

These are *general* findings, always discuss with Senior

JOINT ASPIRATION ANALYSIS

COLOUR	CLARITY	CRYSTALS	GRAM STAIN
NORMAL	CLEAR / YELLOW	CLEAR	NEGATIVE
INFLAMMATORY	STRAW	CLEAR / CLOUDY	POSITIVE / NEGATIVE
SEPTIC	PURULENT	CLOUDY	NEGATIVE
HAEMORRHAGIC	RED	CLOUDY	NEGATIVE

GRAM STAIN LIMITATIONS

Maybe negative even if patient has septic joint:

- False positive up to 78%
- Especially if Antibiotics given prior to aspiration

Always be guided by clinical picture / Senior advice
Await aspiration culture / PCR