

The athlete's hip

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If the etio-pathogenesis of arthritis remains obscure, the influence of the mechanical factors involved is well established. The coxo-femoral articulation is a startling illustration of this, based on the works of PAUWELS and the Ecole Toulousaine with P. FICAT, J. ARLET, P. GEDEON & B. MAZIERES (18).

The determining role and the importance of the supporting area has been skilfully proven. The minor architectural fault, the smallest dysplasia creates a disproportion between on the one hand the capacity to resist effort and the wear and tear of the bone and cartilaginous tissues, and on the other hand the importance of the mechanical strains that the hip is submitted to. This increase in pressure of the articular cartilage favours the apparition of premature osteoarthritis.