## 1 When growing pains are not growing pains

David W. Gray, M.D. Medical Director Orthopedics

## <sup>2</sup> Differential Diagnosis

- Fracture
- Ligament Injury
- Disloclation
- Cartilage Injury
- Apophysitis
  - Inflammation at growth plate at the site of a tendon insertion
- Patellofemoral Pain
- Osteochondral Lesions

## 3 Differential Diagnosis

- Arthritis
- Infection
- Tumors benign and malignant
- Avascular Necrosis of the bone
- Metabolic Disease
- "Burnt out" athletes with somatic complaints
- Referred Pain Mimicking an Injury -- Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis
- Soft Tissue Injury or Muscle deconditioning
- •

#### 4 Lower Extremity Injuries The Differential Diagnosis

- Fracture
- Soft Tissue Injury
- Referred Pain Mimicking an Injury -- Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis

## <sup>5</sup> What are growing pains?

- Nondescript pain
- Often at the end of the day may complain at night but usually complaining at bedtime
- Usually involves the legs
- Usually is bilateral not always at the same time
- We think it is related to muscle, and nerve growth triggered by bone growth
- Many children with growing pains are "tight"
  - Not flexible for example they cannot touch their toes

## 6 - What are NOT growing pains?

- Joint Swelling
- Limp
- Loss of motion of a joint
- Gowers sign having to use arms on legs to "push" themselves up from a sitting position on the floor
- Night Pain waking up in the middle of the night consistently
- Pain related to activity
- · Constitutional Symptoms such as fever

## 7 The History

- How, When and Where ?
- Swelling?
- Ability to Ambulate?
- Did you hear or feel a Pop?

- Did you Relocate an Injured part?
- Waking up at night?
- What makes it feel better?
- Activity Related?

## 8 Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Systemic Symptoms- fever, weight loss
- Trunk Shift
- Neurologic Deficit
- Night Pain
- Pain with Cough or Valsalva
- Functional Disability
- Joint Swelling or Warmth
- Cellulitis
- Muscle Atrophy
- Asymmetric Joint Motion

## 9 E The Physical Examination

- Have the patient demonstrate the area of maximal tenderness
- Use one finger to localize tenderness
- Is the tenderness located over the bone or the soft tissues?

## 10 - Orthopaedic Clinical Anatomy

- Parts of a growing bone
- Epiphysis
- Physis
- Metaphysis
- Diaphysis

## 11 Physeal Fracture Patterns

12 Injury Terms:

Sprain vs. Strain

## 13 Spine Anatomy

## 14 🔲 14 y.o. girl – cheer with back pain

- Constant
- Worse after activity
- Pain at rest
- Waist shift
- Told she has scoliosis
- Night Pain
- Neuro exam preserved
  - Complains of leg pain below knee to foot
- <sup>15</sup> **PA radiograph with waist shift**
- 16 Steoblastoma of Posterior Elements
- 17 Osteoblastoma of Posterior Elements
  - Treatment is Surgical Excision

## 18 9 y.o. girl cheer with back pain

- Has missed school
- · Has stopped her activities
- Very stiff
- Rest does improve the pain
- · Ibuprofen little help
- No leg pain
- Started after back flips
- Pain for 2 months

#### 19 9 y.o. girl cheer with spondylolisthesis

## 20 9 y.o. girl cheer with spondylolisthesis

- Rest
- Boston Overlap Brace
- Core Strengthening
- Rarely surgical intervention

## 21 **14** year old boy with back pain

- Pop with long jump landing
- Immediate pain more on left than right.
- Relieved somewhat with rest
- Very stiff on exam with slight forward lean with ambulation
  - Neuro exam intact but very tight hamstrings

#### 22 III 14 year old boy with back pain- edema in pedicle

### 23 **15 y.o. boy lifting weights**

- Immediate pain
- Down both legs
- Stiff
- Tight hamstrings
- Constant Pain
- Neuro exam is preserved
- 24 **15 y.o. boy lifting weights**
- 25 📕 15 y.o. boy lifting weights. Apophyseal Central Disc Herniation
- 26 📕 14 y.o. girl Basketball.

#### 27 Discitis and Vertebral Osteomyelitis

- · Late MRI years later
- 28 Eittle League Shoulder
  - Tenderness over the proximal humerus inflammation and bone resorptions at the physis – the growth plate

#### 29 Eittle League Shoulder

- Tenderness over the proximal humerus
- · Rest from throwing for an average of 3 months
- Shoulder strengthening
- Throwing Mechanics
- 30 📕 Little League Elbow

## (Medial Epicondylitis)

>

> Repetitive valgus stresses cause microfractures in the apophyseal cartilage (weak link)

- ́~ .
- ≻ Common in 10-13 year olds

 $\triangleright$ 

- > Avulsion fractures may occur suddenly
  - when throwing

#### 31 Throwing Motion Forces

➤ 4 distinct areas affected:

- 1. Medial tension on medial epicondyle and MCL
- 2. Lateral compression on radiocapitellar joint
- 3. Posteromedial shear forces on posterior articular surface
- 4. Extension overload forces on lateral restraints

## 32 Little Leaguer's Elbow

- > Medial epicondyle apophysitis
- ➤ X-ray findings
- 1. Comparison views

2. widened apophysis

# 33 Elttle Leaguer's Elbow

> Medial epicondyle apophysitis

## <sup>34</sup> Olecranon Apophysitis/Stress Fractures

- > Activity related pain and tenderness over the olecranon process
- > X-rays fragmentation or persistent
  - widening of the olecranon process

## 35 Elbow Pain

 $\triangleright$ 

- Little League Elbow
  - Medial epicondyle

## <sup>36</sup> Injury prevention in the throwing athlete

- > Recommended pitch counts:
- 1. In competition or game intensity workouts

# 37 Injury prevention in the throwing athlete

- Seasonal Participation
  - Limit to 9 MONTHS per year
  - □ 3 months off from pitching
  - Limit to ONE TEAM per season!

➢Pitch Type

Emphasize proper mechanics of fastball/change up

□NO breaking balls (slider, curveball) until skeletal maturity (age 14-16)

# <sup>38</sup> Injury prevention in the throwing athlete

- > Number of pitches per season may be more important than mechanics
- > Harder throwing kids are at increased risk
- ▷ "No pain, no gain" is not appropriate for skeletally immature athletes. A parent or coach can ruin a kid's elbow with this philosophy.

# 39 Pelvic Injuries

- Iliac apophysitis
- >
- > Anterior superior iliac spine
- $\triangleright$
- > Anterior inferior iliac spine
- ➤ Ischial tuberosity
- ≻
- > Slipped capital femoralepiphysis (SCFE)

## 40

# 41 Referred Hip Pain

- Anterior Groin
- Anterior Thigh and Knee
- Related to Obturator Nerve Sensory Distribution
- 42 Bone Cyst
  - 6 year old with persistent limp, thigh and knee pain with activity, thigh atrophy
- 43 Physical Exam Atrophy
- 44 Physical Exam Loss of Rotation

- 45 Physical Exam Loss of Rotation
- 46 Trendelenburg
- 47 B Obligatory External Rotation with hip flexion
- 48 Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis
- 49 SCFE: Radiographs
- 50
- <sup>51</sup> Insitu Screw Fixation for SCFE
- 52

56

57

- 53 SCFE Crescent Sign
- 54 Perthes
- 55 Apophysitis
  - Patella Sinding Larsen Johannson
  - Tibia Osgood Schlatter
  - Calcaneus Severs
    - Osgood Schlatter
    - Apophysitis of Tibial Tubercle

## Osgood Schlatter

- -15% of boys
- –10% of girls
- Traction Apophysitis
- 58 Sinding-Larsen-Johannson
  - Apophysitis of Inferior Pole of Patella
- 59 Patellofemoral Articulation
- 60 📃 Chondromalacia of Trochlear Groove Femur
- 61 Patellofemoral Pain
  - Typically Complain of
    - Dull aching pain, anterior knee, but hard to localize
    - Increased with activities but present at other times
    - Occasional "swelling" puffiness, not effusion

## 62 Patellofemoral Pain

- Typically Complain of
  - Often several months of pain
  - · Increases with stairs and prolonged sitting
  - New running sport or other activity just prior to onset

## 63 B Differentiating Septic Arthritis and Transient Synovitis

- · History of Fever
- Non-weight bearing
- ESR greater than 40 mm/hour
- WBC greater than 12,000

## 64 Differentiating Septic Arthritis and Transient Synovitis

- Four Predictors 99.6%
- Three Predictors 93.1%
- Two Predictors 40.0%
- One Predictor 3.0%
- Zero Predictor 0.2%

