

What is Pelvic Anatomy?

Worksheet

The pelvis consists of the ilium, ischium, and pubis (fused into each hip bone), plus the sacrum and coccyx; it encloses the bladder, rectum, and internal reproductive organs, and is divided into the greater (false) and lesser (true) pelvis by the pelvic inlet.

Questions

1. Which bones make up the bony pelvis?

- A) Femur, tibia, fibula
- B) Ilium, ischium, pubis, sacrum, coccyx
- C) Vertebrae only
- D) Sacrum and femur

2. The true (lesser) pelvis lies:

- A) Above the pelvic inlet
- B) Below the pelvic inlet
- C) Outside the hip bones
- D) In the iliac fossa only

3. A wide, oval pelvic inlet with a subpubic angle >80 is typical of:

- A) Android pelvis
- B) Gynecoid (female) pelvis
- C) Platypelloid pelvis only in males
- D) Anthropoid pelvis in males

4. What muscles form the pelvic diaphragm?

- A) Piriformis and obturator internus
- B) Levator ani and coccygeus
- C) Gluteus maximus and medius
- D) Iliopsoas and quadratus lumborum

5. On a pelvic X-ray, the subpubic angle measures 85 and the greater sciatic notch is wide. Which sex is more likely?

6. A patient has pain localized to the true pelvis, below the pelvic inlet. Which structures could be involved?

7. During childbirth, which pelvic type is most favorable for vaginal delivery?

8. Define: What three bones fuse to form each hip bone?

9. Define: What separates the false (greater) and true (lesser) pelvis?

10. Define: Name the four pelvic shape types.

Answer Key

1. B) Ilium, ischium, pubis, sacrum, coccyx - The pelvis = two hip bones (ilium+ischium+pubis) + sacrum + coccyx.
2. B) Below the pelvic inlet - The pelvic inlet divides the greater pelvis (above, part of the abdomen) from the lesser/true pelvis (below, the pelvic cavity proper).
3. B) Gynecoid (female) pelvis - Gynecoid features favor vaginal delivery: round/oval inlet, wide subpubic angle.
4. B) Levator ani and coccygeus - Levator ani + coccygeus form the pelvic floor (pelvic diaphragm), supporting the pelvic organs.
5. Subpubic angle >80 suggests female pelvis Wide greater sciatic notch (>90) supports female pelvis Combined findings the pelvis is most likely female (gynecoid)
6. The true (lesser) pelvis lies below the pelvic inlet (linea terminalis) It contains the bladder, rectum, uterus/prostate, and pelvic floor muscles Pain here suggests bladder, rectal, or reproductive organ pathology rather than false pelvis (iliac fossa) structures
7. Gynecoid pelvis: round inlet, wide subpubic angle, wide sciatic notch This shape gives the fetal head the most room to pass through Android or platypelloid shapes narrow the passage and raise dystocia risk
8. Ilium, ischium, and pubis, fused at the acetabulum.
9. The pelvic inlet (linea terminalis / pelvic brim).
10. Gynecoid, android, anthropoid, and platypelloid.

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