



Imaging Recommendations for Pediatric Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH)

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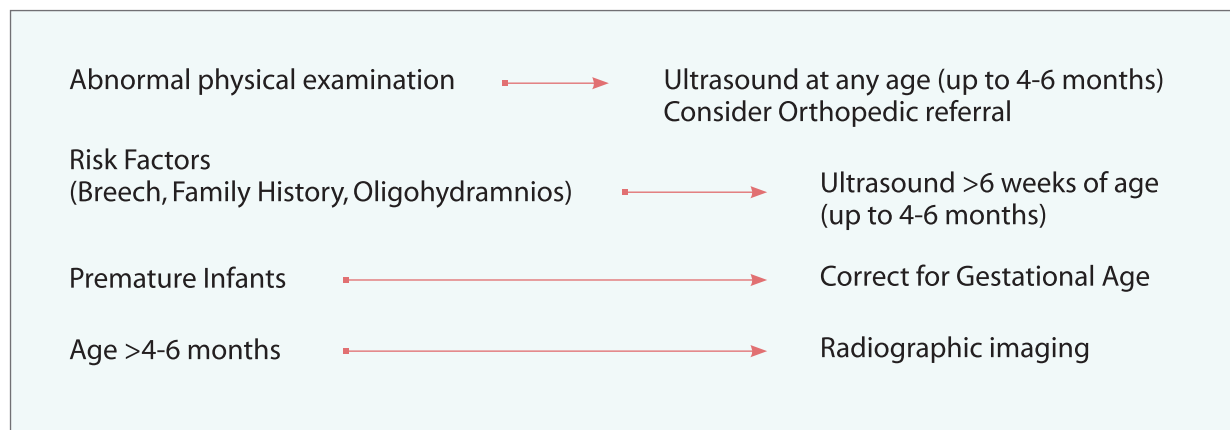
Early detection of developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) allows for simpler and more effective treatment. Ultrasound is a safe and effective technique in evaluating for DDH, but can reveal abnormalities that would resolve spontaneously, without intervention. In the early newborn period there is normal physiologic laxity, which can result in a false positive study. This can lead to unnecessary imaging with the potential for unnecessary treatment and associated costs. The primary treatment complication is avascular necrosis (AVN), which has been reported at less than 10% with Pavlik treatment.



Michael J. Forness, DO
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The following guidelines have been established with the goal of early detection balanced with the attempt to avoid unnecessary treatment and the increased costs of repetitive imaging. Ultrasound is the preferred imaging method at up to 4-6 months of age. Beyond 4-6 months of age, radiographic imaging becomes the preferred choice as at this age it is more sensitive as the femoral head ossifies.

Guidelines:



In the northern Michigan region, pediatric hip ultrasounds are performed by Dr. Gartland, Dr. Klegman, and Dr. Shirley. Ultrasounds can be scheduled at 231-935-7200. We are committed to schedule your patients as soon as possible in accordance with the above recommended guidelines. Please feel free to contact Patrick T. Gartland, MD at (pager) 231-318-0356 if you have any questions, concerns, or unique patient requests. Michael J. Forness, DO of Helen DeVos Pediatric Orthopedics is available for consultation if necessary at 616-267-2284.

References

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