

## Osteitis Condensans Ilii

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### PRESENTATION

A 28-year-old woman presented with mild right hip pain. She had a previous episode of low back pain following childbirth 4 years ago.

### COMMENTS

Osteitis condensans ilii is a benign condition found more often in women than in men. It is essentially a radiologic diagnosis. A bilateral and relatively symmetrical area of sclerosis is seen on the iliac side of the sacroiliac joint, and the sclerotic area is typically triangular in shape. The importance of recognizing this entity is that it may potentially be confused with the sacroiliitis found in ankylosing spondylitis and other inflammatory conditions. Unlike sacroiliitis, however, the articular margins are intact and the joint space is preserved. The radiographic changes of osteitis condensans ilii can vary and may even resolve with time.

The etiology of osteitis condensans ilii is unknown. The most popular hypothesis is that it results from stress across the sacroiliac joint and increased vascularity secondary to pregnancy. Other hypotheses include



**Figure.** Anteroposterior radiograph of the pelvis shows well-defined areas of sclerosis on the inferior aspects of the iliac sides of both sacroiliac joints. The sclerotic areas are triangular in shape and are relatively symmetrical. The sacroiliac joints themselves are normal. The sacral side of each sacroiliac joint is normal.

the possibility that the condition is caused by urinary tract infection, and that it is a form of inflammatory arthritis related to ankylosing spondylitis. Clinical findings, if present, are usually mild. The condition is usually discovered during imaging of patients presenting with low back or buttock pain. Morning

stiffness, limited motion, and polyarthralgia may also occur, though inflammatory articular findings are generally absent.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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