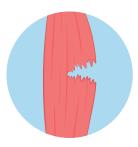
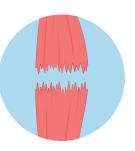
## HOW TO PREVENT HAMSTRING AND ADDUCTOR MUSCLE STRAINS IN SOCCER ATHLETES



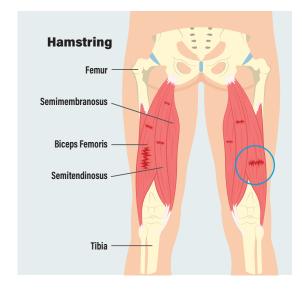
GRADE 1 HAMSTRING INJURY tearing of only a few muscles or tendon fibers



GRADE 2
HAMSTRING INJURY
more severe partial
muscle tear

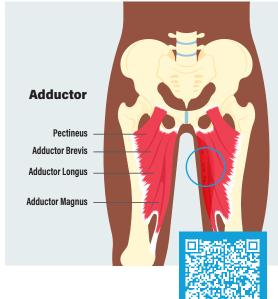


GRADE 3
HAMSTRING INJURY
complete rupture of
the muscle

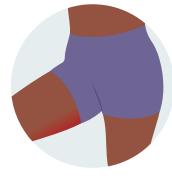


## **STRAIN PREVENTION**

- 1. Proper warm-up
  - ▶ 10 minutes: light jog followed by dynamic stretching
  - A skips, B skips, C skips, hamstring scoops, high knees, butt kicks, side steps
- 2. Keep muscles strong year round
  - HAMSTRING: Nordics, eccentric hamstring curls, bridges, single leg bridge, hip strengthening exercises
  - ► ADDUCTOR: Copenhagen's, adductor ball squeeze, adductor leg raises, hip and abdominal strengthening exercises
- 3. Immediately stop exercise if athlete feels pain in the hamstring or adductor area
- 4. Increase exercise duration and intensity slowly (~10% increase each week)
- 5. Acceleration, deacceleration and change of direction training
- 6. Proper cool-down with active recovery
  - ▶ 15-10 minutes: light jog followed by static stretching







## STRAIN RISK FACTORS

- 1. Muscle imbalance of quadriceps vs hamstring
- 2. Inadequate warm-up
- 3. Poor flexibility
- 4. Previous history of hamstring or adductor injury
- 5. Sports that involve sprinting or cutting

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