Provision of diversional and constructive activities becomes an important nursing intervention. Children are usually confined to bed for some time during the acute phase but may be allowed to move about on a stretcher or in a wheelchair if isolation is not necessary.

As the infection subsides, physical therapy is instituted to ensure restoration of optimum function. The child may eventually be transitioned to a regimen of oral antibiotics, and progress is followed closely for some time.

Septic Arthritis

Septic arthritis is a bacterial infection in the joint. It usually results from hematogenous spread or from direct extension of an adjacent cellulitis or osteomyelitis. Direct inoculation from trauma accounts for 15% to 20% of septic arthritis cases. The most common causative organism is *S. aureus.* Community-acquired MRSA is commonly a cause of septic arthritis. In addition to *S. aureus,* pathogens seen in neonates include group B streptococci, *Escherichia coli,* and *Candida albicans.* In children 2 months to 5 years old, *S. aureus, Streptococcus pyogenes, Streptococcus pneumoniae,* and *K. kingae* are the primary organisms causing infection. Children older than 5 years old are more likely to be infected by *S. aureus* and *S. pyogenes,* and sexually active adolescents may be infected by *N. gonorrhoeae* (Gutierrez, 2005; Kaplan, 2016b).

The knees, hips, ankles, and elbows are the most common joints affected. Clinical manifestations include severe joint pain, swelling, warmth of overlying tissue, and occasionally erythema. An infection involving the hip, however, is considered a surgical emergency to prevent compromised blood supply to the head of the femur (Kaplan, 2016b).

The child is resistant to any joint movement. Features of systemic illness such as fever, malaise, headache, nausea, vomiting, and irritability may also be present.

Therapeutic Management and Nursing Care Management

The affected joint is aspirated and the specimen evaluated by Gram stain, cultures (including separate cultures for *H. influenzae* and *N.*