

IT'S YOUR CASE

Species: Feline Breed: Domestic Shorthair (DSH) Sex: Male Neutered Age: 1.8 year

Clinical History:

Pelvic limb lameness and right coxal crepitus after a short fall.

Details of study and technical comments:

A study of the pelvis is presented for evaluation. The study includes a right lateral and ventrodorsal pelvis as well as right mediolateral and craniocaudal horizontal beam views of the right femur.

Diagnostic interpretation:

The proximal physes of the femur are still visible despite the patient being 22 months old (normal closure time 7-11 months).

There is a discontinuity and malalignment of the right femur at the level of the proximal physis (red arrows) consistent with a fracture. Both fragments are in contact but there is minimal proximal displacement (purple arrow) and mild rotation between the head and neck; this appears as a reduced angle of anteversion on the mediolateral femoral view (orange arrow). The femoral caput is caudally oriented on this view (blue arrow). The cervical area (femoral neck) is mottled with decreased radiopacity suggesting an osteolytic process and slight remodelling (yellow arrow). The femoral head remains in place within the acetabulum.

The left proximal femoral physis and coxofemoral joints are within normal limits.

There is a marked asymmetry of the pelvic musculature, the right being severely atrophied (green arrows).

The pelvis and lumbo-sacral vertebral column are unremarkable.



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This report is based on the available history and radiographic interpretation only and not on a physical examination of the patient. It must therefore only be interpreted by a currently licensed and registered veterinary surgeon responsible for the care of this patient.





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Conclusions:

Right proximal femoral physeal fracture, highly consistent with feline femoral neck metaphyseal osteopathy

Delayed proximal femoral physeal closure.

Additional comments:

The described fall is likely a relatively low impact force and so the fracture is more likely to be pathological.

Metaphyseal osteopathy (also called proximal femoral physeal dysplasia) of the femoral head has been described in young neutered male cats, often overweight. The aetiology is unclear and it often affects both femurs. Delayed physeal closure of the proximal femur is described in neutered males and has been implicated with castration at a young age.

LITERATURE:

Burke, J. (2003). Physeal dysplasia with slipped capital femoral epiphysis in a cat. *The Canadian Veterinary Journal*, 44(3), 238.

McNicholas Jr, W. T., Wilkens, B. E., Blevins, W. E., Snyder, P. W., McCabe, G. P., Applewhite, A. A., ... & Breur, G. J. (2002). Spontaneous femoral capital physeal fractures in adult cats: 26 cases (1996–2001). *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 221(12), 1731-1736.

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