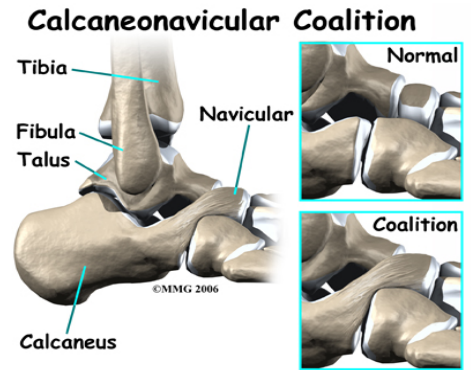


Tarsal Coalition

What is a Tarsal Coalition?

- A tarsal coalition is an abnormal connection of two or more bones in the foot. The bones affected — called tarsal bones — are located toward the back of the foot and in the heel, and the connection of the bones can result in a severe, rigid flatfoot.
 - There are two types of coalition:
 - Congenital: Most common
 - Acquired: Less common and caused by trauma, degeneration and infection



Signs and Symptoms:

- Asymptomatic
 - Most coalitions are found incidentally
 - 75 percent of people are asymptomatic
- Symptomatic
 - Previous medical history of repeated ankle sprains
 - Location of pain can determine what type of coalition
 - Pain worsened by activity
 - Onset of symptoms correlates with age of ossification of coalition

Imaging:

- Radiographs
- CT scan
 - Assists to rule out additional coalitions
 - Determine size and location of coalition
- MRI
 - May be helpful to visualize a fibrous or cartilaginous coalition

Treatment

- Conservative:
 - Continual observation for asymptomatic patients
 - Shoe inserts
 - Casting
- Surgical Intervention
 - Surgical intervention is deemed necessary with persistent symptoms despite prolonged period of conservative management.
 - Coalition involves <50% of joint surface

