Letter to the Editor

Femoroacetabular Impingement Predisposes to Traumatic Posterior Hip Dislocation

Francisco Ferrero-Manzanal PhD, Raquel Lax-Pérez PhD, Oliver Marín-Peña PhD,
Alberto García-Gálvez PhD, Francisco Javier Rincón-Recarey PhD,
José Salinas-Gilabert PhD

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To the editor,

We read the study, “Femoroacetabular Impingement Predisposes to Traumatic Posterior Hip Dislocation” by Steppacher et al. [3] with great interest.

As the authors mentioned, the proposal that femoroacetabular impingement could play a role in low-energy hip dislocations was suggested by Philippon et al. [2], based on the arthroscopic findings in professional athletes during active competition. There are scarce references reporting anatomic factors that predispose to posterior hip dislocation [4]. Steppacher and colleagues’ article proposed a mechanism of fulcrum by the interaction between the nonspherical femoral head and the acetabular rim in patients with

femoroacetabular impingement-type CAM [3]. We were satisfied to read that the authors agreed with the mechanism that we recently described and represented graphically [1] in a case report of a young soccer player with femoroacetabular impingement that suffered from a low-energy posterior fracture-dislocation. In our publication, we also suggested other factors that could enhance posterior hip dislocation in patients with femoroacetabular impingement: retroversion of the femoral neck, retroversion of the acetabulum, and decreased acetabular depth.

The study by Steppacher et al. [3] shows a higher prevalence of femoroacetabular features in patients with posterior hip dislocation compared with the normative data of the proposed mechanism. We believe posterior low-energy hip dislocation should not only be attributed to femoroacetabular impingement as an isolated mechanism. Further investigations should be performed to rule out the contributing factors in this entity.

(Re: Steppacher SD, Albers CE, Siebenrock KA, Tannast M, Ganz R. Femoroacetabular Impingement Predisposes to Traumatic Posterior Hip Dislocation. *Clin Orthop Relat Res.* 2013;471:1937–1943.)

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F. Ferrero-Manzanal (✉), R. Lax-Pérez
Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery,
General University Hospital St. Lucia, C/Mosque, s/n,
Spot Los Arcos, St. Lucia, 30202 Cartagena, Spain
e-mail: frankferrero@gmail.com

O. Marín-Peña
Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery, The University
Hospital Infanta Leonor, Madrid, Spain

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A. García-Gálvez, F. J. Rincón-Recarey, J. Salinas-Gilabert
Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery,
Hospital Vega Baja, Orihuela, Alicante, Spain

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