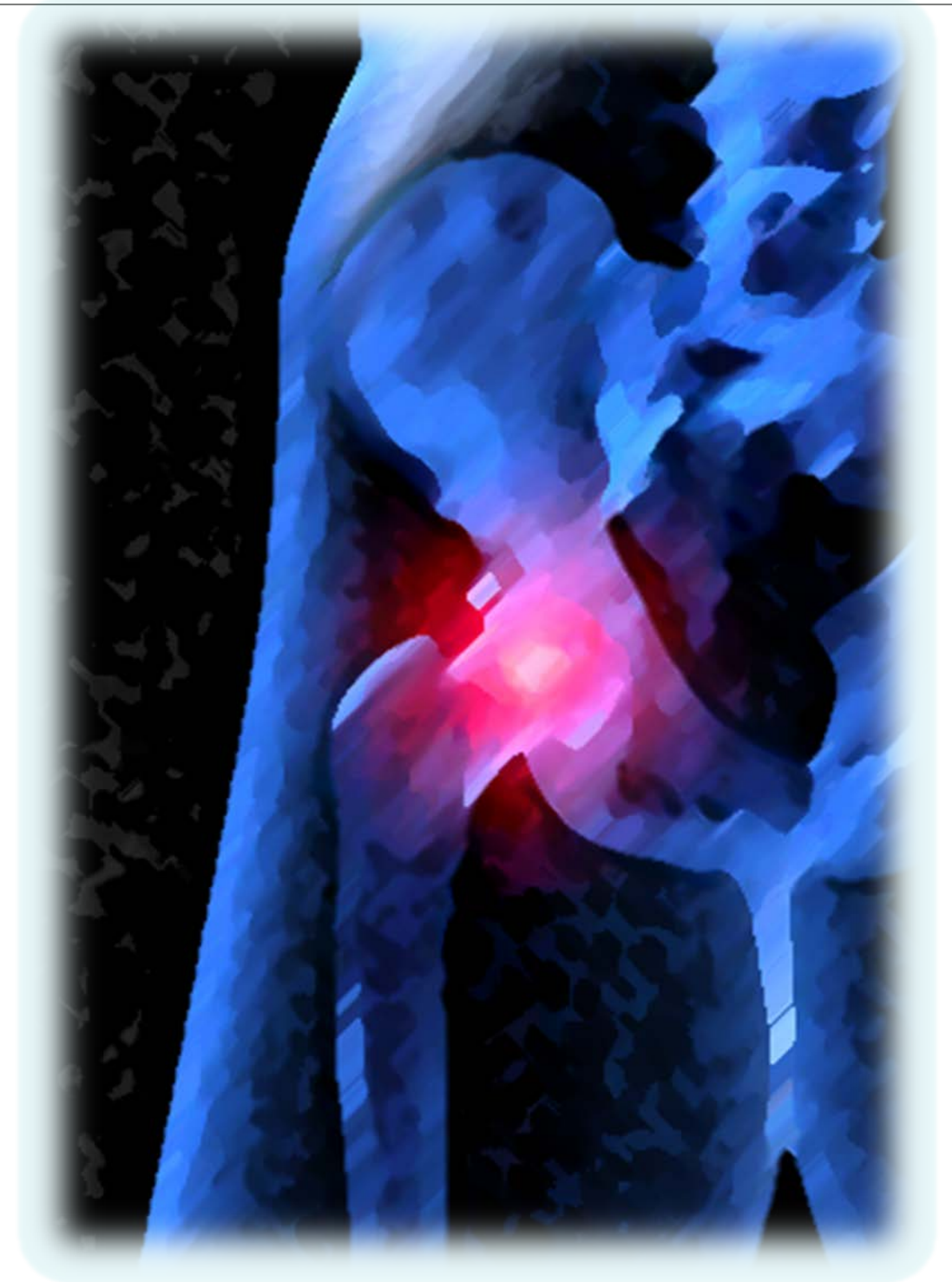
Signs and symptoms of FAI

What are signs and symptoms in FAI?

Patient-reported outcomes

Physical impairments

Impingement tests



Symptoms of FAI

Where is the pain coming from?

93-100% of hips with FAI had labral and/or cartilage lesions at surgery Clohisy 2013, Philippon 2009, O'Donnell 2010

Labrum contains nociceptors Dhollander 2014

40% greater likelihood of cartilage damage if cam FAI present = early hip OA Kemp 2014

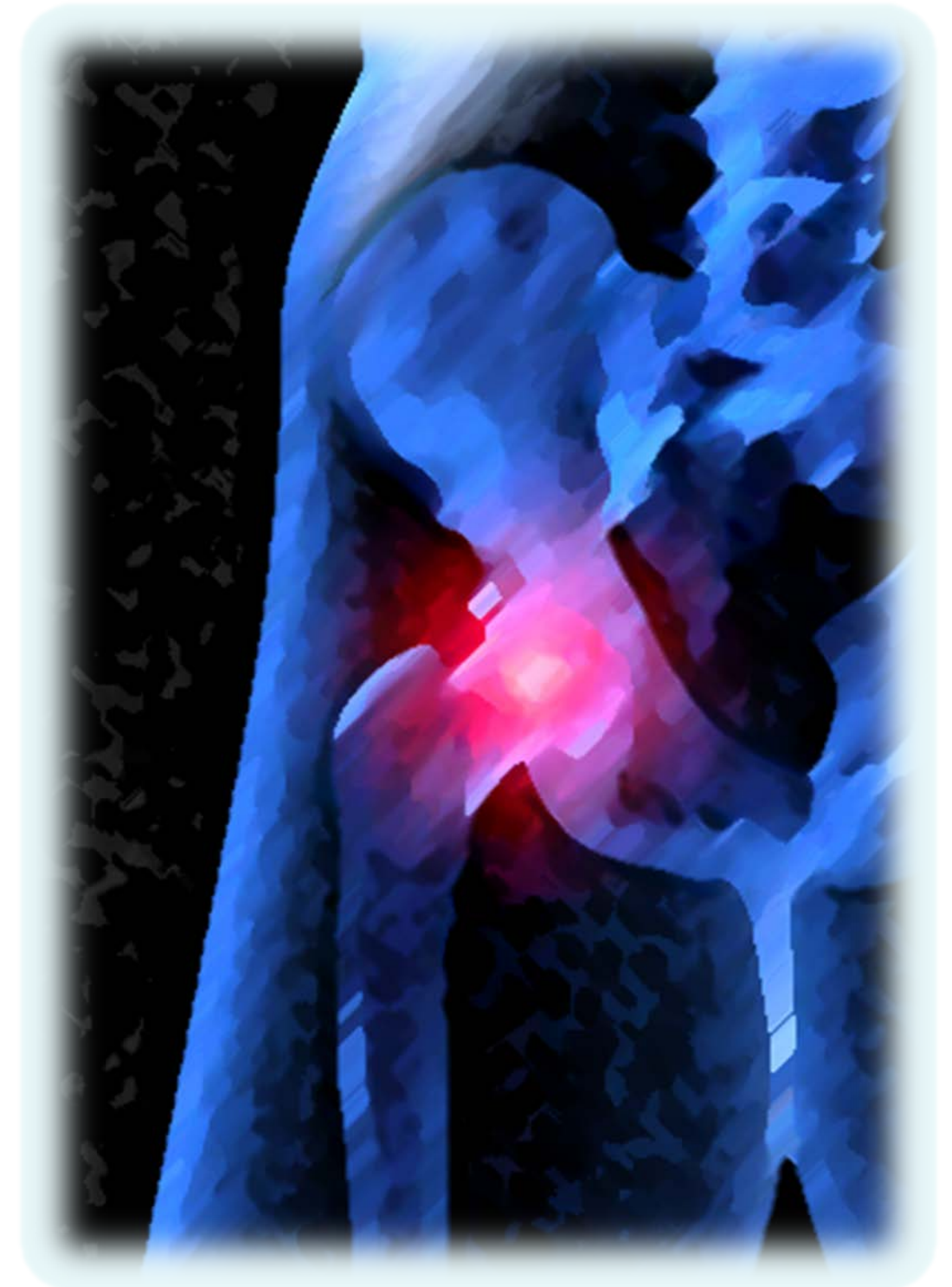
Synovitic pain recognised in OA Wenham 2010, Scanzello 2012

Two thirds patients with FAI have synovitis Clohisy 2013

Abutting bone may be pain source

Subchondral bone in early knee OA contains pain molecules Ogino 2009

Maybe bony impingement in hip causes pain?



How long has it hurt?

Descriptive Epidemiology of Femoroacetabular Impingement

A North American Cohort of Patients Undergoing Surgery

John C. Clohisy,^{*†} MD, Geneva Baca,[†] BA, Paul E. Beaulé,[‡] MD, Young-Jo Kim,[§] MD, PhD, Christopher M. Larson,^{||} MD, Michael B. Millis,[§] MD, David A. Podeszwa,[¶] MD

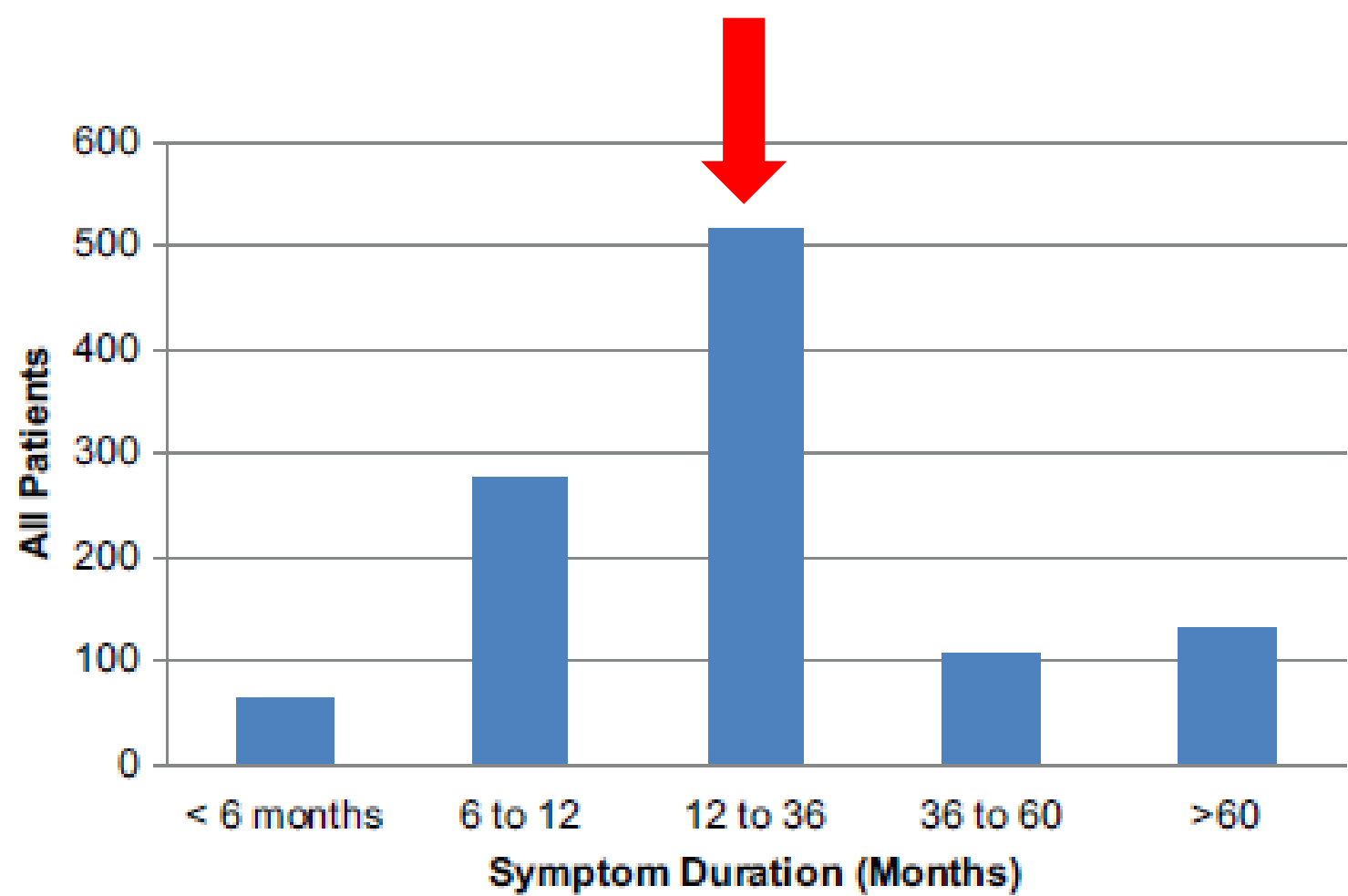


Figure 3. Duration of hip symptoms before surgical intervention.

Signs of FAI

Physical impairments in symptomatic femoroacetabular impingement: a systematic review of the evidence

Matthew D Freke,¹ Joanne Kemp,² Ida Svege,³ May Arna Risberg,⁴ Adam Semciw,⁵ Kay M Crossley⁶

► Additional material is published online only. To view please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2016-096152>).

¹Fraser Health Centre

ABSTRACT

Background Femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) and accompanying pathologies are associated with pain and reduced quality of life. Physical impairments can be associated with worse symptoms and may be an

INTRODUCTION

Femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) is a recognised cause of hip pain in young and middle-aged adults, and is associated with an increased risk of end-stage radiographic hip osteoarthritis (OA) and

Results

22 studies included (819 people, mean age range 24-37 years, clinical and radiological FAI)

Moderate quality

12 studies non-surgical, 10 studies surgical

17 studies ROM (12 goniometer, 5 simulated)

6 studies strength (6 HHD, 2 EMG, 1 muscle volume)

6 studies functional tasks (no. of strides, squat depth, dynamic balance, pelvic ROM)

Summary of results

Hip joint ROM did not differ symptomatic FAI v control participants.

Hip muscle strength and dynamic balance on 1 leg reduced FAI v control participants.

Hip joint ROM did not change between pre-intervention and post-intervention time points.

Hip muscle strength improved significantly from pre-hip to post-hip arthroscopy in a single case series.

**Do physical impairments predict
outcomes in people with chondrolabral
pathology?**



HIP

Is quality of life following hip arthroscopy in patients with chondrolabral pathology associated with impairments in hip strength or range of motion?

Joanne L. Kemp^{1,2} · Michael Makdissi³ · Anthony G. Schache⁴ · Caroline F. Finch¹ · Michael G. Pritchard⁵ · Kay M. Crossley²

Received: 9 February 2015 / Accepted: 15 June 2015

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Results

In people with chondrolabral pathology...

Greater hip flexion range was associated with better QoL outcomes (r^2 0.249 – 0.341; $p < 0.05$)

Greater hip adduction strength was associated with better QoL outcomes (r^2 0.227 – 0.317; $p < 0.05$)

Is the trunk impaired?

Effect of Changes in Pelvic Tilt on Range of Motion to Impingement and Radiographic Parameters of Acetabular Morphologic Characteristics

James R. Ross,^{*†‡} MD, Jeffrey J. Nepple,[§] MD, Marc J. Philippon,[§] MD, Bryan T. Kelly,^{||} MD, Christopher M. Larson,[¶] MD, and Asheesh Bedi,^{†||} MD
Investigation performed at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Chondrolabral patients had reduced performance in side bridge test compared to controls on surgical ($p=0.002$) and non-surgical ($p=0.001$) sides.
Side bridge predicted iHOT-33
(Adj $r^2 = 0.285$ to 0.481)

↑anterior pelvic tilt =
↑acetabular retroversion
↓IR@90 and FADIR ROM

Trunk control can alter
impingement



Trunk control can alter impingement
People with impingement pathology have reduced trunk control bilaterally
Trunk control may be an important target

Accepted Manuscript

Single leg squat performance is impaired one to two years after hip arthroscopy

Paula C. Charlton, PT, Adam L. Bryant, PhD, Joanne L. Kemp, PT, PhD, Ross A. Clark, PhD, Kay M. Crossley, PT, PhD, PT, PhD Natalie J. Collins

PII: S1934-1482(15)00913-2
DOI: [10.1016/j.pmrj.2015.07.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmrj.2015.07.004)
Reference: PMRJ 1544
To appear in: *PM&R*



Hip arthroscopy group vs controls (peak squat depth)

Greater hip adduction (mean difference 2.7° , 95% CI 0.7° to 4.8°)

Greater knee valgus (4.0° , 95% CI 1.0° to 7.1°)

Greater pelvic obliquity during single leg stance
(1.2° , 95% CI 0.1° to 2.3°).

Deficits in single leg squat performance exist
May increase hip joint impingement and
perpetuate symptoms.



[RESEARCH REPORT]

JOANNE L. KEMP, PT, PhD^{1,2} • MAY ARNA RISBERG, PT, PhD³ • ANTHONY G. SCHACHE, PT, PhD⁴
MICHAEL MAKDISSI, MD, PhD⁵ • MICHAEL G. PRITCHARD, MD, PhD⁶ • KAY M. CROSSLEY, PT PhD²

Patients With Chondrolabral Pathology Have Bilateral Functional Impairments 12 to 24 Months After Unilateral Hip Arthroscopy: A Cross-sectional Study

■ Hip arthroscopy is commonly performed in patients with
■ hip pain attributable to intra-articular conditions such



is limited evidence to underpin
the development of rehabilitation

RESULTS SUMMARY

Patients with hip chondrolabral pathology have bilateral impairments on functional performance tests 12-24 months after unilateral hip arthroscopy compared to controls.

In patients with chondrolabral pathology, greater strength in hip abduction and adduction were associated with better functional performance.

Better performance in the side bridge and hop tests were associated with better PROs

Overall evidence for signs of FAI (physical impairments)

Patients with FAI are impaired pre-op or no-op and remain impaired post-op compared to controls

Impairments include

1. reduced hip muscle strength (sex specific),
2. reduced functional task performance,
3. increased impingement in SL squat,
4. reduced trunk function,
5. reduced dynamic balance,
6. alterations in gait,
7. ??ROM (poor ROM = poor outcomes).

Special tests

Review

Diagnostic accuracy of clinical tests of the hip: a systematic review with meta-analysis

Michael P Reiman,¹ Adam P Goode,¹ Eric J Hegedus,² Chad E Cook,³ Alexis A Wright²

Review

Diagnostic accuracy of clinical tests for the diagnosis of hip femoroacetabular impingement/labral tear: a systematic review with meta-analysis

M P Reiman,^{1,2} A P Goode,¹ C E Cook,¹ P Hölmich,^{3,4} K Thorborg^{3,5}

► Additional material is published online only. To view please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bisports-2014-094302>).

ABSTRACT

Background Surgery for hip femoroacetabular impingement/acetabular labral tear (FAI/ALT) is exponentially increasing despite lacking investigation of

shown in the USA.⁸ Given that differential diagnosis for the patient presenting with hip or groin pain is still suggested to be a diagnostic challenge,⁹ focus on proper diagnosis would seem warranted. A sig-

FADIR (Flexion, Adduction, IR)



Sensitivity ranges 94 to 99

Specificity ranges 5 to 25

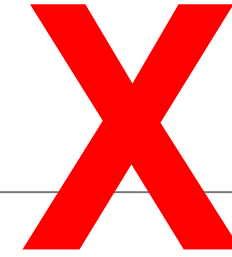
FADIR is a good test to rule people out as not having FAI (low risk of false negatives)

BUT

FADIR is not a good test to rule people in as having FAI (high risk of false positives)



FABER (Flexion, Abduction, ER)



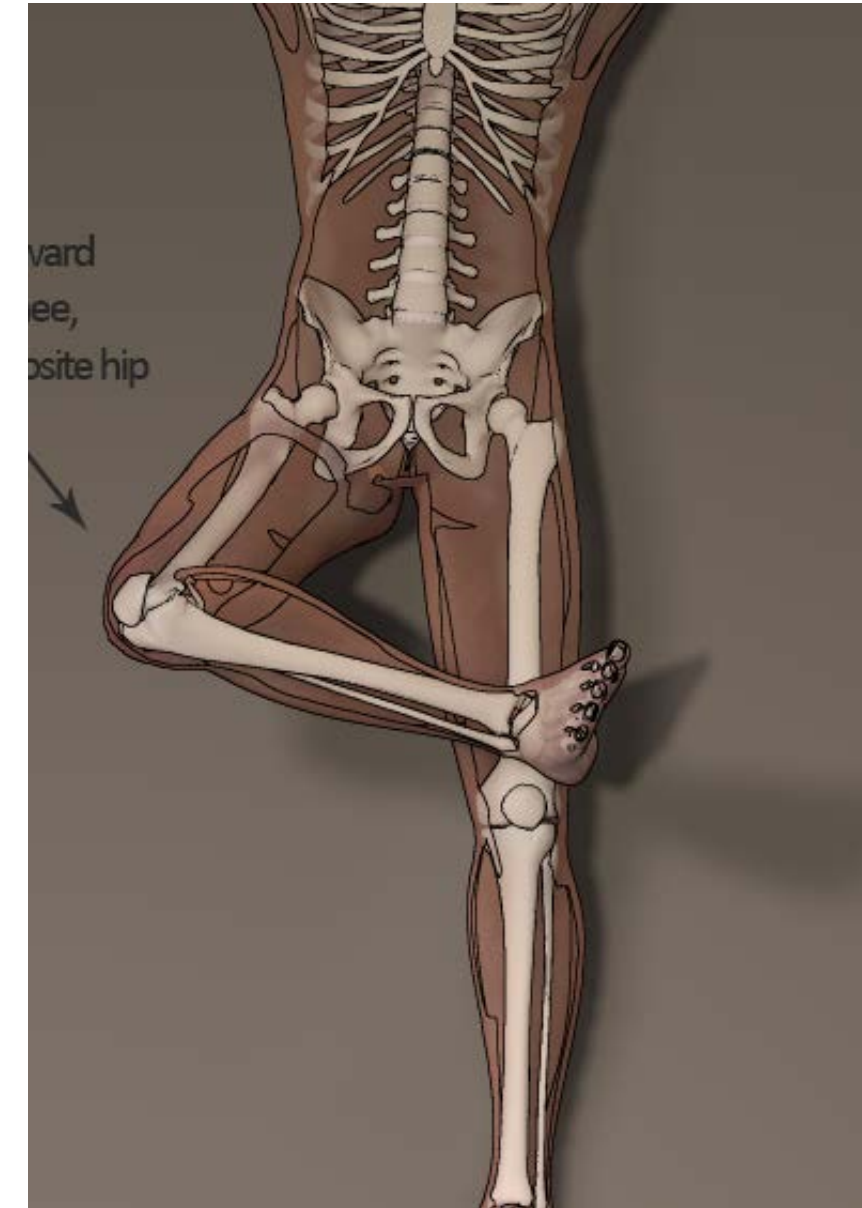
Sensitivity ranges 42 to 60

Specificity ranges 18 to 75

FABER is a poor to fair test to rule people out as not having FAI (high risk of false negatives)

AND

FABER is a poor to fair test to rule people in as having FAI (high risk of false positives)



Flexion IR overpressure



Sensitivity ranges 70 to 98

Specificity ranges 8 to 43

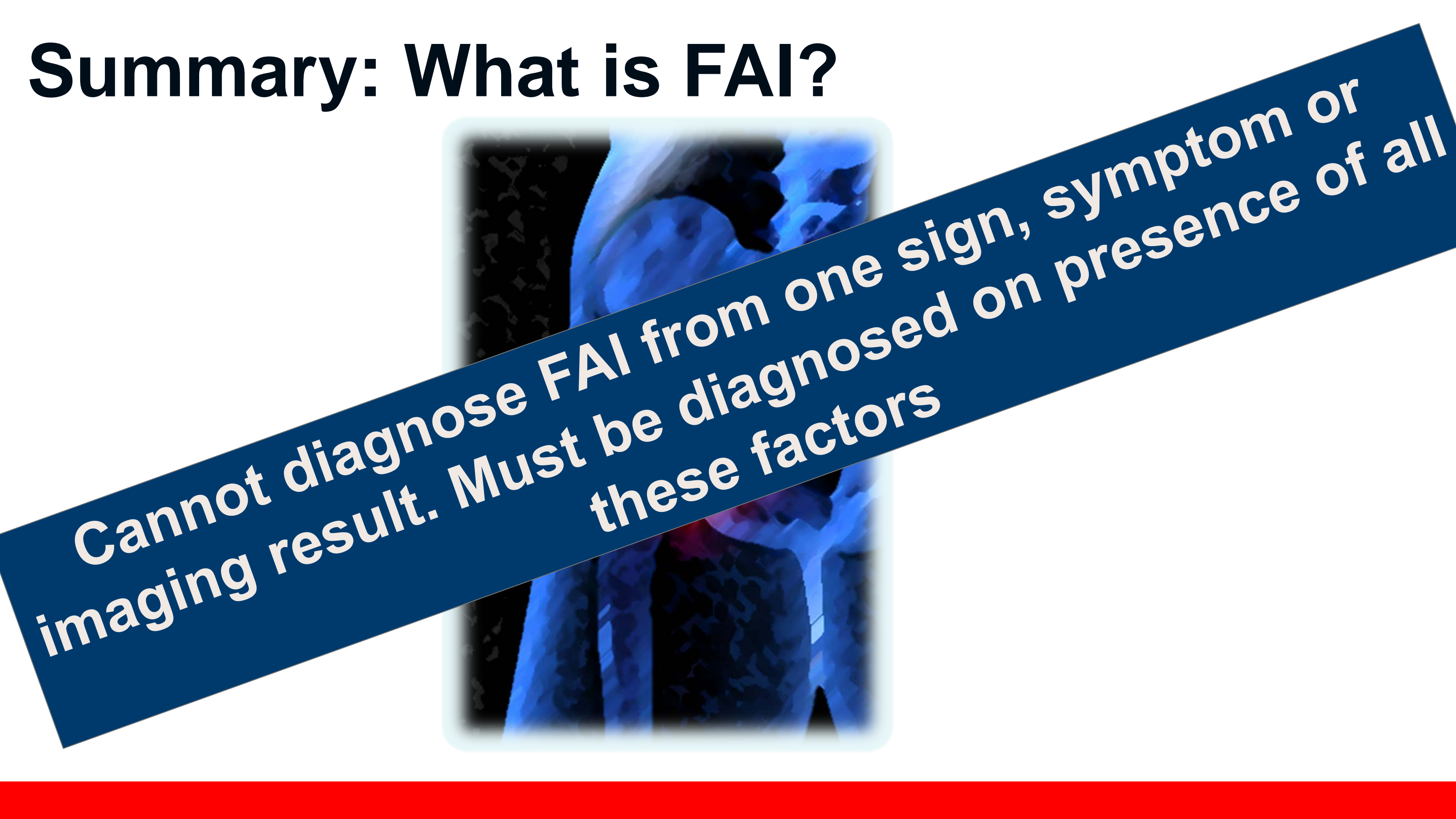
Flex/IR OP is an good to excellent test to rule people out as not having FAI (low risk of false negatives)

BUT

Flex/IR OP is a poor to fair test to rule people in as having FAI (high risk of false positives)



Summary: What is FAI?



Cannot diagnose FAI from one sign, symptom or imaging result. Must be diagnosed on presence of all these factors

Does FAI matter?

camFAI

5-20 years

Agricola 2013, 2013, Nicholls 2011

Hip OA



**cam – develops 13-15
years**

Agricola AJSM 2014, Siebenrock 2011, Pollard 2010



FAI, labral, chondral (35 y.o)

Kemp BJSM 2013



camFAI



Pain, poor PROs, physical impairments



Painful FAI +/- labral (25 y.o)

Kemp BJSM 2012

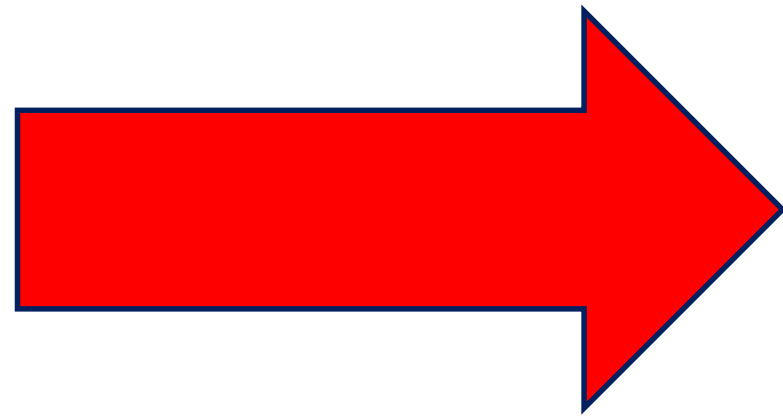
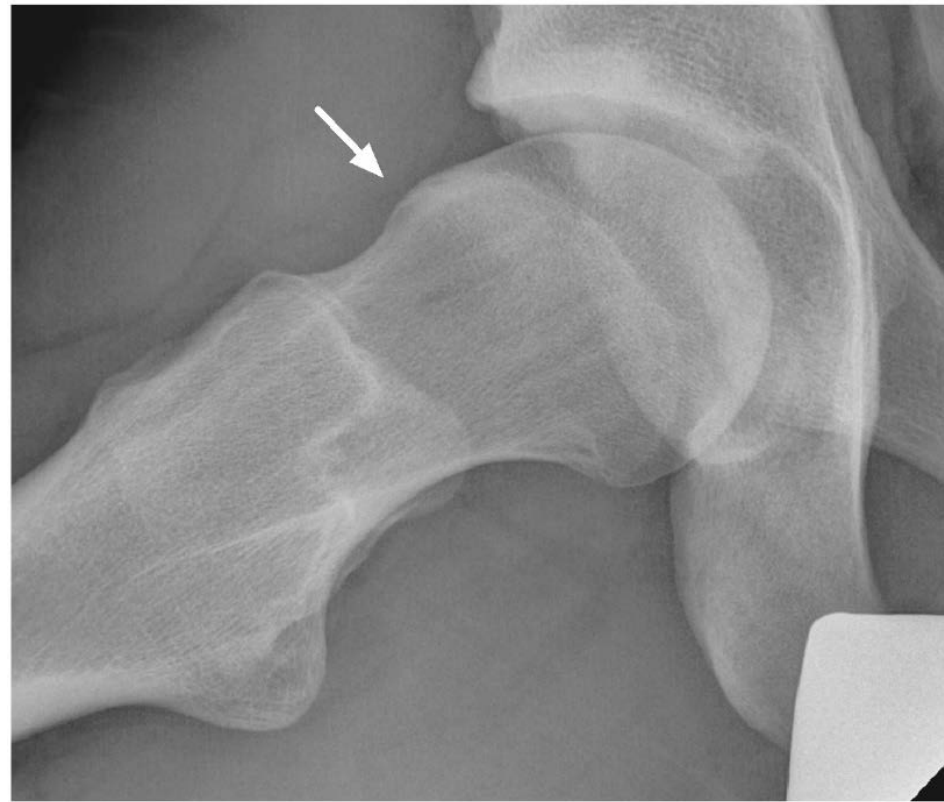


Clinical hip OA (40+ y.o)

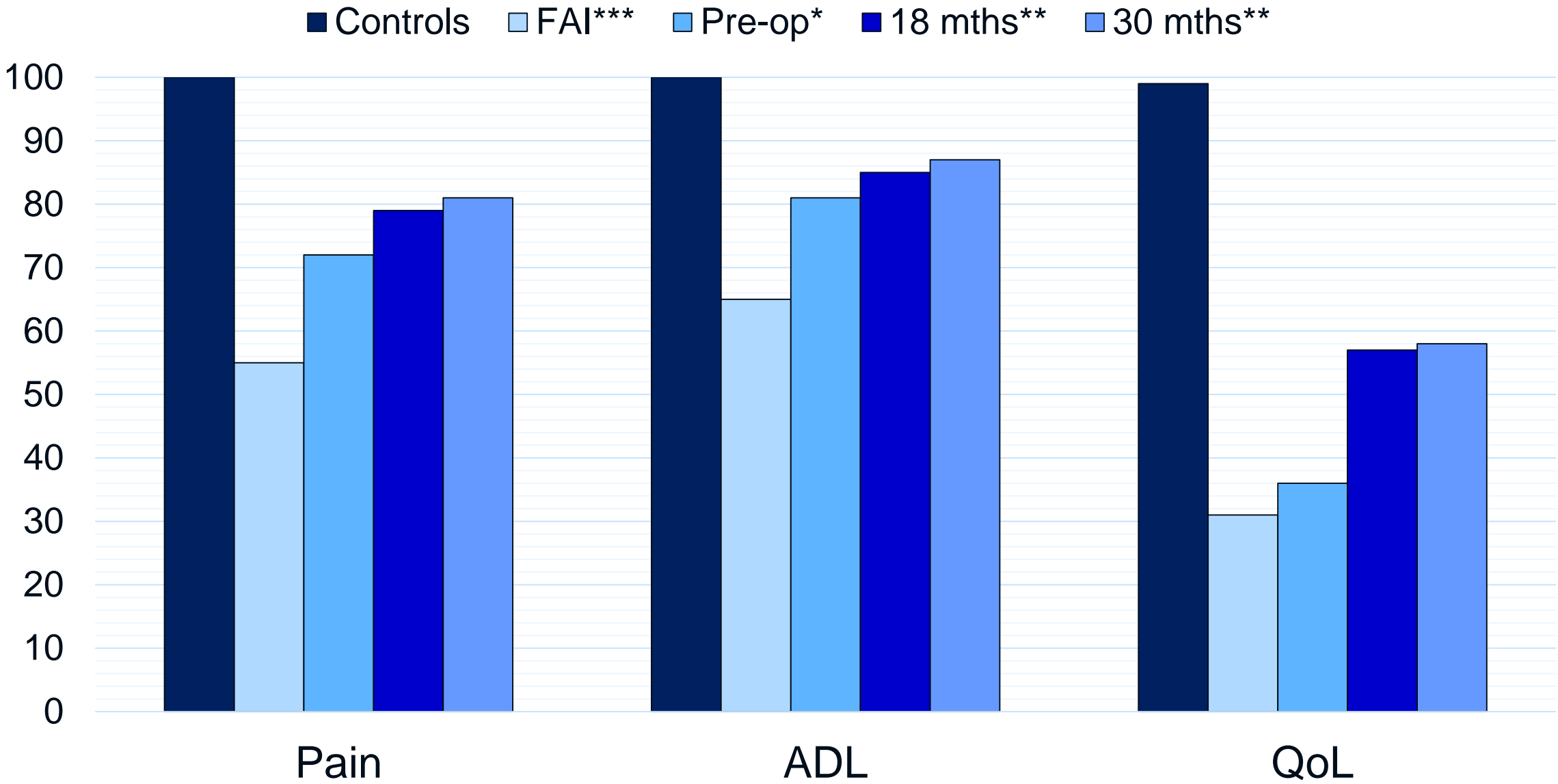
McCarthy 2011, Tuominen 2009



Previous studies have shown that larger cam lesions (alpha angle $>83^\circ$) are associated with 10-fold increased risk of hip osteoarthritis (OA) and progression to hip arthroplasty within 5 years Agricola 2013



Patient-reported outcomes FAI



*Hinman et al, BJSM, 2014
n=30

**Kemp et al, BJSM, 2014
n=72

***Clohisy AJSM, 2014
n=1076

Does FAI matter?

Yes!!

While most people with cam morphology do not develop FAI, for those that do,
the impact is enormous

Quality of life scores similar to people with end stage hip OA.

Young and middle aged people with large family and work commitments

Unable to exercise = big consequences for general health

Increased risk of end stage hip OA and THA

What can we do to manage FAI?

What is the evidence for surgery?

Surgical RCTs of hip arthroscopy (registered)

| Trial | Country | Sample Size | Interventions | Planned Reporting |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| UK FASHIoN | UK (Warwick) | 344 | Arthroscopic surgery vs physiotherapy | 2017 |
| Aus FASHIoN | Australia | 120 | Arthroscopic surgery vs physiotherapy | 2018 |
| FAIT | UK (Oxford) | 120 | Arthroscopic surgery vs physiotherapy | 2017 |
| FIRST | Canada and Finland | 220 | Arthroscopic surgery vs arthroscopic washout | 2017 |
| HIPARTI | Norway, Sweden Belgium, Canada and Australia | 140 | Arthroscopic surgery vs diagnostic arthroscopy | 2020 |
| US Army WA | USA | 60 | Arthroscopic surgery vs physiotherapy | unknown |

Review



Hip arthroscopy for intra-articular pathology: a systematic review of outcomes with and without femoral osteoplasty

Joanne L Kemp,^{1,2} Natalie J Collins,^{1,2} Michael Makdissi,^{1,3} Anthony G Schache,²
Zuzana Machotka,⁴ Kay Crossley^{1,2,5}

**Determine outcomes for hip arthroscopy for patients with and without
osteoplasty for FAI.**

Conclusions:

Large positive within-subject effect sizes for improved pain and function for up to 10 years (no femoral osteoplasty) and 3 years (femoral osteoplasty)

Outcomes for hip OA appear worse but unclear

Adverse events were minimal (7% of participants) in 12 studies); transient neuropraxia (83%).

Methodological quality poor and thus limits confidence in results

SURVEY

Hip Arthroscopy in the Setting of Hip Osteoarthritis: Systematic Review of Outcomes and Progression to Hip Arthroplasty

Joanne L. Kemp PT, PhD, David MacDonald PT, PhD,
Natalie J. Collins PT, PhD, Anna L. Hatton PT, PhD,
Kay M. Crossley PT, PhD

1. Determine outcomes for hip arthroscopy for hip OA,
2. Compare outcomes between no OA and OA, and
3. Examine progression to THA in hip arthroscopy for hip OA

Conclusions:

Patients with more severe hip OA had worse outcomes of pain and function than those with less severe OA or no hip OA.

Factors influencing outcomes: Age; JSN on x-ray.

Effect of chondral pathology unclear and conflicting.

Progression to THA occurred within 2 years in people with severe hip OA

Quality of the included studies was moderate at best.

Effects of modifiable factors on people with hip pain and co-existing hip OA are unknown.

Hip chondropathy at arthroscopy: prevalence and relationship to labral pathology, femoroacetabular impingement and patient-reported outcomes

Joanne L Kemp,¹ Michael Makdissi,² Anthony G Schache,² Michael G Pritchard,³ Thomas C B Pollard,⁴ Kay M Crossley¹

¹School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

²The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

³Wellington Orthopaedics,

ABSTRACT

Background This study aimed to describe chondropathy prevalence in adults who had undergone hip arthroscopy for hip pain. The relationships between chondropathy severity and (1) participant characteristics; and (2) patient-reported outcomes (PROs) at initial assessment (~18 months postsurgery) and over a further

and Australia aged between 45 and 59 years have OA.⁹ Therefore, a greater understanding of the impact of early-onset hip OA on pain, function and quality of life in younger people is warranted.

In recent years, hip arthroscopy has become commonplace,¹⁰⁻¹¹ and aims to reduce pain and improve physical function associated with early hip OA.

What is the impact of chondral pathology on outcomes?

Results: Summary

Chondropathy (early hip OA) is prevalent in young to middle aged people with hip pain

Prevalence increases with age

Severe chondropathy is associated with worse outcomes 12-24 months post-op

Majority of outcomes do not improve over time

40% greater likelihood of chondropathy if FAI or labral pathology present

Overall evidence for surgical intervention

Within-subject patient reported outcomes do improve post-op compared to pre-op

While outcomes improve, these patients remain impaired compared to healthy controls

Patient outcomes do not improve beyond 12 months

Older age, JSN, severe chondropathy all = worse outcomes

Chondropathy is prevalent and increases with age

FAI, labral pathology and chondropathy do co-exist

No RCT evidence yet.....

Non-surgical treatment of FAI

Current evidence for non-surgical treatment of FAI



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com



Original research

Non-operative management of acromioclavicular impingement: A prospective, randomized clinical trial pilot study

Alexis A. Wright^a, Jeffrey B. Taylor^a, Steven L. Dischiavi^a,
Allston^b

^aPhysical Therapy, High Point University, High Point, NC 27268, USA

^bOrthopaedic Surgery, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC 27157, USA



Primary outcome: pain and function

Results

N=15, 2 groups

No difference between groups
for change score for HOS
(pain and function)

(trend favoured control)

No difference between groups
for physical measures (trend
favoured MTEX for strength
and hop)

Underpowered to find difference
between groups

**Care when interpreting these
findings**

Although called a pilot, primary
outcome was pain and function

Unable to draw conclusion about
effectiveness of PT from this
study

STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access

A phase II trial for the efficacy of physiotherapy intervention for early-onset hip osteoarthritis: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

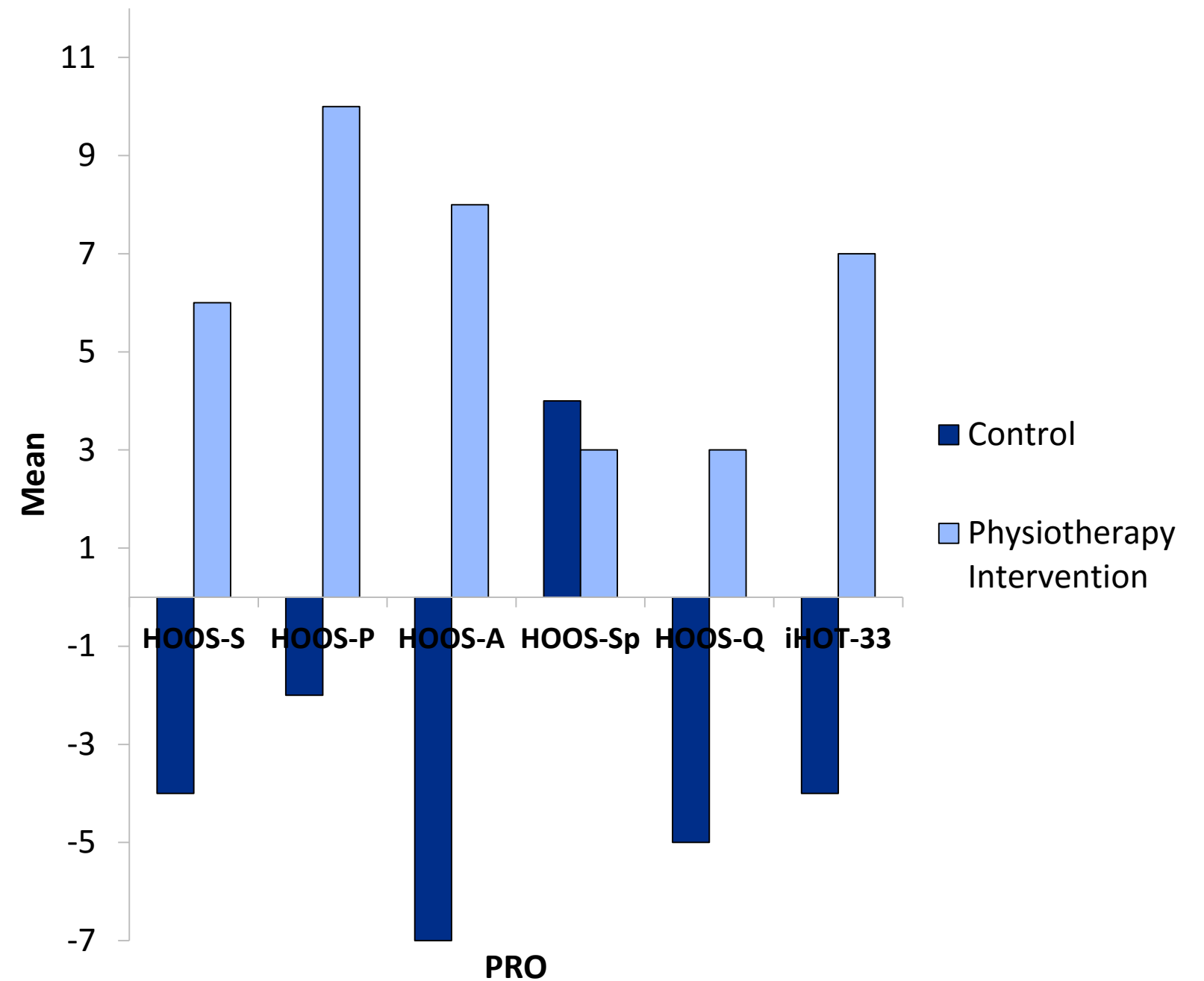
Joanne L Kemp^{1,2*}, Kate Moore², Marlene Fransen³, Trevor G Russell⁴ and Kay M Crossley⁴

**Primary outcome: feasibility of full scale trial;
Secondary outcome: pain and function**

Results: Secondary outcome

All PROs improved in physiotherapy intervention group and difference in change score always favoured physiotherapy over control group

No changes were statistically significant (small numbers included in this pilot study)



Preliminary evidence that semi-standardised physiotherapy treatment regime improves pain and function post arthroscopy??

Treatment for FAI: An impairment based model

**What should a physiotherapy program
for FAI include?**

Goal of treatment = optimise hip joint loads

Hip strength

Trunk strength

Functional and balance retraining

Sports specific retraining

ROM optimization

Education

Hip strength



Flexion
Especially women
with pathology

Abduction
For both sexes
especially pathology

Adduction
For all patients +/-
pathology

Extension, ER
Especially women
with pathology

Strength training considerations

- Consider strength, power and endurance capacity of muscles
- Use strength and conditioning principles
- Non periodised training (varied between sessions)
- Strength – heavy resistance, low reps, several sets
- Endurance – low resistance, high reps, one set to fatigue, replicate functional positions
- Avoid impingement - Pain free positions

Trunk strength

Progressive strength – trunk



Retrain both sides
Watch overactivity in hip flexors
(care with crunches and sit ups)
Focus on endurance

Function and balance



Retrain both sides
Specific to sports
Focus on strength and endurance
Restore full load requirements

Optimise ROM

Optimise ROM (especially flexion)

Soft tissue techniques

Manual therapy techniques

Muscle activation

Techniques for lumbar spine and pelvis

Take care as flexion limitation may be protective

Education

Education: Position of impingement

Activity and position modification for 90% (ADL) to allow full activity for 10% (sport)

Education: Pathology and prognosis

For post surgical and non surgical patients.....

Assume FAI patients have early hip OA and treat accordingly

Lose weight if needed

General CV training vital: find a “sport” that they enjoy and is ***safe for them to do*** (cycling, running, swimming, walking.....)

They will have flare ups of symptoms

Must be prepared for maintenance program that includes strength, balance, neuromotor control

They will improve but will not be the same as a healthy age-matched control

Education: Treatment options

Physiotherapy treatment does not have good efficacy.

As non-surgical treatment providers, we need to provide patients and surgeons with a high quality, efficacious treatment alternative to surgery – this is generally lacking

Take home message: non surgical treatment

Physiotherapy treatment does not yet have Level 1 RCT evidence

Physiotherapy treatment may follow an impairment-based model

Impairments to address include

1. Hip muscle strength
2. Trunk muscle strength
3. Function, balance
4. Cardiovascular training
5. ROM optimisation
6. Education

Final take home message

What is FAI?

FAI is clinical diagnosis = presence of symptoms, signs and morphology in people with hip and groin pain

Does it matter?

Yes! For affected people, impact on QOL & PA enormous, with increased risk of end stage hip OA and THA

How can we treat it?

Surgical and non-surgical options. Neither have level 1 evidence yet to support effectiveness. Surgery no longer funded.

Best practice physiotherapy treatment should target known impairments to optimise joint loads and improve outcomes



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