Commentary

As a racing cyclist myself, I am only too aware of the frequency with which competitors land on their buttocks during competitive spills, particularly while riding in track events. Fortunately, these accidents usually only produce bruises, abrasions, and multiple splinters when wooden tracks are being used. It is indeed intriguing to think that there may be damage to the intima of the external iliac artery as a direct result of such trauma. It is fascinating to see a paper presenting a case of external iliac artery stenosis in a runner, albeit an insulin dependent diabetic competitor. As a clinician, I shall now consider more seriously the possibility of arterial causes when attempting to diagnose leg pain in competitors, particularly cyclists. Once again, these cases indicate the importance of taking a good clinical history and, where possible, assessing the athlete after exercise.

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