Limping Child Algorithm

Pain localised to hip? (or knee pain referred from hip)

→ No →

Consider other pathologies eg.
- Toddlers fracture
- Osteomyelitis at other site
- Foreign body
- Abdominal/ testicular pathology
- Bone tumour
- Psoas abscess

Yes ↓

Unwell Child?
Temp>/= 38 deg C
or non-weightbearing
or Marked reduction in ROM

→ Yes →

- Analgesia
- FBC,ESR,CRP
- Blood Cultures
- Urine MC+S
- Xray
- Senior Review
- Orthopaedic referral

No ↓

Hx of trauma
or Age 4-10yrs and possibility of Perthes' Disease *or*
Age 10-15yrs and possibility of SUFE

← Yes ←

- Analgesia
- Xray
- Senior review and follow up as appropriate

No ↓

- SENIOR review
- Regular NSAIDS
- Relative rest
- Review Clinic 2-5 days
- Return ASAP if high temperature develops *or* stops weightbearing *or* condition disimproves