# Review of the Office Musculoskeletal Exam April 10, 2025

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### **Session Objectives**

- Review upper and lower extremity joint, nerve and muscle anatomy.
- Review upper and lower extremity physical exam tests.
- Understand how to integrate your anatomy knowledge with the history and/or physical exam to make a diagnosis.
- Recognize what physical exam findings would be associated with specific diagnosis.
- Try several "cases" to illustrate how to apply anatomy to a clinical situation.



- Our goal is to evaluate this concern, determine a differential diagnosis, the likely etiology, and a diagnostic and/or management plan.
- Our primary clinical tools are our history and physical exam.
- History and physical exam findings will help us to determine next steps in terms of diagnostics and/or management



### **Symptoms**

### - Clues from the history

- Unsteadiness
- Pain (local vs. radiating or diffuse)
- Numbness
- Weakness or fatigue
- Stiffness
- Abnormal range of motion
- Rash
- Tripping or stumbling

- Impaired balance
- Atrophy
- Tingling or burning
- Catching, locking or sticking
- Twitching
- Swelling
- Redness
- Painful range of motion
- \*\*\*



### Signs

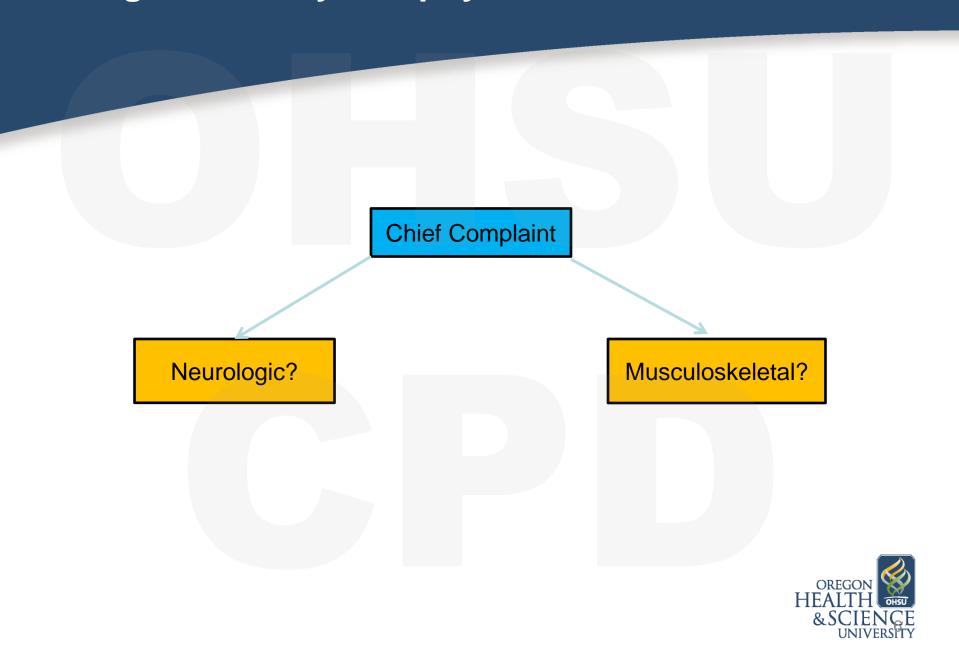
### - Clues from the physical exam

- Numbness
- Decreased reflexes
- Spasticity
- Tenderness to palpation
- Swelling
- Erythema or rash
- Skin ulceration
- Weakness
- Flaccid tone
- Painful/painless passive range of motion

- Incoordination
- Limp
- Altered gait
- Hyperreflexia
- Decreased range of motion
- Painful/painless active range of motion
- Atrophy
- Deformity
- \*\*\*



# Using the history and physical exam to make a Dx



# Using the history and physical exam to make a Dx

**Chief Complaint** 

Neurologic?

- Radiculopathy
- Neuropathy
- Polyneuropathy
- Myopathy
- etc.

Musculoskeletal?

- Strain
- Sprain
- Arthritis
- Fracture
- etc.



### **Musculoskeletal Anatomy**

- Common Joints
  - Shoulder
  - Hip
  - Knee

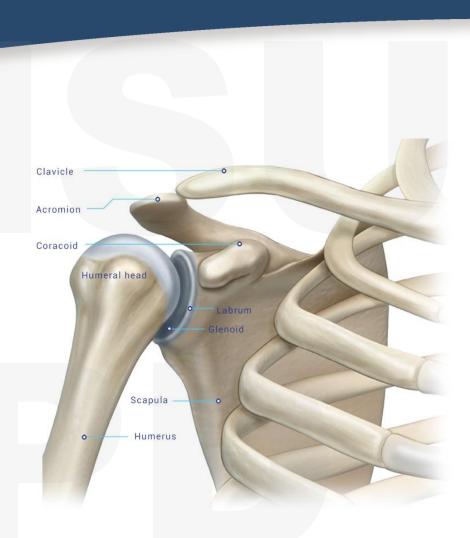
- Routine Exam
  - Inspection
  - ROM (active/passive)
  - Palpation
  - Joint-specific maneuvers



# Shoulder Anatomy

### Joints

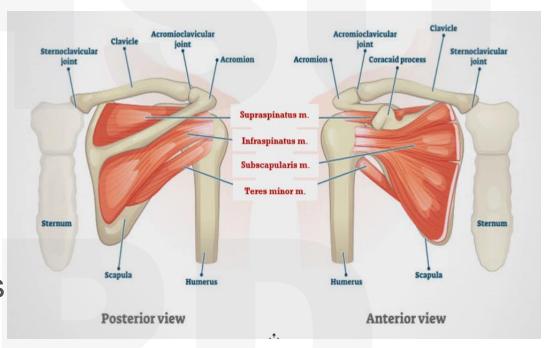
- Glenohumeral joint
- Acromioclavicular joint
- Sternoclavicular joint
- Scapulothoracic articulation





### **Shoulder Anatomy**

- Muscles/Tendons
  - Rotator Cuff
    - Supraspinatus
    - Infraspinatus
    - Subscapularis
    - Teres Minor
  - Scapula Stabilizers





### **Shoulder Physical Exam**

- Inspection
  - Winging
  - Deformity
  - Atrophy
- ROM
  - Active
  - Passive
- Palpation

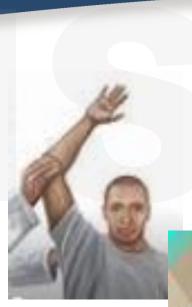
- Rotator Cuff Strength
  - Internal rotation
  - External rotation
  - Abduction
- Impingement Maneuvers
  - Impingement
  - Hawkins
  - Neer



# **Shoulder Physical Exam**

- Impingement Maneuvers
  - Impingement
  - Neer
  - Hawkins



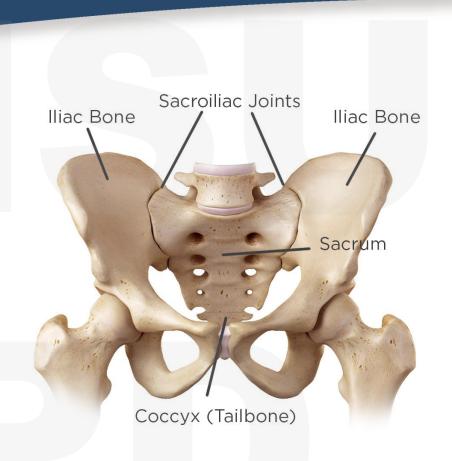






# **Hip Anatomy**

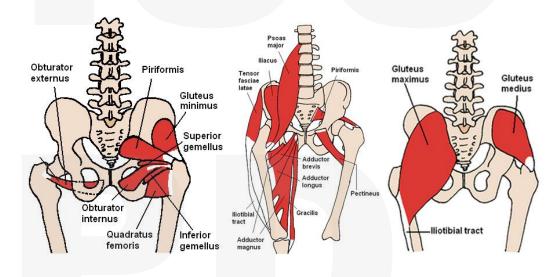
- Joints
  - Femoroacetabular joint
  - Sacroiliac joint





### **Hip Anatomy**

- Muscles/Tendons
  - Abductors
    - Gluteus medius
  - Adductors
  - Flexors
    - Iliopsoas
  - Extensors
    - Gluteus maximus
  - Rotators



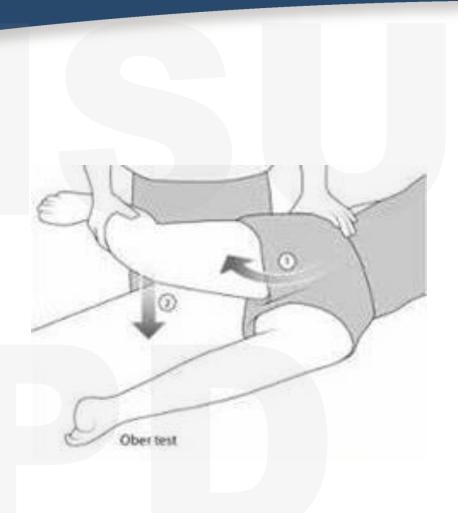


- Inspection
  - Gait abnormality
- ROM
  - Active
  - Passive
- Palpation
  - Greater trochanter
  - Ischial tuberosity

- Hip Strength
  - Adduction/Abduction
  - Flexion/Extension
- Provocative Maneuvers
  - Osteoarthritis
    - Passive ROM
    - Active SLR
  - Ober
  - FABER

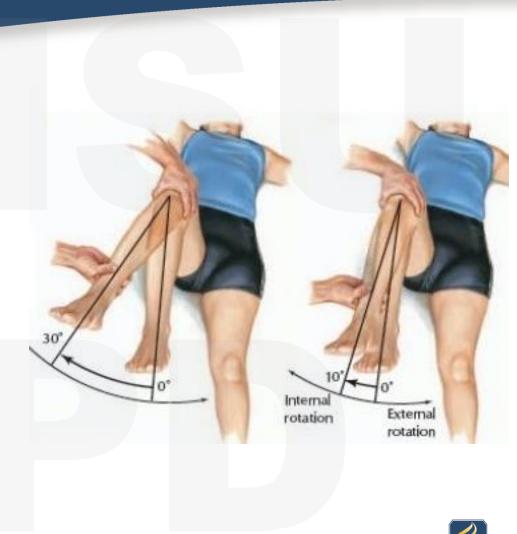


- Ober Test
  - Iliotibial band syndrome
  - Tensor fascia latae tightness
  - (Good position to test:
    - Greater trochanteric tenderness to palpation
    - Gluteus medius strength)





- Hip OA/impingement
  - Hip flexion
  - Hip internal rotation





- FABER Test
  - Flexion, Abduction,
     External Rotation
  - Sacroiliac joint





### Moving on...

- Neuromuscular Anatomy
  - Strength
  - Sensation
  - Reflexes
- Goal
  - Be able to do a motor, sensory and reflex exam of the upper and lower extremities in 60 seconds!



### **Neuromuscular Anatomy**

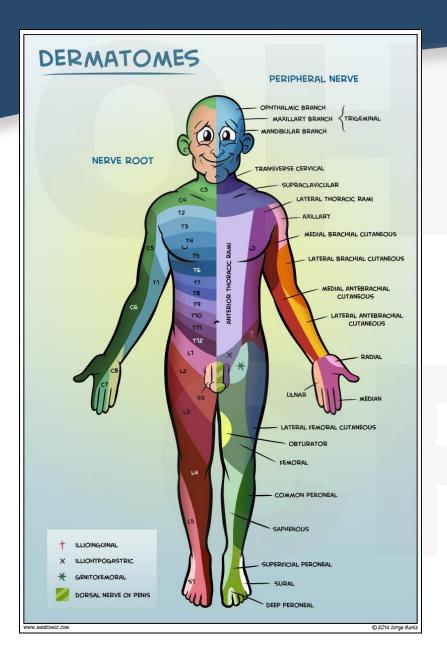
- There are some patterns to the organization of dermatomes and myotomes that can help us to remember the anatomy
- The dermatomes tend to form "loops" around the upper (lateral to medial, C5-T1) and lower extremity (medial to lateral, L4-S1)
- The myotomes have a proximal to distal pattern in the upper extremity (muscle location) and lower extremity (hand location during manual muscle testing)

### **Clinical Correlations**

- Trying to sort out the wide variety of causes of numbness and weakness without knowing anatomy is like trying to do a jigsaw puzzle without having the picture on the cover of the box – if we know anatomy, we have the picture
- Step 1 review anatomy patterns
- Step 2 practice physical exams
- Step 3 try sample cases



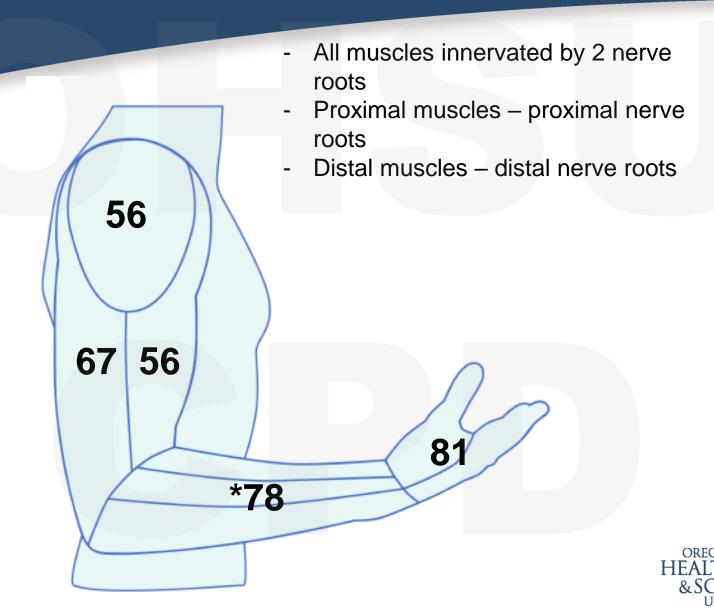
### **Sensation – Dermatomes/Cutaneous Nerves**



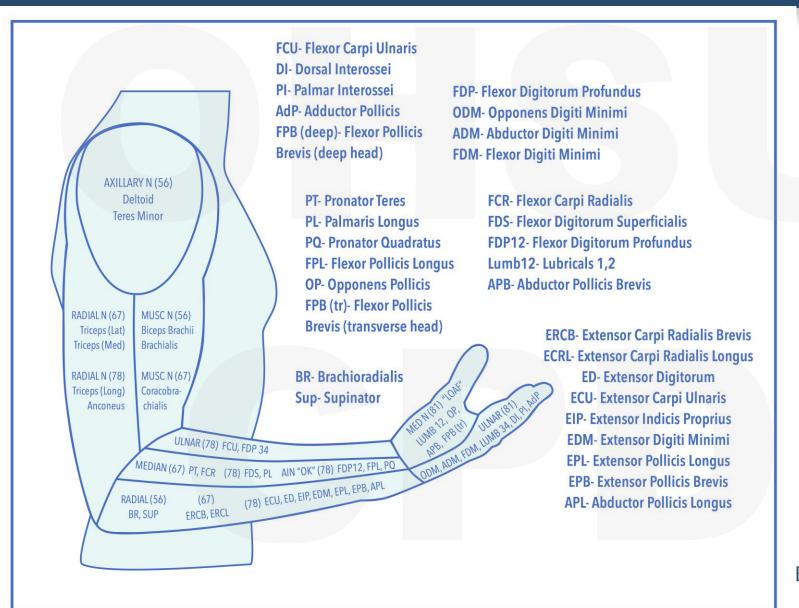
- Upper Extremity
  - C5-T1
  - Lateral to Medial "Loop"
- Lower Extremity
  - L4-S1
  - Medial to Lateral "Loop"



### **Strength – Upper Extremity Myotomes**

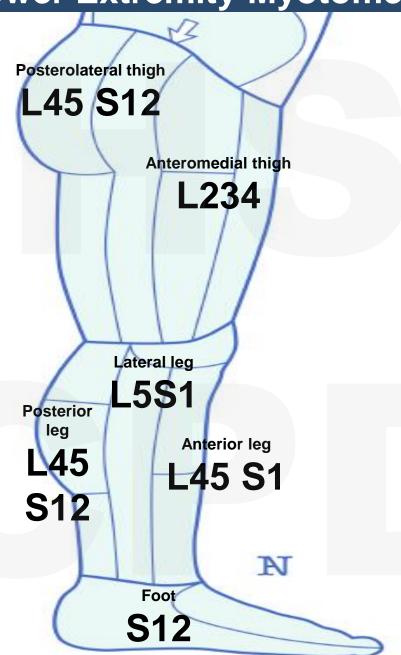


### **Strength – Upper Extremity Myotomes and Nerves**





### **Strength – Lower Extremity Myotomes**



- All muscles innervated by 2 nerve roots
- Proximal and distal organization is not so clear
- Some patterns emerge:
  - Posterior LE is L45 S12
  - Anteromedial thigh is L234
  - Foot is S12





#### **Lumbosacral Plexus**

**OI- Obturator Internus** 

QF- Quadratus Femoris
IG- Inferior Gamellus

SG- Superior Gamellus

#### **Superior Gluteal Nerve**

TFL- Tensor Fascia Latae Gmin- Gluteus Minimus Gmed- Gluteus Medius

#### **Inferior Gluteal Nerve**

**Gmax- Gluteus Maximus** 

#### **Tibial Nerve**

SM- Semimembranosus ST- Semitendinosus BFLH- Biceps Femoris Long Head

#### Tibial Nerve (lower)

TP- Tibialis Posterior
Pop- Popliteus
FDL- Flexor Digitorum Longus
FDH- Flexor Hallucis Longus
MG- Medial Gastrocnemius
LG- Lateral Gastrocnemius
Sol- Soleus

#### **Lateral Plantar Nerve**

PI- Palmar Interossei
DI- Dorsal Interossel
L234- Lumbricals 2,3,4
ADM- Abductor Digiti Minimi
FDM- Flexor Digiti Minimi
QP- Quatdratus Plantaris
AdH- Adductor Halicus

#### **Obturator Nerve**

OE- Obturator Externus AL- Adductor Longus AB- Adductor Brevis AM- Adductor Magnus Gr- Gracillis

#### **Femoral Nerve**

IPsoas- Iliopsoas Pect- Pectineus Sart- Sartorius VI- Vastus Intermeius VL- Vastus Lateralis VM- Vastus Medialis

#### **Medial Plantar Nerve**

**RF- Rectus Femoris** 

L1- Lumbrical 1 AH- Abductor Hallucis FHB- Flexor Hallucis Brevis FDB- Flexor Digitorum Brevis

#### **Common Peroneal Nerve**

BFSH- Biceps Femoris Short Head

#### **Superficial Peroneal Nerve**

PL- Peroneus Longus PB- Peroneus Brevis

#### **Deep Peroneal Nerve**

PT- Peroneus Tertius EHL- Extensor Hallucis Longus EHB- Extensor Hallucis Brevis

EDL- Extensor Digitorum Longus

**EDB- Extensor Digitorum Brevis** 

# Strength – Lower Extremity Myotomes and Nerves



## **The 60 Second Neuro Exam**

Upper Extremity	C5	C6	C7	<b>C8</b>	T1
DTR	Bic (Musc.)	BR (Radial)	Tri (Radial)	-	-
Strength	Sh Abd (Axillary)	Wr Ext/ <b>Elb Flx</b> (Radial/Musc)	Wr Flx/ <b>Elb Ext</b> (MedUln/Rad)	Fing Flx (MedUln)	Fing Abd (Ulnar)
Sensation	Lat. Sh. (Axillary)	Thumb (Med/Rad)	Middle (Med/Rad)	Little (Ulnar)	Med. Arm (MBC)
Lower Extremity	L2	L3	L4	L5	S1
	L2 -	L3 -	L4 Patellar (Femoral)	L5 -	Achilles (Tibial)
Extremity	L2  Hip Flx (Femoral)	Knee Ext (Femoral)	Patellar	Gr. Toe Ext (Peroneal)	Achilles

# Pair Up and Practice Physical Exam

- Upper Extremity
  - Reflexes (3)
  - Sensation (5)
  - Strength (5)

- Lower Extremity
  - Reflexes (2)
  - Sensation (3)
  - Strength (4)



### Case 1

- Sensation
  - Numb thumb
    - Palmar and Dorsal
  - Normal middle, little finger

- Strength
  - Weak wrist extension
  - Normal sh. abd., wr. flex., finger flexion

<b>Upper Extremity</b>	C5	<b>C6</b>	C7	C8	<b>T1</b>
DTR	Bic	BR	Tri	-	-
	(Musc.)	(Radial)	(Radial)		
Strength	Sh. Abd	Wr. Ext.	Wr. Flex.	Fing. Flex.	Fing. Abd.
	(Axillary)	(Radial)	(Med/Uln)	(Med/Uln)	(Ulnar)
Sensation	Lat. Sh.	Thumb	Middle	Little	Med. Arm
	(Axillary)	(Med/Rad)	(Med/Rad)	(Ulnar)	(MBC)

# **Case 1 – C6 Radiculopathy**

- Sensation
  - Numb thumb
    - Palmar and Dorsal
  - Normal middle, little finger

- Strength
  - Weak wrist extension
  - Normal sh. abd., wr. flex., finger flexion

<b>Upper Extremity</b>	C5	C6	C7	C8	T1
DTR	Bic	BR	Tri	-	-
	(Musc.)	(Radial)	(Radial)		
Strength	Sh. Abd	Wr. Ext.	Wr. Flex.	Fing. Flex.	Fing. Abd.
	(Axillary)	(Radial)	(Med/Uln)	(Med/Uln)	(Ulnar)
Sensation	Lat. Sh.	Thumb	Middle	Little	Med. Arm
	(Axillary)	(Med/Rad)	(Med/Rad)	(Ulnar)	(MBC)

### Case 2

- Numb little finger
- Normal thumb, middle

- Weak finger abd., finger flexion, wrist flexion
- Normal wr.ext., sh. abd.

<b>Upper Extremity</b>	C5	C6	C7	C8	T1
DTR	Bic	BR	Tri	-	-
	(Musc.)	(Radial)	(Radial)		
Strength	Sh. Abd	Wr. Ext.	Wr. Flex.	Fing. Flex.	Fing. Abd.
	(Axillary)	(Radial)	(Med/Uln)	(Med/Uln)	(Ulnar)
Sensation	Lat. Sh.	Thumb	Middle	Little	Med. Arm
	(Axillary)	(Med/Rad)	(Med/Rad)	(Ulnar)	(MBC)



### Case 2 – Ulnar Neuropathy at the Elbow

- Numb little finger
- Normal thumb, middle

- Weak finger abd., finger flexion, wrist flexion
- Normal wr.ext., sh. abd.

<b>Upper Extremity</b>	C5	C6	C7	C8	T1
DTR	Bic	BR	Tri	-	-
	(Musc.)	(Radial)	(Radial)		
Strength	Sh. Abd	Wr. Ext.	Wr. Flex.	Fing. Flex.	Fing. Abd.
	(Axillary)	(Radial)	(Med/Uln)	(Med/Uln)	(Ulnar)
Sensation	Lat. Sh.	Thumb	Middle	Little	Med. Arm
	(Axillary)	(Med/Rad)	(Med/Rad)	(Ulnar)	(MBC)



### Case 3

- Numb medial malleolus
- Normal 1<sup>st</sup> DWS, lateral heel
- Weak knee ext., ADF
- Normal gr. toe ext., APF

Lower Extremity	L2	L3	L4	L5	S1
DTR	-	-	Patellar	-	Achilles
			(Femoral)		(Tibial)
Strength	-	Knee Ext.	Ank. DF	Gr. Toe Ext.	Ank. PF
		(Femoral)	(Peroneal)	(Peroneal)	(Tibial)
Sensation	-	-	Med. Mall.	1st DWS	Lat. Heel
			(Saphenous)	(Deep Per.)	(Sural)

### Case 3 – L4 Radiculopathy

- Numb medial malleolus
- Normal 1<sup>st</sup> DWS, lateral heel
- Weak knee ext., ADF
- Normal gr. toe ext., APF

Lower Extremity	L2	L3	L4	L5	S1
DTR	-	-	Patellar (Femoral)	-	Achilles (Tibial)
Strength	-	Knee Ext. (Femoral)	Ank. DF (Peroneal)	Gr. Toe Ext. (Peroneal)	Ank. PF (Tibial)
Sensation	-	-	Med. Mall. (Saphenous)	1st DWS (Deep Per.)	Lat. Heel (Sural)

- History/Exam
  - Radiating pain from back to foot
  - Numbness in calf
  - Weakness, tripping
  - Steppage gait



- History/Exam
  - Radiating pain from back to foot
  - Numbness in calf
  - Weakness, tripping
  - Steppage gait
- Dx
  - Radiculopathy



- History/Exam
  - Deep groin pain
  - Pain in thigh, not distal to knee
  - No numbness/paresthesias
  - Waddling gait



- History/Exam
  - Deep groin pain
  - Pain in thigh, not distal to knee
  - No numbness/paresthesias
  - Waddling gait
- Dx
  - Hip pathology



### The main concepts from this session are:

- Know basic joint, nerve and muscle anatomy.
- Use your knowledge of anatomy to determine history questions and physical exam findings to determine diagnoses.

