Posterior Superior Glenoid Impingement

Posterior superior glenoid impingement is a recently recognized mechanism of injury producing repetitive impingement of the inferior surface of the rotator cuff in the athlete who uses a throwing motion. Five structures are at risk from this mechanism of injury: the superior labrum, the rotator cuff tendon, the greater tuberosity, the inferior glenohumeral ligament or labrum, and the superior bony glenoid. Jobe found that damage to more than one of these structures resulted in posterior superior glenoid impingement. This mechanism of injury represents superior or posterior-superior angulation in the position of abduction and external rotation (the position of throwing). MR arthrography, performed with the arm positioned in abduction and external rotation, is the modality of choice for demonstration of associated cuff and labral pathology.