

Slipped upper femoral epiphysis

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A slipped upper femoral epiphysis classically occurs in a child approaching puberty . It is easily missed as symptoms may be mild and the predominant symptom may be knee pain referred from the hip. A history of trauma may be offered and the child may limp. Examination of the limb reveals a hip that flexes into external rotation. Radiographs should include a good lateral view of the femoral head and neck (Figure 32.30). If the radiographs are normal, consider an MRI, looking for a preslip; if found, consider prophylactic fixation. If treated in the early stages, the prognosis is very good. A severely displaced slipped upper femoral epiphysis might lead to avascular necrosis of the femoral head and chondrolysis. This is a very difficult condition to treat effectively in young patients. Slipped upper femoral epiphysis

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