

20181009 FOI ref 399-1819 Septic Arthritis in Children Questionnaire

This information is provided in confidence and without prejudice for the sole purpose of informing the individual making this enquiry and not for any other purpose including use in further publication, research, sales, other commercial activity, or litigation, this list is indicative and is not exhaustive.

1. Which hospital do you work at?

RSUH

2. How many paediatric patients with septic arthritis does your hospital manage in a year?

Approximately 12 to 18

3. Does your department have a written guideline for the investigation and management of potential septic arthritis in children?

Yes	X
No	
Verbal Only	

4. Where is your guideline taken from? (For example, BSCOS, locally derived guideline etc.)

Trust wide surgical and medical guidelines and paediatric departmental guidelines within clinical knowledge scenarios such as the management of the limping child – See NICE 2015

5. When septic arthritis is a differential diagnosis, which imaging modalities are routinely requested?

Plain film radiographs of the joint		Ultrasound		Investigation is determined by clinical history findings on examination, vital signs and special tests. The most frequently performed investigations are venesection to obtain blood for assay of inflammatory markers and blood cultures, plain radiography and ultrasound .
MRI		Other (please specify)	X	

6. When the diagnosis is unclear, what additional imaging is requested?

MRI	x	Ultrasound		Please specify: CT when associated osteomyelitis or tumour is suspected
No additional imaging requested		Other (please specify)	x	

7. Do you have the facilities in your hospital to perform an MRI scan under general anaesthetic or sedation, if required?

Yes	X	No	
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8. If aspiration is indicated, in which clinical area is aspiration performed?

Emergency Department	
Admissions Unit / Inpatient Ward	

Please specify:

Operating Theatre	X
Radiology Department	
Other (please specify)	

Please specify:

9. What form of anaesthesia is most commonly used for the joint aspiration?

Procedural sedation and analgesia	
Local anaesthetic	
General anaesthetic	X

10. Which speciality is responsible for the initial aspiration of the joint?

Emergency Medicine		Trauma and Orthopaedics	X	Other (please specify)	X occasionally in an older compliant child aspiration is done under ultrasound guidance with analgesia and or sedation on an inpatient basis, usually under T&O but it can be under paediatrics, particularly if an inflammatory process rather than response to infection is suspected
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11. Are any of the following investigations included in your paediatric guideline?

Serum Procalcitonin (PCT)	Not used
Synovasure Alpha Defencin test	Not used

12. Which antibiotic is used as the first-line treatment, assuming the patient has no drug allergies?

Determined by history, presentation, age, immunisation history and after discussion with microbiological service. If no clear indicators most commonly Flucloxacillin and Benzyl Penicillin is initiated in an emergency due to sepsis.

13. What is the first-line antibiotic when the patient has a known allergy to penicillin?

Depends as above most commonly a Cephalosporin

14. Under which specialty are patients with septic arthritis initially admitted?

Emergency Department	
Trauma and Orthopaedics	
Paediatrics	
Rheumatology	
Other (please specify)	X

Please specify: Admission can be under paediatrics or trauma and orthopaedics with onwards referral to paediatric orthopaedics when required from the admitting specialty

15. What is your initial management of septic arthritis in children, excluding the hip joint?

IV antibiotics only	This is case dependent
Initial aspiration followed by IV antibiotics	This is case dependent
Serial aspiration	This is case dependent
Joint washed-out arthroscopically	This is case dependent
Open wash-out	This is case dependent

16. What is your initial management of septic arthritis of the hip joint in children?

IV antibiotics only	This is case dependent
Initial aspiration followed by IV antibiotics	This is case dependent
Serial aspiration	This is case dependent
Joint washed-out arthroscopically	This is case dependent
Open wash-out	This is case dependent

17. In your department, is adjuvant corticosteroid therapy routinely used in the treatment of septic arthritis?

Yes No X

18. Is there a mechanism in your hospital (e.g. audit process) whereby missed cases of septic arthritis (or delayed diagnosis) are collected, for example, by examining readmission data?

Yes X No

19. If so, please specify: Paediatric and Paediatric orthopaedic MDT and Departmental audit of mortality and morbidity where cases are reviewed confidentially learning points are noted and when appropriate duty of candour processes initiated

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Please specify: