

## Septic Arthritis in Children Questionnaire

1. Which hospital do you work at?

County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
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2. How many paediatric patients with septic arthritis does your hospital manage in a year?

Less than 10 proven septic arthritis
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3. Does your department have a written guideline for the investigation and management of potential septic arthritis in children?

Yes	
No	X
Verbal Only	

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

No guidelines, cases taken on individual merits
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5. When septic arthritis is a differential diagnosis, which imaging modalities are routinely requested?

Plain film radiographs of the joint	X	Ultrasound	X	Please specify:
MRI		Other (please specify)		

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

MRI	X	Ultrasound		Please specify:
No additional imaging requested		Other (please specify)		

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		Please specify:
Admissions Unit / Inpatient Ward		
Operating Theatre	XX	
Radiology Department		
Other (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 specialty is responsible for the initial aspiration of the joint?

Please specify:

Emergency Medicine		Trauma and Orthopaedics	X	Other (please specify)	
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11. Are any of the following investigations included in your paediatric guideline?

Serum Procalcitonin (PCT)	No
Synovasure Alpha Defencin test	No

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

Flucloxacillin, but microbiology advice always available

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

Microbiology advice always available

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

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

Please specify:

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

IV antibiotics only	
Initial aspiration followed by IV antibiotics	
Serial aspiration	
Joint washed-out arthroscopically	X
Open wash-out	X

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

IV antibiotics only	
Initial aspiration followed by IV antibiotics	
Serial aspiration	
Joint washed-out arthroscopically	
Open wash-out	X

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

Yes		No	X
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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	X
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19. If so, please specify:

Please specify:
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