

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"نَرْفَعُ دَرَجَاتٍ مَّنْ  
نَّشَاءُ وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي  
عِلْمٍ عَلِيمٌ"

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# **Morphological and morphometric study of the Sacroiliac joint in human.**

Thesis submitted for partial fulfillment of M.D. degree in Anatomy and Embryology.

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# LIST OF ABBREVEATIONS

AS	Ankylosing Spondylitis	
ASIA	Anterior Superior Iliac Spine	
ILs	Iliolumbar ligament	
ISL	Interosseous Sacroiliac Ligament	
HOME	Highly Optimized Microscope Environment	
LBP	Low Back Pain	
LDL	Long Dorsal Ligament	
PGP	Pelvic Girdle Pain	
PSIS	Posterior Superior Iliac Spine	
PSL	Posterior Sacroiliac Ligament	
RSA	Roentgen Stereophotogrammetric motion analysis	
SIJ	Sacroiliac Joint	
SSLs	Sacrospinous Ligaments	
STLs	Sacrotuberous Ligaments	
TLF	Thoracolumbar Fascia	

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## **Aim of the work**

The aim of the present work is to study the morphology of the sacroiliac joint in human as regards the capsule of the joint, shape of articular surfaces, the supporting ligaments, the joint space, the types of articular cartilage, and its clinical applications using different anatomical, microscopic and imaging procedures (X ray, CT scan and MRI) . Morphometric measurements will be done which may act as an accurate guide for CT scans and MRI interpretation.



## Introduction

The human sacroiliac joint transmits the weight of the trunk to the lower limbs. It is a true diarthrodial joint, comprising a joint cavity, two surfaces covered by articular cartilage and a joint capsule. However, movement is restricted to a slight rotation and translation by very strong ventral, interosseous and dorsal sacroiliac ligaments. Due to its restricted mobility, the sacroiliac joint is called an amphiarthrosis (**Kampen and Tillmann, 1998**).

The force generating articular pressure is transmitted by the strong dorsally located sacroiliac ligaments due to the nearly sagittal orientation of the articular surfaces. During bipedal posture the sacroiliac joint is subjected to pressure in its lower part. During walking and the changing unipedal support, additional shearing forces are exerted (**Vleeming et al., 1990**).

**Puhakka et al. (2003)** declared that the joint is partly synovial and partly a syndesmosis; it is not amphiarthrodial. Debate on the type of the joint largely arose from early descriptive and light microscopic studies that repetitively demonstrated differences between the sacral and iliac articular surfaces, the iliac being more fibrous or fibrocartilaginous.

The sacroiliac joints transmit weight from the vertebral column to the pelvis and they also transmit the ground reaction force from the lower limbs to the trunk during gait. Normally the line of weight lies anterior to the center of rotation of the sacroiliac joint during standing and posterior to the hip joints or it passes through the hip joints (**Porterfield and De Rosa, 1990**).

The function of the sacroiliac joint is to absorb shearing forces at heel strike during walking. The upper body has forward momentum and there is a retarding force on the lower body due to the ground reaction force (GRF). The resulting force couple tends to produce a trunk flexion and an anterior shear on structures relative to the adjoining inferior structures (**DonTigny, 1985**).

**Demir et al. (2007)** studied the types and frequency of the anatomical variations of the sacroiliac joint using CT scans according to age, gender, body mass index and childbirth, and the influence of the anatomical variants to the uniformity and width of the joint space.

During ageing, there is an increase in the fibrous adhesions within the sacroiliac joint and a consequent decrease in size of the synovial cavity (**Standring 2005**). From the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> decade onwards, there is a decreased mobility associated with physiological joint fusion (**Porterfield and De Rosa 1991**). There was evidence of increasing para-articular osteophytosis with age, leading to ankylosis (**Stewart 1984**)

The sacroiliac joint is a commonly overlooked cause of lower back pain. Recent studies have found that sacroiliac dysfunction was the cause, or a major component, in a high percentage of cases of mechanical back pain. Dysfunction in the sacroiliac joint is not only cause of low back pain but also may mimic pain associated with lumbar disc herniation or a facet joint with pain referred to the buttock and thigh (**Mancuso et al., 2005**)

The relation of sacroiliac joint with low back pain is still controversial. However, a large number of low back pain cases show no sacroiliac joint abnormalities so further morphological and imaging investigations was suggested by **Demir et al. (2007)** for different variations comparison.

# **Material and Methods**

## **A) Cadaveric study**

-Ten cadavers will be obtained from the dissecting room of Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University and dissected bilaterally for examination of the sacroiliac joint capsule, shape of articular surfaces and the supporting ligaments.

-Specimens will be taken from the articular cartilage of the joint processed as paraffin blocks and will be stained using Hx&E for the obtained sections (5-7mm) then examined using light microscope for identification of articular cartilage type.

## **B) Imaging study**

The material will be obtained from imaging of the persons who attended to October 6 University Orthopedic clinics and presented with low back pain and subjected to different imaging procedures.

The imaging of these persons will be fully examined and the image which presents no pathological findings will be selected.

-Twenty plain x-ray pelvis will be examined for the variations of the shape and joint space.

-Ten CT scan pelvis will be examined for the variations of shape, joint space and special attention will be added to the measurements of the joint.

-Five MRI pelvis will be examined for the variations of the shape, joint space, soft tissue and special attention will be added the measurements of the joint.

# دراسة وصفية وقياسية للمفصل العجزي الحرقفي فى الإنسان.

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## مقدمة

المفصل العجزى الحرقفى فى الإنسان ينقل وزن الجذع الى الطرفين السفليين. و هو مفصل ثنائى حقيقى يتكون من تجويف و سطحين متمفصلين يغطى كل منهما بغضروف وله حافظة . ولكن حركة هذا المفصل محددة بدوران بسيط أو أنزلاق و ذلك لوجود أربطة قوية أمامية و بين العظم و خلفية ولهذا يسمى هذا المفصل مفصل متشابك.

القوة المسببة للضغط المفصلى تنتقل من خلال الأربطة الخلفية وذلك بسبب الوضع السهمى للسطحين . أثناء الوقوف على الطرفين السفليين يخضع المفصل العجزى الحرقفى لضغط فى جزءه الأسفل. أما خلال المشى و التحميل على طرف واحد تشترك قوى أخرى فى تحميل الضغط.

وهذا المفصل يعتبر جزئيا مفصل زلالى و جزئيا مفصل ليفى. فى الدراسات الوصفية و الميكروسكوبية السابقة وجد عدد متوالى من الاختلافات بين السطح المفصلى العجزى والسطح المفصلى الحرقفى حيث وجد أن السطح المفصلى الحرقفى كان غنيا بالألياف و الغضاريف الليفية.

المفصل العجزى الحرقفى ينقل الوزن من العمود الفقرى للحوض و ينقل رد فعل الأرض على الطرفين السفليين الى الجذع خلال المشى. فى الطبيعى يمر خط الوزن أثناء الوقوف أمام مركز دوران المفصل العجزى الحرقفى و خلف أو من خلال مفصل الفخذ.

ووظيفة المفصل العجزى الحرقفى أن يمتص القوى المتداخلة من صدمات الكعب خلال المشى. الجزء العلوى من الجسم له قوة دفع أماميه و يوجد قوى مؤخرة فى الجزء السفلى من الجسم تتبع قوى رد فعل الأرض. ينتج عن هذه القوى ميل للجسم لأحداث انقباض للجذع مع أنقاص من التراكيب السفلية المجاورة.

و يوجد دراسات من الناحية التشريحية على أنواع المفصل و كذلك على تنوع الاختلافات التشريحية للمفصل العجزى الحرقفى و ذلك من خلال الأشعات المقطعية طبقا للسن و الجنس و معامل وزن الجسم و الأنجاب و تأثيرها على طبيعة و اتساع تجويف المفصل.

أثناء التقدم فى العمر يوجد زيادة فى كمية الألتصاقات الليفية داخل المفصل العجزى الحرقفى مما يؤدى الى صغر حجم الكيس الزلالى و فى العقد الثالث و الرابع من العمر تقل حركة المفصل مصحوبة بالالتحام فسيولوجى للمفصل. كما يوجد دلائل على زيادة فى تكوين الزوائد العظمية مع التقدم فى العمر يؤدى الى أعوجاج فى المفصل.

و يعتبر المفصل العجزى الحرقفى من أكثر الأسباب المرئية لألام أسفل الظهر فقد وجد أن الخلل الوظيفى فى المفصل العجزى الحرقفى هو أكثر أسباب ألام الظهر الميكانيكية. الخلل الوظيفى فى المفصل العجزى الحرقفى ممكن أن يتلازم مع ألام الأنزلاق الغضروفى الذى يؤدى الى ألام فى الألية و الفخذ.

و لكن العلاقة بين المفصل العجزى الحرقفى مع ألام أسفل الظهر لازالت محل جدل و ذلك لأن عدد كبير من حالات ألام أسفل الظهر لا تظهر أى أختلافات غير طبيعية فى المفصل العجزى الحرقفى لذا يوصى بأجراء دراسات وصفية و تصويرية أخرى لهذه الأختلافات.

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