

INTRODUCTION

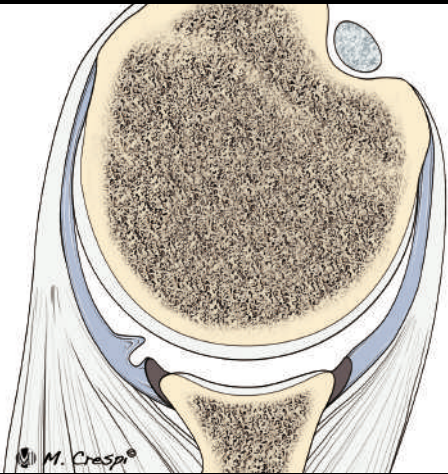
- Posterior synovial folds are an uncommon anatomical variant (5.8%).
- Usually begin near the posteroinferior labrum and extend superolaterally to the posterior-superior aspect of the joint (7 to 11 o'clock position)



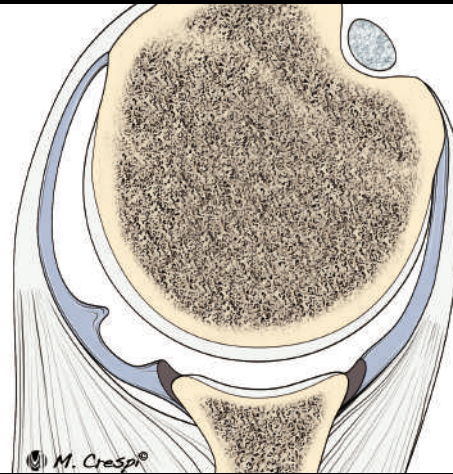
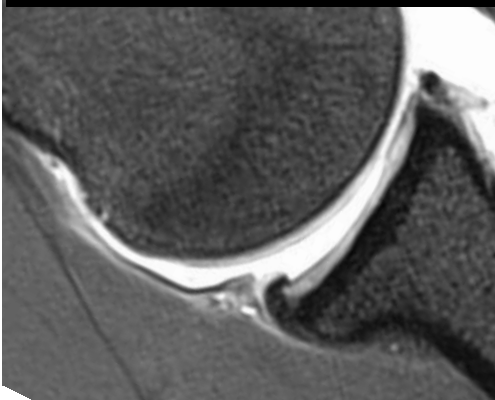
PLICAE
SHOULDER

POSTERIOR SYNOVIAL FOLD

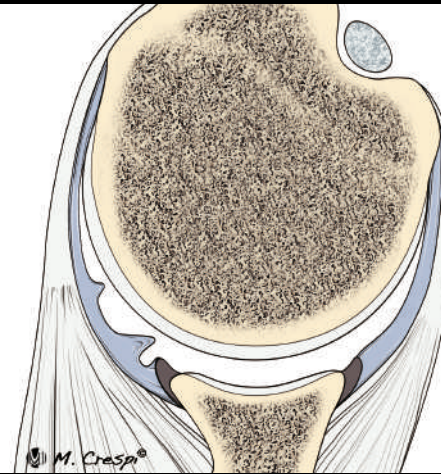
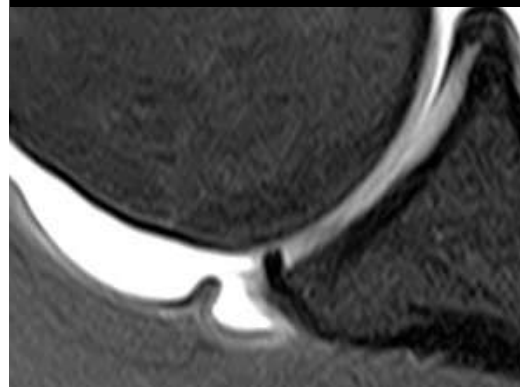
- Posterior synovial folds can be triangular, round or cord like and can be located posterior-superior, superior or posterior-inferior and exceptionally have an anterior location



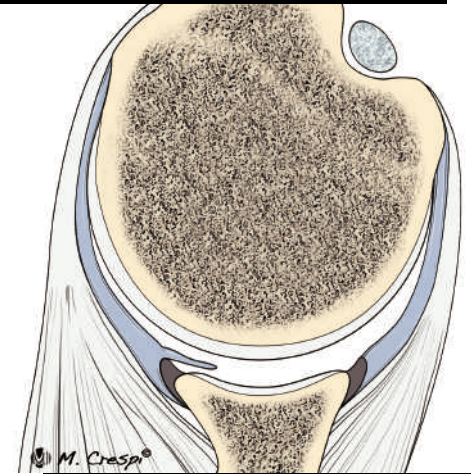
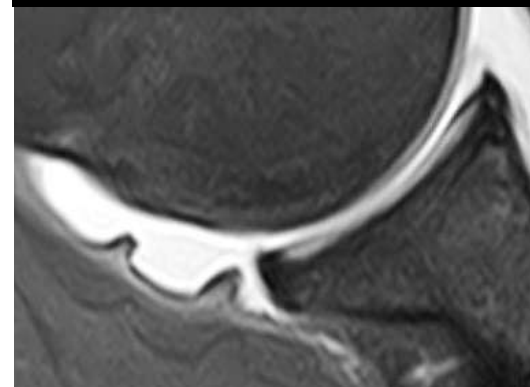
Small synovial fold close to the labrum



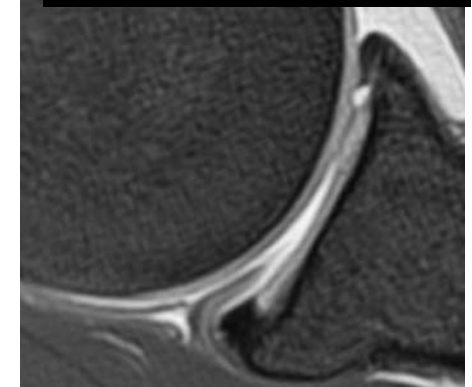
Small synovial fold far from the labrum



Double synovial fold

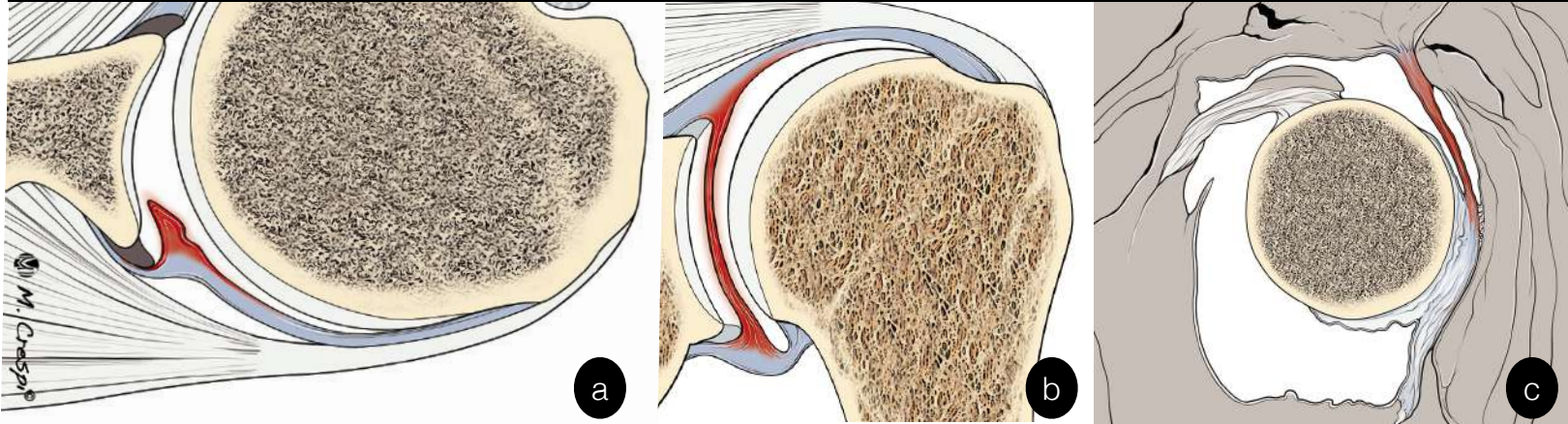


Interposed fold



POSTERIOR SYNOVIAL FOLD SYNDROME

- Knowledge of this rare anatomic variant in the posterior joint capsule is very important because some types of the posterior synovial fold can mimic a posterior labral tear in conventional MRI.
- The vast majority of posterior synovial fold are asymptomatic but the cordlike types may extend to the gleno humeral joint and be trapped causing thickening and hypertrophy of the synovium.



(a-c) Drawings illustrating a posterior cordlike fold interposed in the posterior glenohumeral joint.

(d-g) MR arthrographic study in a patient with posterior shoulder pain and clicking shows a cordlike posterior fold (arrows) interposed in the posterior glenohumeral joint

