Hip Joint Pain Pattern

- The hip joints are the joints where the thigh bone (femur) meets the pelvis.
- Lesher et al. established pain patterns for the hip joints.
- Hip joints
 - Cause hip, buttock, groin, thigh and even lower leg pain (10%).
 - Do not/rarely cause back pain
 - Can be unilateral pain (left or right hip) or bilateral (pain from both hips).
- When pain is chronic or severe, the pain can extend beyond these pain patterns.
- Hip joints do not have to show degeneration on diagnostic imaging to be painful. This is usually due to a joint capsule sprain (synovitis).
- Hip joints that do show degeneration on diagnostic imaging can be either a joint sprain (synovitis) or degeneration (arthrosis) or both.
- Consider that the patient may have more than one pain generator.
- 1. Based on: Lesher JM, Dreyfuss P, Hager N, Kaplan M, Furman M. Hip Joint Pain Referral Patterns: A Descriptive Study. Pain Medicine. 2008. 9(1):22-25.



