

Clinical History

6 year-old girl with right hip pain and inability to bear weight.

The patient was referred for a radiograph as part of the initial assessment.



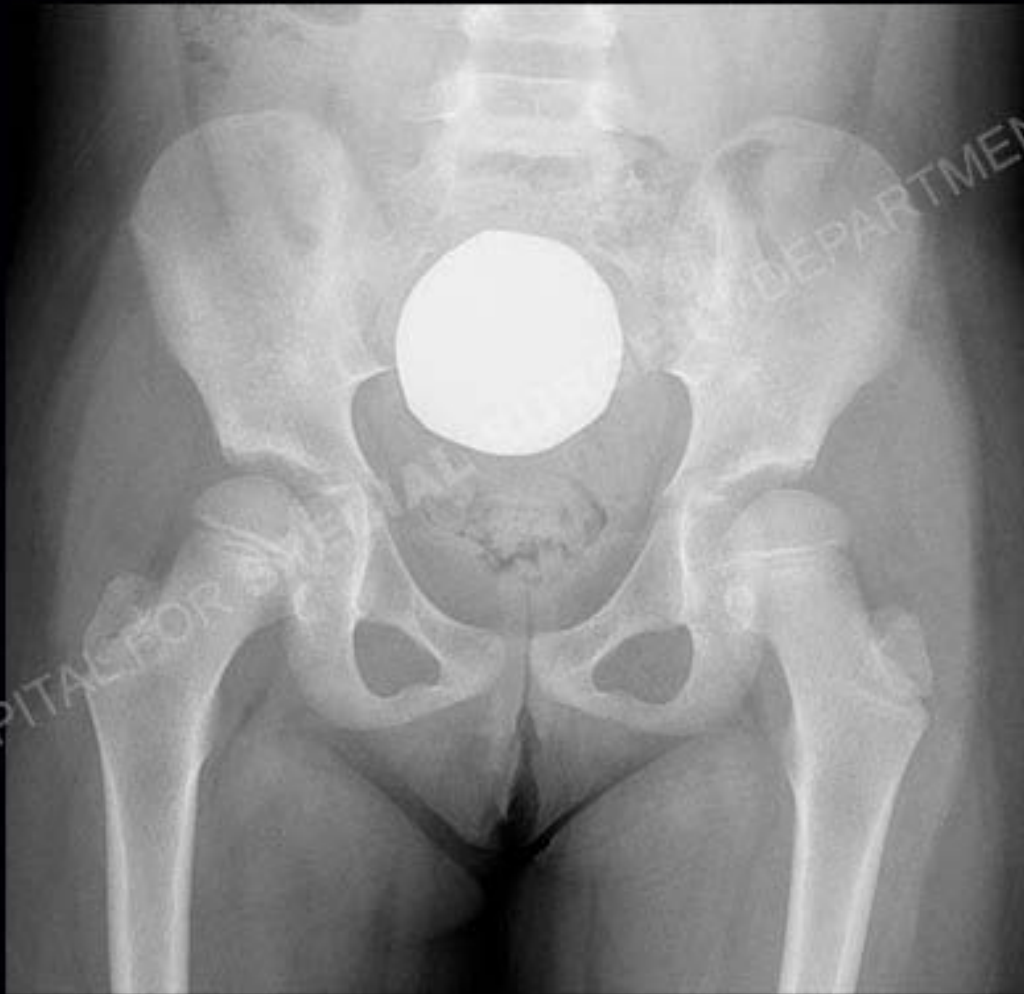


Figure 1: Radiograph of the pelvis and both hips reveal no detectable abnormality.

Subsequent request was made for an ultrasound (US) of both hips.

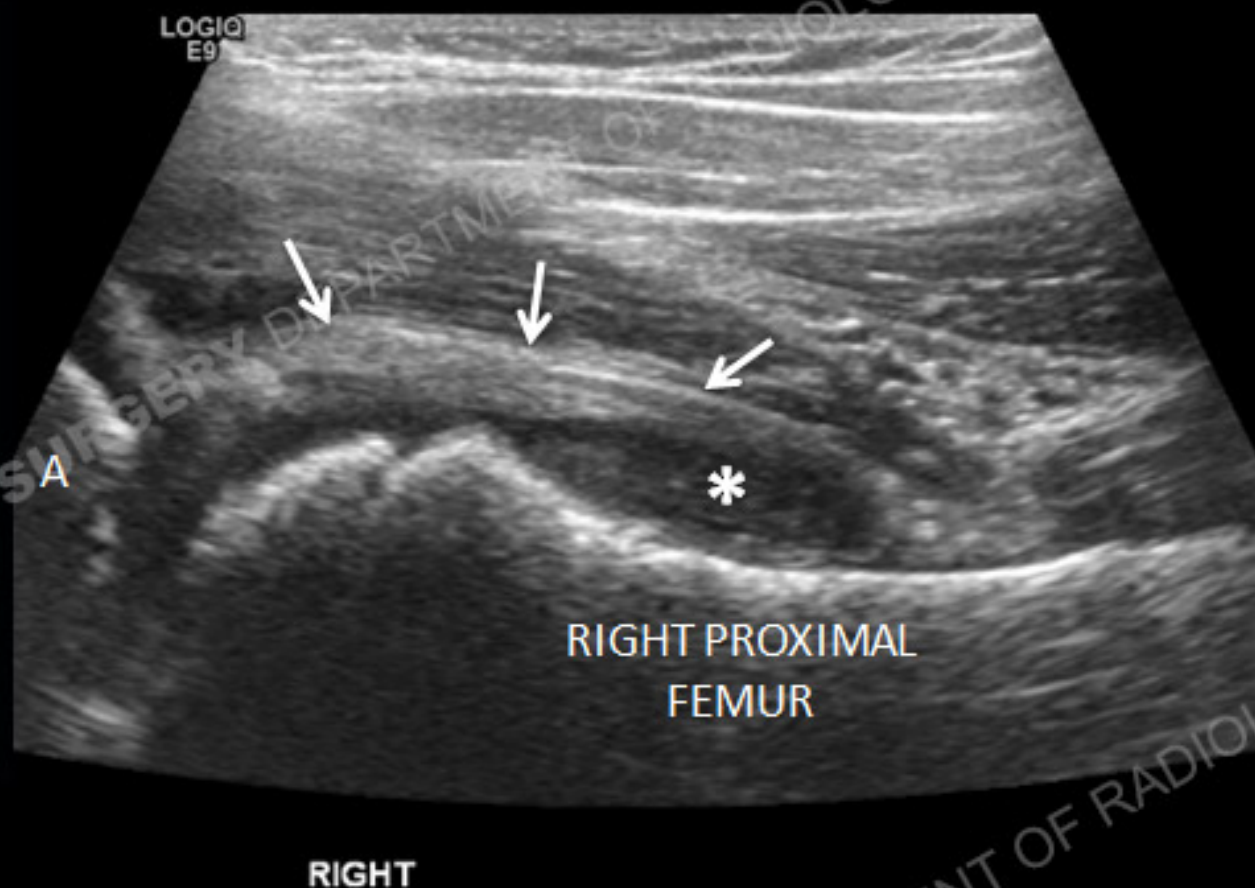
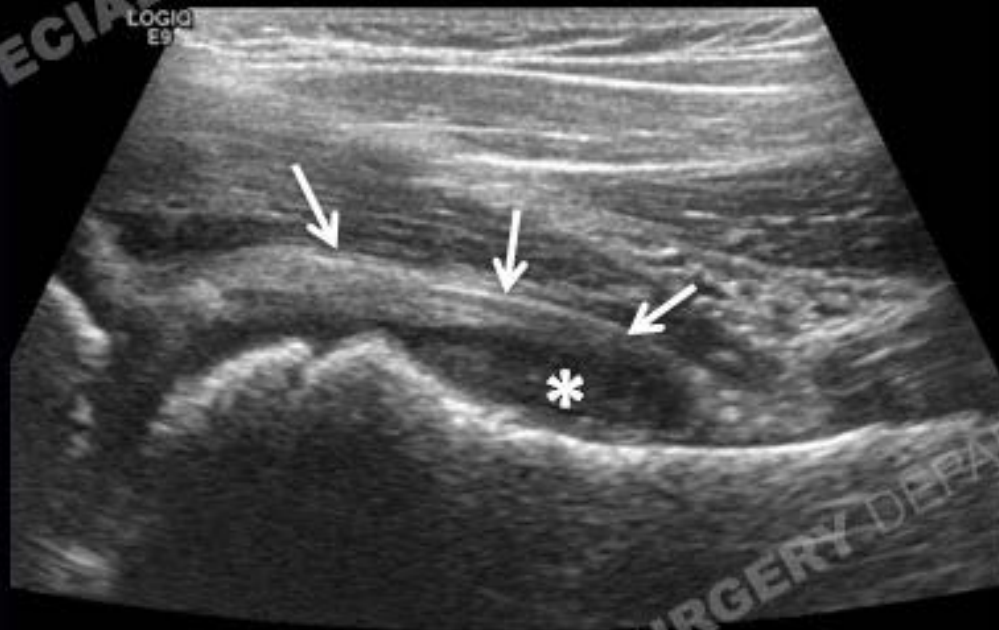
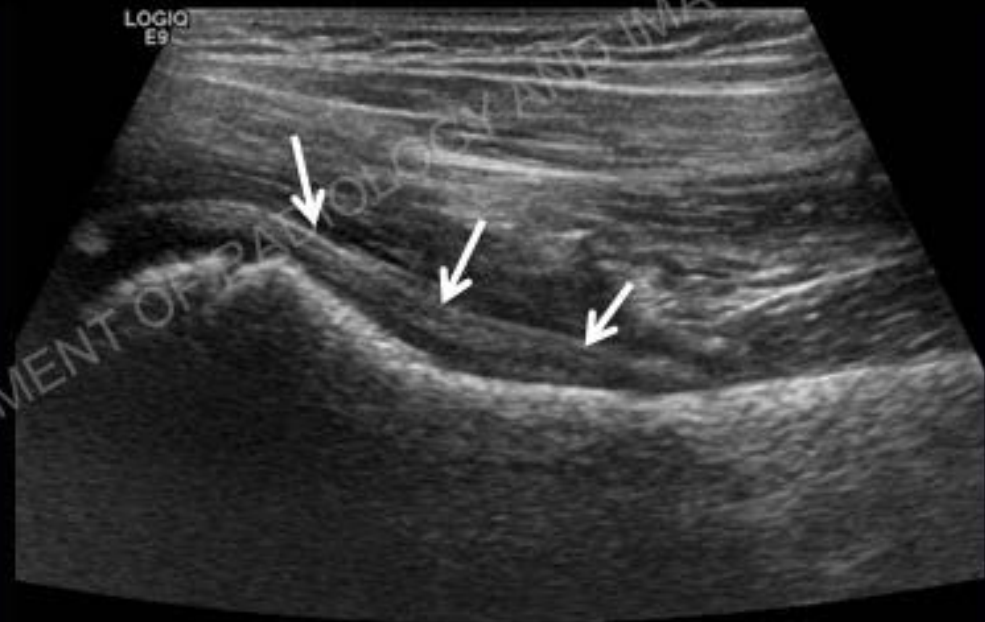


Figure 2: US of the right hip joint. There is a hip joint effusion (*) distending the hip joint capsule (arrows). This appearance is consistent with a synovitis. A = acetabulum.



RIGHT



LEFT

Figure 3: US of the right hip and left hip, for comparison. The right hip joint effusion (*) is again clearly seen distending the joint capsule. The left hip joint has no effusion and the capsule is not distended (left, arrows).

Diagnosis: Right hip joint synovitis

Discussion

Hip joint synovitis is a common cause of hip pain and limping in the pediatric population.

Radiographic evaluation usually shows no abnormality.

Sonography is useful to determine the presence or absence of a joint effusion.

The benefits of sonography include the ability to evaluate the contralateral side and the lack of ionizing radiation, particularly advantageous in the pediatric population.

