THE YOUTH SPORTS EPIDEMIC

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Disclosures

No relevant disclosures applicable to this presentation



Objectives

- Evaluation of the youth sports epidemic
- Identify unique concerns relative to skeletally immature athletes
- Learn the importance of developmental age-appropriate activity
- Discussion of sideline diagnosis and management of injuries in pediatric and adolescent athletes



Greater than 38 million youth ages 5-18 participate annually (Caine et al, 2015)



Benefits of Youth Sports Participation

- Source of active recreation and fun
- Promotes healthy mental and physical development
- Forms foundation for personal health and fitness
- Improves flexibility, mobility, strength, coordination
- Weight management

- Improves self esteem
- Decreases likelihood of involvement in risky behaviors
- Reinforces value of teamwork and refines social skills
- Develops coping skills for success and defeat
- Stress management
- Reinforces discipline and goal setting

Balance

See-saw of inactive versus overactive



Physical Education an Elective?



Children currently are reported to spend more than 7.5hrs per day in front of a screen (Rideout, Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-year olds 2010)
 Only 1 in 3 children are physically active daily (National Association for Sport and Physical Education, 1999)
 CDC 2012, greater than 12.5 million obese children

- Increasing numbers of "professional-like" injuries in youth and overuse injuries in younger and younger children (example, UCL tears in youth baseball)
- Chronologic age used most commonly for selection of teams and training level
- Winning and competition are overemphasized
- Undertraining
- Overuse injuries remain at the forefront
 THESE ARE PREVENTABLE





- Youth sports are becoming a source of entertainment for adults (World Series of T-ball)
- Lack of uniform training by youth coaches
- Earlier start into sporting activities with resultant early attrition secondary to burnout
- "Body brokers" promising to sell your son/daughter's abilities to universities

- Early single sport specialization
- Multiple concomitant sports
- Year round participation
 Loss of balance with family, school, rest, nonsports recreation, community activities



22 WAYS TO HELP YOUR TEEN HAVE A SUCCESSFUL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CAREER

JANIS B. MEREDITH

 Childhood goals no longer job-related but focus on sports careers
 Race to the finish mentality



Societal norms are not normal anymore and have begun to blur common sense and the ability to follow advice of medical personnel





 Youth are not typically in a position to protect their best interests (often mentally immature)
 Responsibility falls on parents, coaches, medical personnel, etc

MOM BROUGHT 200

 Youth often have priorities that focus solely on the "now" and do not take into consideration implications for later in life

Parents are making decisions for their children based upon their own wishes and desires, often "living it out again"

Parents become the "enablers" and often feel under pressure to create successful children

> Must keep up with the "others"



By age 13, 70% attrition rate for youth sports (Safe Kids USA Campaign 2009) Top cited reasons adults, coaches, parents



The majority of the 10 million injury-related visits to a primary care physician for children are the result of a sports injury (Hambridge, Pediatrics 2002)



Children aged 5-14 account for nearly 40% of all sports related injuries treated in hospitals (AOSSM 2009)

 Football related concussions increased by over double from 2000 to 2010 (CDC)





 >4.3 million ED visits for sports related injuries
 68% age 5-24 (Burt, Ann Emerg Med 2001)
 Estimated annual cost of \$1.8 billion to treat sports related injuries (Adirin, Sports Med 2003)

As a general rule, youth sports are not as well organized as high school, collegiate, or professional

Coaches often inexperienced or not appropriately trained







Michael Muckian with Dean Duerst Countrie New



- Coaching education commonly focuses on rules and technique but does not routinely include emphasis on first aid, sports safety, injury prevention, and emergency preparedness Sporadically youth sports coaches obtain (or are required to obtain) basic medical training
 - This should be a requirement





 Significant variability between leagues in regards to training requirements and certifications

Emergency Action
 Plans (EAPs) are not
 uniform and often do
 not exist

Available Medical Care

Salzman et al 2014

- Surveyed athletic directors and coaches within a California school district
 - 70% did not staff healthcare providers for practice
 - 28% did not staff for home games
 - 30% did not staff for away games
 - 33% of schools did not have an EAP in place
 - Regular checks of athletic equipment and playing surfaces were not routine
 - Conclusion- inadequate care regardless of school region or size



Available Medical Care

Covering personnel commonly include athletic trainers, orthopaedic surgeons, family practicioners, pediatricians, physical medicine and rehab, emergency physicians



Team Approach

Factors involved in the maintenance of a healthy athlete include coaches, parents, friends, athletic trainers, physical therapists, physicians



Chain of Command

"Athlete-centered medicine" Pleasing the coach is favorable but treating the athlete is necessary



Team Approach



Important for the provider to have specific understanding of the unique demands and nuances of actions required by a particular sport

Equally crucial to understand the unique issues facing skeletally immature athletes

Healthcare Provider Perspective

- Understand expectations of the athlete
- Important to educate athletes, coaches, parents regarding risk to benefit ratio and "healthy" return to play



Healthcare Provider Perspective



At times there will be opportunity to sway from the gold standard management

 Important to have a discussion regarding potential short and long term consequences

Role of the healthcare provider is to ensure the best treatment plan for the circumstances with ultimate decision based upon acute risk and potential long term consequences to the athlete

There is no "I" in Team

- Not entirely true
- The athlete is often the best advocate for their own health by regulating their own behaviors through
 - Rest
 - Proper diet/hydration
 - Adjunct training
 - Equipment and shoewear fit
 - Social support
 - Seeking clinical help when needed



Pediatric Athlete

? "Small adults"

- Significant
 variability among athletes in regards to stage of development
 - Differing coordination, endurance, flexibility, pubertal status, body composition, strength, cognitive development



Pediatric Athlete



Developmental Age = Chronological Age +/- 2 years







14 Year old boys

13 Year old girls

 Currently athletes are often grouped purely according to chronologic age
 Does not account for the extreme variability in developmental age



Long Term Athlete Development

- Program to appropriately develop youth athletes in a uniform fashion
- Starts with fundamentals and develops training skills prior to competitive play
- Sport specific protocols available
- http://canadiansportforlife.ca/learn-aboutcanadian-sport-life/ltad-stages



Pediatric Athlete

Preteens typically display low levels of perceived risk and overestimate physical abilities (Emery, Clin J Sports Med 2003)





Pediatric Athlete

 Musculoskeletal system not fully developed
 Physes act as "weak link"




 Timing and rate of growth is variable
 Relates to genetics
 Good sleep habits, exercise, and nutrition crucial to maximize



During periods of rapid growth, the bones grow more rapidly than the surrounding muscles, tendons and ligaments creating growing pains

 Bone mineral density declines prior to reaching peak height velocity during growth spurts

- Functionally clumsy during this timeframe as the neuromuscular system adapts
 - Growth to strength imbalance



Growth arrest

 Deficient or absent growth at the physis resultant in limb length discrepancy, malalignment, or neurovascular issues





Supervised strength training may provide benefit of increased strength but also improvement in bone density, lipid profile, balance, self esteem, and flexibility

 Early start into conditioning may translate to healthier adult lifestyle

Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Form					
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2 Have you ever been basistatized or seent a nieth in a boostal?	- H	- #			
Have ever had surgery?		- 2			
3. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions (like Diabetes or Asthma)?					
Are you presently taking any medications or pills (prescription or over-the-counter?)					
Do you have any allergies (medicine, pollens, foods, bees or other stinging insects)?					
6. Have you ever passed out during or after exercise?		- 6			
Have you ever been dizzy during or after exercise?					
Have you ever had chect pain or discomfort in your chect during or after exercise?					
Do you tire more quickly than your friends during exercise?					
Have you ever had high blood pressure?					
Have you ever been told that you have a heart murmur, high cholesterol, or heart infection?					
Have you ever had racing of your heart or skipped heartbeats?					
Has anyone in your family died of heart problems or a sudden death before age 50?					
Does anyone in your family have a heart condition?					
Has a doctor ever ordered a test on your heart (EKG, echocardiogram)?					
Do you have any skin problems (itching, rashes, staph, MRSA, acne)?					
 Have you ever had a head injury or concussion? 					
Have you ever been knocked out or unconscious?					
Have you ever had a setzure?					
Have you ever had a stinger, burner, pinched nerve, or loss of feeling or weakness in your arms or legs?					
9. Have you ever had heat or muscle cramps?					
Have you ever been dizzy or passed out in the heat?					
10. Do you have trouble breathing or do you cough during or after activity?					
Do you take any medications for asthma (for instance, inhalers)?					
 Do you use any special equipment (pads, braces, neck rolls, mouth guard, eye guards, etc.)? 					
Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?					
Do you wear glasses or contacts or protective eye wear?					
 Have you had any other medical problems (infectious mononucleosis, diabetes, infectious diseases, etc.)? 					
 Have you had a medical problem or injury since your last evaluation? 					
 Have you ever been told you have sickle cell trait? 					
Has anyone in your family had sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait?					
16. Have you ever spanise/strained, dislocated, fractured, broken er had repeated swelling or other liguited any bonese of joints? ■ Head ■ Back ■Schoulder ■ Forearm ■ Hand ■ Hp = Knee ■ Ankle ■ Neck ■ Checkt = Checken ■ Checken ■ Hange = Things = Shings = Shi					
17. When was your first menstrual period?					
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Recomme	indation				

No minimal age but must be able to adequately follow directions and demonstrate adequate balance and coordination for the exercise at hand **Pre-participation exam** recommended prior to commencing Goals should be discussed with athlete and parents

WHEN I WAS BORN I WAS SO MAD AT MY PARENTS....

....I DIDN'T TALK TO THEM FOR 2 YEARS

Resistance training beneficial as young as 8 (Behringer, 2010) Strength gains greater during and after puberty Strength gains in children are related to neuronal adaptation rather than muscular hypertrophy



- Weight machines, bands, free weights
 Neuromuscular system underdeveloped in skeletally immature which may increase susceptibility to injury with free weights
- Ultimately equipment and exercise should be individually matched to the athlete

- For new exercise, initiate with no-load repetitions to emphasize form and technique
- Avoid maximal fatigue, ideally being able to accomplish 10-15 reps
- Submaximal loads only
 - AAP does not endorse single max lifts (although no studies to back this)



Avoid Olympic-style weight lifting and power lifting until after skeletal maturity



Preventive exercises can be very beneficial to decrease incidence of overuse injures (e.g. scapulothoracic dysfunction in swimmers) and some acute injuries (e.g. ACL tears)



Specialization

Hypothesized that early single sport specialization may be detrimental

Concerns

- Overuse injury
- Burnout
- Inadequate fundamental movement skills
- Recommendations
 - 2 to 3 non-consecutive months off year round from the same sport (NATA, 2011)
 - "sampling" years between ages 6 to 12

Sideline Assessment

 Initial cursory exam on the field to determine if safe to move the athlete from the playing field to the sideline for a more thorough exam

Sideline assessment typically allows for initial triage

- Does the injury need acute intervention?
- Can the athlete return to play?
- Are there restrictions/modifications for return to play?
- Initial plan for definitive care



General Acute Management



" Young players have a tendency to forget fundamentals over the winter. "

Initial treatment with protection, rest, ice, compression, and elevation during the acute phase ■ Knowledge of prior injury history is important as this introduces different variables in regards to increased re-injury risk and modified rehabilitation • Timely evaluation and treatment

General Acute Management

- Early restoration of motion and stability
- Sport specific rehabilitation
- Supervised return to sport to ensure safety from multiple perspectives
 - Prior to return to unrestricted activity, must be able to demonstrate mastery of rehabilitation techniques and sport specific exercises/movements



"We'll know more once we do an MRI, but, yes, this could be a career-ending injury."

Warning Signs

- Progressively worsening pain
- Pain present during particular actions
- Pain becoming more and more pronounced with less and less activity
- Loss of function





• Account for nearly 20% of all skeletal injuries in children Potential for complete or partial disruption of physeal growth Leg length discrepancy

Angular deformity



Salter Harris Classification

- SH I separation through the physis
- SH II fracture line exits the metaphysis
- SH III fracture line exits the epiphysis
- SH IV fracture line crosses metaphysis and epiphysis
- SH V crush injury to the physis



- Bony tenderness typically warrants radiographs
- Initially may be normal in the setting of a Salter Harris I fracture
 - Healing noted on future radiographs

Treatment variable Immobilization with casting and bracing Surgical fixation









 SH I injury to proximal humeral physis
 Hypertrophic zone affected
 Adolescent pitchers
 Risk factors

- High intensity/high frequency pitching
- Breaking balls
- Rotational deficits

Presentation

- Pain with throwing (especially late cocking)
- Decreased velocity
- Examination
 - Tenderness over proximal humeral physis
 - Reproduction of pain with resisted throwing motion



Radiographs May be normal early Physeal widening laterally



MRIPhyseal edema



Non-operative management
 Active rest x 6-12 weeks
 Interval throwing program
 Education

 Pitching mechanics
 Pitch counts

Breaking balls



- Skeletally immature athletes are more likely to develop apophyseal injuries than ligamentous injuries
- Resultant from repetitive valgus loading seen with throwing
 - Repetitive microtrauma



Risk factors

- Increased pitch counts
- Year round throwing
- High velocity pitches
- Continued pitching despite arm pain and fatigue



Presentation

- Medial elbow pain
- Decreased velocity and accuracy



Exam

- Bony tenderness overlying medial epicondyle
- Pain with valgus stress testing
 - Instability indicates avulsion or ligamentous involvement





Radiographs
 May be normal early
 Physeal widening or fragmentation

• MRI

- Edema in medial epicondyle apophysis
- Can be useful if concomitant UCL pathology suspected

■ Non-operative

- Active rest 6 12 weeks
- Rehabilitation with focus on flexor pronator mass once pain free
- Athlete, parent, coach education regarding safe pitch counts and pitching technique





Operative

- Reduction and fixation of avulsed medial epicondyle fracture
- Concomitant UCL repair versus reconstruction as indicated

- Males > females
- Risk factors
 - Repetitive valgus overload, particularly in the face of pre-existing medial instability
 - Gymnastics, throwing



Capitellum is disadvantaged Poor vascular inflow Subjected to axial and shear stress



Presentation

- Lateral elbow pain typically activity related
- Mechanical symptoms late

Exam

- Radiocapitellar tenderness
- Positive radiocapitellar grind test
- Decreased range of motion
- Crepitus



Radiographs
 Lucency noted in capitellum
 MRI

 Useful to assess overlying cartilage mantle and subchondral edema



Non-operative Active rest x 6 – 12 weeks Immobilization


Capitellar OCD

Operative

Arthroscopy and drilling

- Fixation (arthroscopic or open)
- Loose body excision and debridement



- Apophyses present point of weakness relative to the surrounding muscles
- Most commonly from indirect mechanism
 - Sudden forceful contraction of muscle against apophysis
 - Over extension of hip causing forceful elongation of muscle
- Sprinters, hurdlers, baseball swing





■ ASIS – sartorius ■ AIIS – rectus femoris 🗉 Ischium – hamstrings Lesser trochanter iliopsoas

Presentation

- Acute onset pain with pop
- Weakness in affected muscle group

• Exam

Bony tendernessMuscle weakness



Radiographs

- May not be visible if non-displaced or partial avulsion/fragmentation
- Follow-up radiographs may demonstrate signs of healing



■ Non-operative

- Active rest
- Weight bearing restriction
- Rehabilitation for early range of motion
- Compression shorts



Operative

 Indicated for significant displacement or persistent pain with mal-united or non-united fractures



Defect in the pars interarticularis region
 Congenital versus acquired
 Risk factors

 Repetitive hyperextension
 Gymnasts, football linemen, power lifters





Spondylolisthesis

- Often a result of primary spondylolysis
- Translation of one vertebral body on another
- Approximately 15% of those with spondylolysis progress to this

Presentation

- Often asymptomatic, incidental findings on imaging
- Activity related back pain, aggravated with hyperextension
- +/- nerve symptoms
- Exam
 - Palpable step off between spinous processes
 - Pain with hyperextension, particularly with single leg hyperextension (Stork testing)
 - Neuro exam typically normal

Radiographs
 Oblique views crucial to increase sensitivity
 Scotty dog sign
 SPECT bone scan
 Most sensitive exam



Non-operative

- Active rest 4 6 months
- Rehabilitation
 - Emphasize anti-lordotic and peri-pelvic exercises
- Bracing Boston Overlap Brace
 - Prevents lordosis
- Bone stimulator
 - Data mixed





- Operative in cases of failed conservative management
 Pars interarticularis repair
 - Fusion





- In younger population tibial eminence fractures are more common than ligamentous ACL injury
- Most commonly valgus non-contact injury



Presentation

- Acute onset pain
- +/- "pop"
- Subjective instability
- 🗉 Exam
 - Effusion
 - Discrepant Lachman exam
 - Joint line tenderness





Radiographs

- Can be helpful to rule out tibial eminence fracture or associated avulsion
- Assess bone age for determination of treatment options
- MRI

Evaluate for associated articular or meniscal injury





Non-operative

- Partial tears in young athletes may be managed with active rest, activity modification, bracing
- ACL tears in skeletally immature athletes not wishing to have surgery until skeletal maturity may be protected with brace and activity restriction
- Natural history of an untreated ACL tear is grim
 - Significant risk for early onset osteoarthritis



Operative

- Options largely dependent on developmental age
- "Adult-style" reconstruction
 - Violates physes and risks growth arrest or malalignment
- "Adolescent-style" reconstruction
 - Variation on "adult-style" with soft tissue graft, more vertical tunnels, and extraphyseal fixation
- Skeletally immature reconstruction
 Avoidance of physes





- Pediatric equivalent of an ACL tear
 - Bony attachments in youth are more vulnerable than the ligaments
- Avulsion of the tibial attachment of the ACL
- Commonly similar mechanism to an "adult" ACL injury
- Beware associated intra-articular injury
 - Meniscal tear
 - Chondral injury

Presentation
 Similar to ACL tear
 Exam
 Effusion
 Painful and/or limited range of motion
 Unstable Lachman exam



- Radiographs
 - Allows quantification of displacement
- MRI
 - Helpful to rule out associated internal derangement





■ Non-operative

- For non-displaced or minimally displaced fractures
- Attempted reduction with aspiration of effusion and immobilization in minimal flexion (0-20 degrees most commonly)

Operative Open versus arthroscopic

- Varying types of fixation
- Beware post-operative stiffness





Osteochondral avulsion of the distal end of the patella Resultant from forceful contraction of quadriceps muscle against a static patellar tendon (typically flexed knee) Avulsed fragment may include a portion of the articular surface





Presentation

Indirect injury typically
 Landing from a jump

Exam

- Tenderness overlying distal patella and proximal patellar tendon
- Patella alta
- Extensor mechanism incompetent
- Effusion

Radiographs

- Findings may be very subtle with small fleck of bone (cartilage component may be large however)
- Patella alta

• MRI

- Useful to further discern in cases of equivocal radiographs
- Helps to quantify size of cartilage component and articular surface involvement





 Non-operative
 Immobilization in limited flexion (0-20 deg) up to six weeks
 Cylinder cast

Operative

Open reduction and fixation
Varying fixation methods
Restoration of articular surface



- Males > Females
- Near skeletal maturity
- Forceful quadriceps contraction against flexed knee
 - Basketball



Presentation

- Acute onset
- Often after jumping or sprinting
- Exam
 - Deficient extensor mechanism
 - Important to evaluate anterior compartment
 - Tear of recurrent branch of anterior tibial artery



Radiographs

- Contralateral view may be helpful if minimally displaced
- Patella alta



• MRI

 Helpful to rule out internal derangement in fractures extending through epiphysis

Non-operative

Reduce in extension and hold with long leg cast



Operative Reduction and fixation +/- prophylactic compartment release



Osgood Schlatter's Disease



Traction apophysitis of the tibial tubercle Males > Females Risk factors Jumping sports Self-limiting Typically resolves with closure of growth plates

Osgood Schlatter's Disease



Presentation

- Tibial tubercle pain aggravated by activity or direct contact
- Exam
 - Prominent tibial tubercle
 - Tenderness
 - Pain with resisted knee extension

Osgood Schlatter's Disease

Radiographs Irregularity, +/- widening Persistent osteochondral ossicle


Osgood Schlatter's Disease

- Non-operative
 - Active rest
 - PT
 - Anti-inflammatories
 - Patellar tendon straps/Prewrap proximal to tibial tubercle



Osgood Schlatter's Disease



Operative

- Skeletally mature patients only
- Recalcitrant cases
- Ossicle excision



 Softening of subchondral bone with deformation of cartilage typically related to overuse
Males > females

Presentation

- Pain, swelling, mechanical symptoms
- Exam
 - Wilson's sign- pain with extension from a fully flexed and internally rotated position
 - Point tenderness over femoral condyle



 Radiographs
Subchondral lucency, fragmentation





Assess overlying cartilage mantle



Non-operative

- Activity restriction
- Bracing
- Weight bearing restriction



Operative
Drilling and/or fixation
OATs procedure



Often noted incidentally
Symptoms more common in females
Insertion point of posterior tibialis tendon





Presentation
Medial midfoot pain
Exam
Prominence
Tenderness
Pes planus



- Radiographs
 - Navicular enlargement or accessory fragment
- MRI
 - Adjunct to evaluate distal posterior tibialis tendon





Non-operative

- Active rest
- Orthotics or shoewear modification
- Anti-inflammatories
- Immobilization if recalcitrant

Operative

 Excision of accessory bone with reattachment of posterior tibialis tendon





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