

Introduction

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Immature skeletons heal rapidly and can remodel with growth but physeal injury or muscle imbalance may lead to progressive deformity . The conservative treatment of common conditions, such as developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH), considers remodelling ability with an understanding of the Hueter- Volkmann principle and Wolff 's law (Table 44.1): improving the biomechanical environment may reverse abnormal growth. In contrast, in conditions such as Blount's disease, a poorly functioning growth plate leads to asymmetrical growth and deformity . Advances in genetics and molecular science have improved our understanding of certain conditions and may lead to new treatments. /uni25CF /uni25CF /uni25CF

TABLE 44.1 Laws governing the remodelling of bone. Hueter-Volkmann principle Compressive forces inhibit growth Tensile forces stimulate growth Wolff's law Bone deposition and resorption depend on the stresses applied

Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:16:47 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:16:47 UTC by Omar Ayman