

Coxa saltans misdiagnosed as functional gait disorder

Two cases

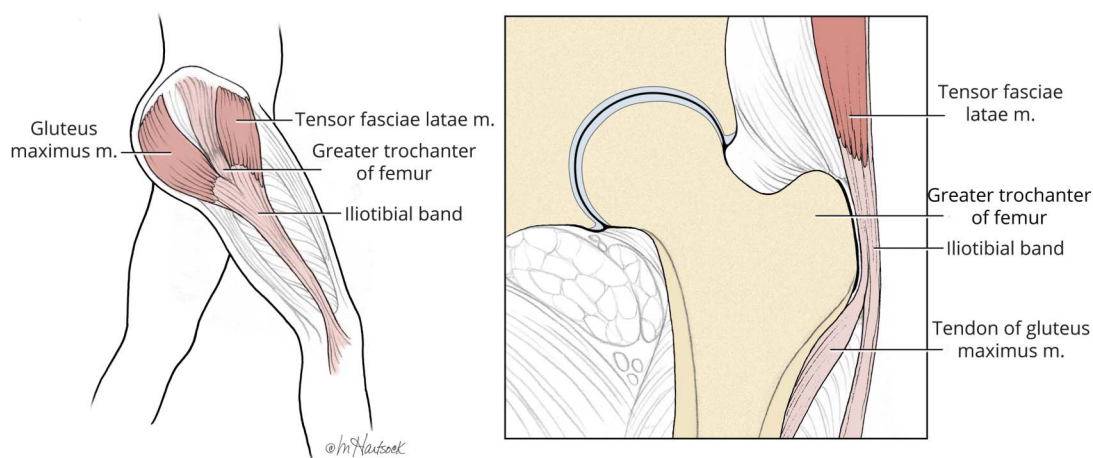
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Figure Anatomy of coxa saltans



Sagittal (left) and coronal (right) view of the relationship between the gluteus maximum tendon, iliotibial band, and tensor fascia lata with the greater trochanter.

Two unrelated young girls were evaluated for a gait suspected to be functional (video). Hip movements during ambulation were excessive despite normal tone, strength, sensation, and muscle stretch reflexes. Ascertainment of joint hypermobility led to the diagnosis of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome in both. Coxa saltans, also known as “dancer’s hip” or “snapping hip,” may develop among young athletes with clicking joints due to connective tissue disorders.¹ The gluteus maximum tendon, iliotibial band, or tensor fascia lata slide back and forth across the greater trochanter during flexion–extension movements in external coxa saltans (figure). Case 1 required bilateral iliotibial band lengthening surgery.²

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Author contributions

Drs. Gilbert and Wu: acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. Dr. Espay: report analysis and interpretation, critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content.

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