



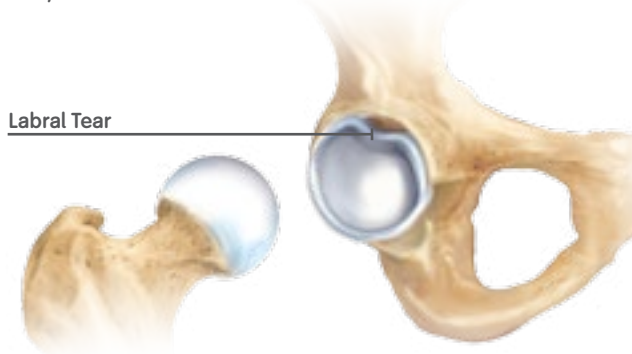
What is

A Labral Tear?

The hip, a ball-and-socket joint, is the largest weight-bearing joint in the body. When the joint is healthy, the head of the femur (thighbone) forms a round ball that fits into the acetabulum, a cavity at the base of the pelvis that forms the socket.

The labrum is a layer of fibrous cartilage that lines the rim of the acetabulum. This cartilage provides cushioning for the joint and keeps the femur in place. A tear in the labrum can result either from injury or from degeneration due to a joint condition. Some labral tears are not serious enough to cause symptoms and therefore may not require surgical treatment. But occasionally they can cause symptoms such as locking or “catching” in the joint and pain in the hip and groin area.

Since labral tears are often difficult to detect during a physical examination, your doctor may use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with a dye injection to confirm the diagnosis. Once the diagnosis is confirmed, arthroscopic hip surgery may be recommended.



For more information about labral tears and the minimally invasive procedures used to treat them, speak with your physician, or visit www.smith-nephew.com/us/patients.

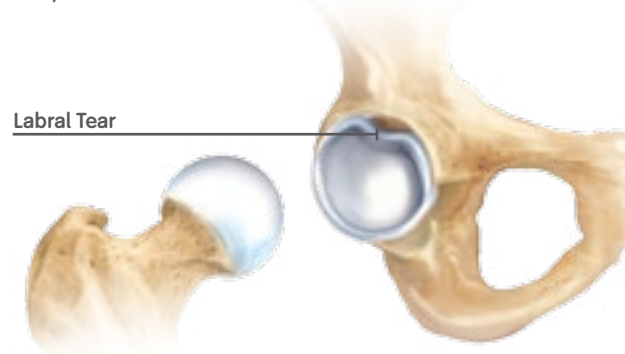
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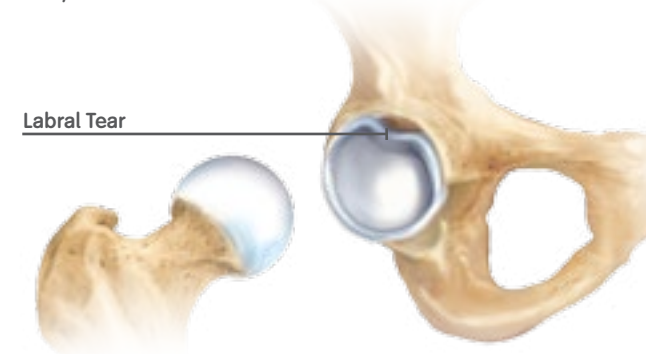
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