

When Man's Legs "Give Out," His Buttocks Takes the Brunt

A 75-year-old man presents to the urgent care center for evaluation of pain in his buttocks after a fall. He states he was walking when his "legs gave out" and he hit the ground. He landed squarely on his buttocks, causing immediate pain. He was eventually able to get up with some assistance. He denies current weakness or any bowel or bladder complaints.

His medical/surgical history is significant for coronary artery disease, hypertension, and bilateral hip replacements. Physical exam reveals an elderly male who is uncomfortable but in no obvious distress. His vital signs are stable. He has moderate point tenderness over his sacrum but is able to move all his extremities well, with normal strength.



Radiograph of his sacrum/coccyx is shown. What is your impression?

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ANSWER

There are degenerative changes present. Bilateral hip prostheses are noted. Within the coccyx, there is bone remodeling and angulation that are likely chronic and related to remote trauma or injury (arrow). Below this, some cortical lucency (circled) is noted, most likely consistent with an acute fracture. The patient was prescribed a non-steroidal medication and a mild narcotic pain medication. **CR**

