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Hip, Sacroiliac Leg Problems

A chiropractic spinal checkup should be part of your family's health care regime. This is especially important for children since sacroiliac and lower back problems may have their origins in childhood. Pregnant women should definitely have a spinal exam since the stress of pregnancy and trauma of childbirth affect the hips and entire spinal column. Why wait for a problem to arise? See your chiropractor for regular spinal exams.

Hip, Sacroiliac Leg Problems

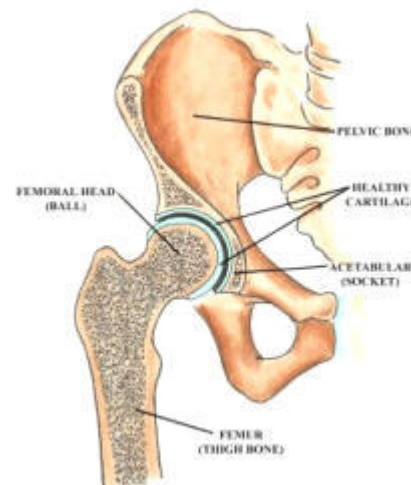
A Masterpiece of Engineering

You sit on them, need them to walk (your legs connect to them) and they provide an attachment for dozens of muscles and ligaments. Your hips are a masterpiece of engineering.

But like any precision instrument, if they're not fitting just right, all kinds of problems could arise. Do your joints "click" when you walk? Do your feet flare-out or in? Does one leg appear shorter than the other? Do you have leg, knee, buttock, hip or low back weakness or pain? If you answered yes, it's time to get a chiropractic checkup.

Chiropractors Correct Subluxations

The Vertebral Subluxation Complex (VSC) is a distortion, jamming or locking of your spine that irritates, pulls or compresses ("pinches") your nerves; unbalances your posture; weakens your discs; stretches your ligaments, tendons and muscles and can upset your general health. As terrible as all this sounds, VSCs are often initially painless. You may have one right now and not know it.



Your Hips And Pelvis

When you were born you had many more bones—each of your hip bones were originally three separate bones: the ileum, ischium and pubis. They fused at about puberty. Behind your hip bones are your sacrum and coccyx; in front they form your pubic bones. Together all these bones make up your pelvis. A woman's pelvis is wider than a man's, has a larger inlet and is more curved—for delivering babies.

Your Hip Joints

A joint is where two bones meet and your hips have a few of them. One of them is a ball-and-socket joint where the head ("ball") of the thigh bone meets the acetabulum ("socket") of the hip. Another is the sacroiliac (SI) joint, formed where the sacrum and the ilium meet. And another is the symphysis pubis, where the pubic bones meet in front (they separate a little during childbirth so the pelvic cavity can enlarge.)

Lower Back, Buttock And Thigh Pain

Studies have implicated an unbalanced hip in most adults with low

back pain. "Dysfunction in the hip joint may be a primary factor in the development of mechanical lower back pain" says one report. Another states: "On confronting a patient in severe pain of sciatic [leg pain] distribution the first thought should be "sacroiliac" not "disc"... [With] manipulation...surgical treatment is forgotten.

Pelvic Organs And Your Hips

The nerves originating from the spinal column in the lower back and hips travel to the bladder, kidneys, prostate, vagina and pelvic organs, uterus and lower intestines. It is very important to ensure that the nerves to these organs are free of any irritation, compression or stress. In fact, for over a century chiropractors have noticed the intimate relationship between spinal health and hip, sacroiliac and leg problems.

When your hips are uneven your legs become uneven; one appears longer than the other. More pressure is placed on the long leg when you walk: the knees, hips, ankle and feet on that side of your body may show pain and pressure. This is most noticeable when you lie down and is often used as a chiropractic test.

Pregnancy

Pregnant women make hormones to relax their joints for easier delivery for the baby. However, if their spines are not healthy, they may reveal hidden instability of the hip (and other) joints and may make what should be a joyous time one of pain. Chiropractic care is particularly helpful during and after pregnancy. Chiropractors have noticed that a properly aligned SI joint, hip and spine helps ensure a more comfortable pregnancy, a safer and easier delivery and post partum recovery.

Children's Hip Problems

Since childhood is a very physical time full of falls, accidents, cuts, scrapes and occasional serious injuries, children should have their spines checked, including their hips, their leg lengths and their SI or sacroiliac joints by a doctor of chiropractic to ensure they are free of subluxations. Chiropractors and body workers have often observed that a stressful birth could damage a child's spine and could cause problems in adult life if not corrected.

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