

# An Alarming Slip of the Hip

**A**fter a fall, an 80-year-old woman is brought to the emergency department for evaluation of hip pain. She was getting out of bed when she slipped, fell, and landed on her right hip; bearing weight now is painful. She denies hitting her head.

The patient's vital signs are normal. Her medical history is significant for hypertension and diabetes.

Inspection of the hip reveals no obvious deformity or shortening. The right lateral aspect of the hip exhibits mild swelling and decreased range of motion secondary to the pain. You order a pelvic radiograph, which is shown. What is your impression?



*see answer on page 31 >>*



---

**Nandan R. Hichkad, PA-C, MMSc**, practices at the Georgia Neurosurgical Institute in Macon.

>> *continued from page 13*

**ANSWER**

The radiograph shows no acute fracture or subluxation. Diffuse osteopenia is present. Increased density is noted within the soft tissue lateral to the trochanteric portion of the right femur; this likely represents a contusion or hematoma. **CR**

