

# TROCHANTERIC BURSITIS

## What is trochanteric bursitis?

Trochanteric bursitis is irritation or inflammation of the trochanteric bursa. A bursa is a fluid-filled sac that acts as a cushion between tendons, bones, and skin. The trochanteric bursa is located on the upper, outer area of the thigh. There is a bump on the outer side of the upper part of the thigh bone (femur) called the greater trochanter. The trochanteric bursa is located over the greater trochanter.

## How does it occur?

The trochanteric bursa may be inflamed by a group of muscles or tendons rubbing over the bursa and causing friction against the thigh bone. This injury can occur with running, walking, or bicycling, especially when the bicycle seat is too high.

## What are the symptoms?

You have pain on the upper outer area of your thigh or in your hip. The pain is worse when you walk, bicycle, or go up or down stairs. You have pain when you move your thigh bone and feel tenderness in the area over the greater trochanter.

## How is it diagnosed?

Your healthcare provider will ask about your symptoms and examine your hip and thigh.

## How is it treated?

Treatment may include the following:

- putting ice packs on your thigh for 20 to 30 minutes every 3 to 4 hours for 2 to 3 days or until the pain goes away
- taking anti-inflammatory medicine prescribed by your healthcare provider (adults aged 65 years and older should not take non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicine for more than 7 days without their healthcare provider's approval)
- getting a corticosteroid injection into the bursa to reduce the pain and swelling

While you are recovering from your injury you will need to change your sport or activity to one that does not make your condition worse. For example, you may need to swim instead of running or

bicycling. If you are bicycling, you may need to lower your bicycle seat.

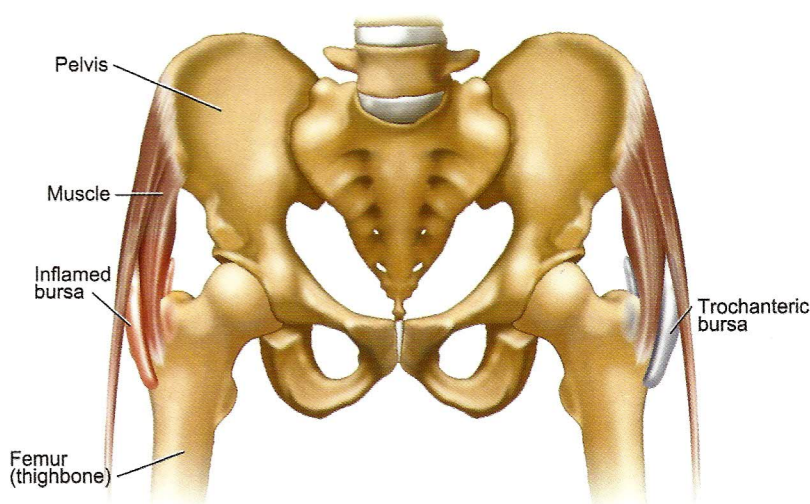
## When can I return to my sport or activity?

The goal of rehabilitation is to return you to your sport or activity as soon as is safely possible. If you return too soon you may worsen your injury, which could lead to permanent damage. Everyone recovers from injury at a different rate. Return to your sport or activity will be determined by how soon your leg recovers, not by how many days or weeks it has been since your injury occurred. In general, the longer you have symptoms before you start treatment, the longer it will take to get better.

You may safely return to your sport or activity when, starting from the top of the list and progressing to the end, each of the following is true:

- you have full range of motion in the injured leg compared to the uninjured leg
- you have full strength of the injured leg compared to the uninjured leg
- you can jog straight ahead without pain or limping
- you can sprint straight ahead without pain or limping
- you can do 45-degree cuts, first at half-speed, then at full-speed
- you can do 20-yard figures-of-eight, first at half-speed, then at full-speed
- you can do 90-degree cuts, first at half-speed, then at full-speed

## TROCHANTERIC BURSITIS



- you can do 10-yard figures-of-eight, first at half-speed, then at full-speed
- you can jump on both legs without pain and you can jump on the injured leg without pain

## How can I prevent trochanteric bursitis?

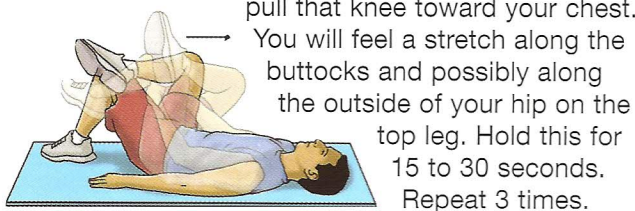
Trochanteric bursitis is best prevented by warming up properly and stretching the muscles on the outer side of your upper thigh.

# TROCHANTERIC BURSTITIS REHABILITATION EXERCISES

You can begin stretching the muscles that run along the outside of your hip using the first 3 exercises. You can do the strengthening exercises when the sharp pain lessens.

## Stretching exercises

**1. GLUTEAL STRETCH:** Lying on your back with both knees bent, rest the ankle of one leg over the knee of your other leg. Grasp the thigh of the bottom leg and pull that knee toward your chest.



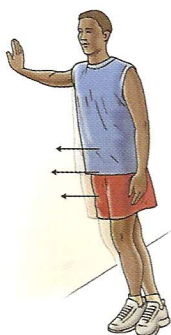
GLUTEAL STRETCH

You will feel a stretch along the buttocks and possibly along the outside of your hip on the top leg. Hold this for 15 to 30 seconds. Repeat 3 times.

**2. ILIOTIBIAL BAND STRETCH: STANDING:** Cross one leg in front of the other leg and bend down and touch your toes. You can move your hands across the floor toward the front leg and you will feel more stretch on the outside of your thigh on the other side. Hold this position for 15 to 30 seconds. Return to the starting position. Repeat 3 times.



ILIOTIBIAL BAND STRETCH: STANDING

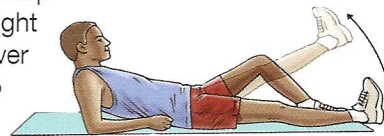


**3. ILIOTIBIAL BAND STRETCH: SIDE-LEANING:** Stand sideways near a wall. Place one hand on the wall for support. Cross the leg farthest from the wall over the other leg, keeping the foot closest to the wall stable. Lean into the wall. Hold the stretch for 15 seconds and repeat 3 times.

ILIOTIBIAL BAND STRETCH: SIDE-LEANING

## Strengthening exercises

**4. STRAIGHT LEG RAISE:** Lie on your back with your legs straight out in front of you. Bend one knee and place the foot flat on the floor. Tighten up the top of your thigh muscle on the opposite leg and lift that leg about 8 inches off the floor, keeping the thigh muscle tight throughout. Slowly lower your leg back down to the floor. Do 3 sets of 10 on each side.



STRAIGHT LEG RAISE

**5. PRONE HIP EXTENSION:** Lie on your stomach with your legs straight out behind you. Tighten up your buttocks muscles and lift one leg off the floor about 8 inches. Keep your knee straight. Hold for 5 seconds. Then lower your leg and relax. Do 3 sets of 10.



PRONE HIP EXTENSION

**6. SIDE-LYING LEG LIFT:** Lying on your side, tighten the front thigh muscles on your top leg and lift that leg 8 to 10 inches away from the other leg. Keep the leg straight. Do 3 sets of 10.



SIDE-LYING LEG LIFT

**7. WALL SQUAT WITH A BALL:** Stand with your back, shoulders, and head against a wall and look straight ahead. Keep your shoulders relaxed and your feet 2 feet away from the wall and a shoulder's width apart. Place a soccer or basketball-sized ball behind your back. Keeping your head against the wall, slowly squat down to a 45 degree angle. Your thighs will not yet be parallel to the floor. Hold this position for 10 seconds and then slowly slide back up the wall. Repeat 10 times. Build up to 3 sets of 10.



WALL SQUAT WITH A BALL