

Introduction to Musculoskeletal Infection

In-person training for Distributor Sales Representatives

Training objectives

At the end of this 30 minute training session you will:

- Understand the fundamentals of musculoskeletal infection; its cause, impact on patients and cost to the healthcare system
- Be aware of the most common types of musculoskeletal infection and the treatment options available to your surgeons
- Have gained a working knowledge of the key terms used in discussions about musculoskeletal infection

Agenda

- Key terms
- Overview of musculoskeletal infection
- Surgical site infections
- Types of bacteria
- Biofilm
- Common orthopaedic infections
- Impact of musculoskeletal infection
- Treatment options
- Summary of key points



Key terms

Acute infection: An infection that is present for less than 30 days

Antibiotic: A drug that kills or inhibits the growth of bacteria but not viruses

Antimicrobial: An agent that kills microorganisms or inhibits their growth

Bacteria: A large group of unicellular microorganisms

Biofilm: A complex community of bacterial cells enclosed in a self-produced extracellular matrix (ECM) that adhere to an inert or living surface

Chronic infection: A prolonged or persistent invasion of the body by pathogens, which indicates that biofilm is present

Debridement: A surgical technique where dead, necrotic and infected tissue is surgically excised

Drug-resistant infections: Infections that are resistant to antibiotics commonly used to kill infections caused by resistant strains of bacteria

ECM: Extracellular matrix is a polysaccharide coating formed by bacteria that contains host proteins acquired by the bacterial network

Key terms

Gram Stain: A method used to differentiate two large groups of bacteria based on their cell wall constituents

Gram-negative bacteria: Have a cell wall composed of a thin layer of peptidoglycan that is located between an inner cell membrane and a bacterial outer membrane. Gram-negative bacteria take on the color of red/pink counterstain in the Gram's staining method

Gram-positive bacteria: Have a cell wall composed of a thick layer of peptidoglycan. Stain Gram-positive in Gram's method of staining because they retain the color of the crystal violet stain

HAI: Hospital acquired infection, which is a localized or systemic condition resulting from an adverse reaction to the presence of infectious agents or toxins that occurs in a healthcare setting

Inoculation: The introduction of an antigenic substance or vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

MIC: Minimum inhibitory concentration is the lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that will inhibit the visible growth of a bacterium

Micro-organism: A microscopic organism that may exist as a single cell or in a colony of cells

Musculoskeletal infection: Invasion and multiplication of pathogenic microorganisms in the body

Key terms

Non-union: A fracture that will not heal

Osteomyelitis: An infection of bone and bone marrow caused by bacteria

Peptidoglycan: A polymer made of amino acids and sugars that makes up the cell wall of bacteria

PJI: Periprosthetic Joint Infection is a postoperative complication that can occur following total hip or knee arthroplasty by bacterial inoculation at the time of surgery or through open draining wounds

Pathogen: Infectious microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and fungi

Persister cells: Dormant variants of regular cells in microbial populations that are highly tolerant to antibiotics

Planktonic bacteria: Free-floating bacteria behave as unicellular organisms and can be easily identified

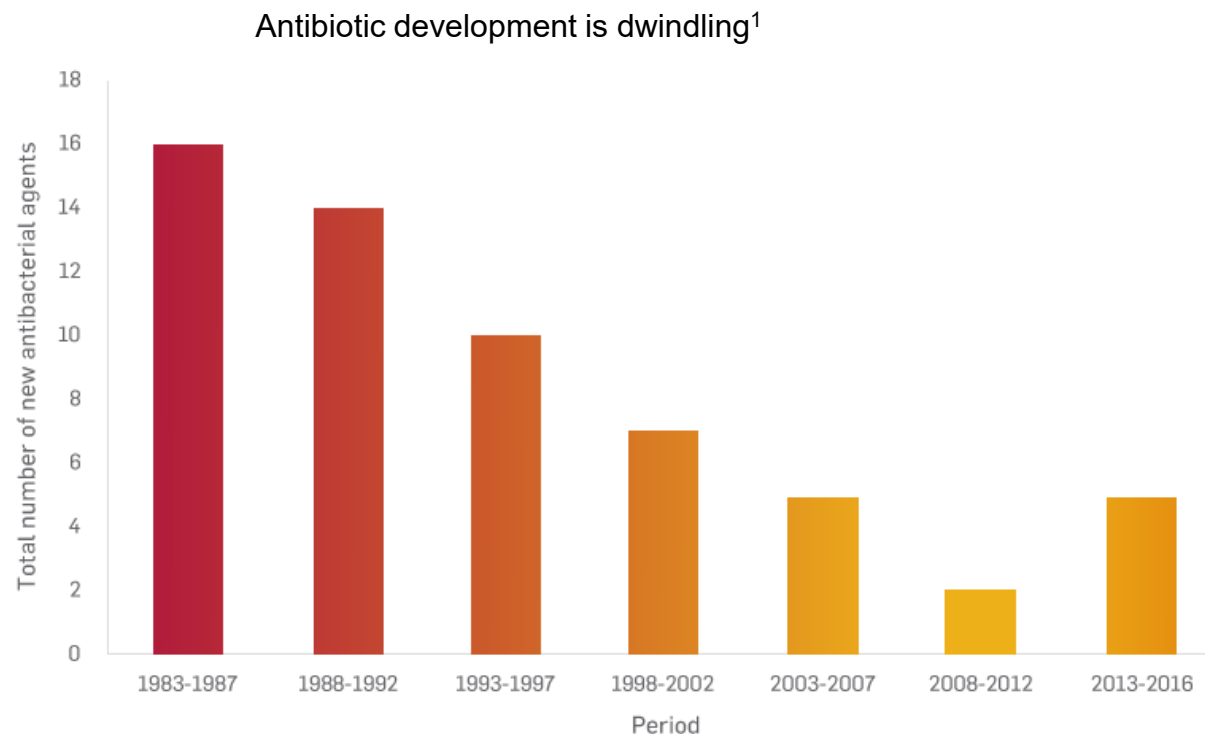
Polymicrobial: Disease state involving multiple species of multiple organisms

SSI: Surgical site infections, which are directly related to an operative procedure

Overview of musculoskeletal infection

Musculoskeletal infections are one of the biggest healthcare challenges in the 21st century

- Rapid growth of antibiotic-resistant strains and biofilms continues to outpace the development of new antibiotics and antibiotic strategies^{1,2}



- 50-60% of all hospital acquired infections are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria³
- In the USA, the cost of antibiotic-resistant infections to the healthcare system is \$21 billion to \$34 billion each year and more than 8 million additional hospital days⁴

Occurrence of musculoskeletal infection

Surgical site infections (SSI)

- Significant risk associated with surgery
- Present a huge burden on hospital resources and annual expenditure
- 1.7 million patients per year acquire an infection while in the hospital³
- Account for approximately 23% of all hospital acquired infections⁵
- Cost up to \$10 billion annually in direct medical expenses⁵



The cause of musculoskeletal infection

Bacteria

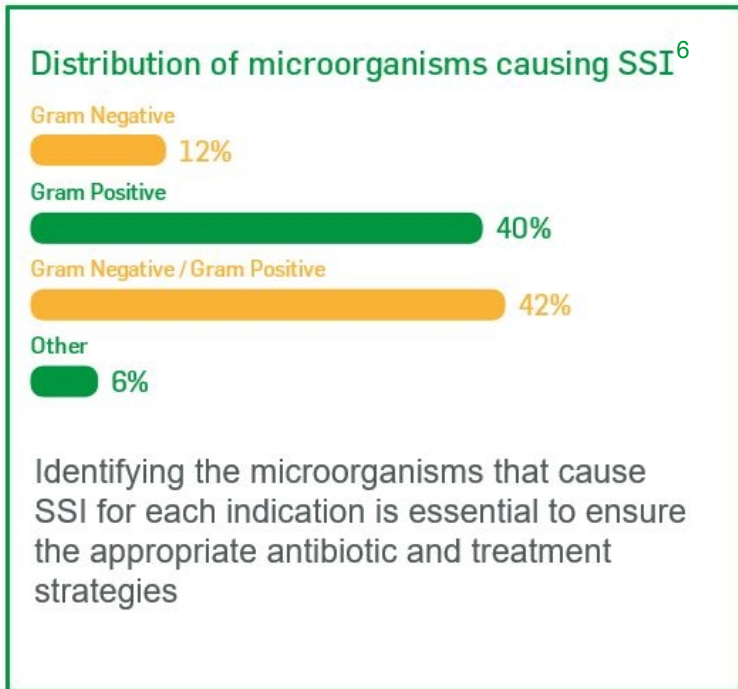
- Invasion of pathogenic unicellular micro-organisms
- Most common source for bacteria in hospitals is people⁷
- Differentiated into two distinct types

Gram-positive bacteria⁸

- Found in skin particles and spread through the air or by direct contact with coated objects
- More receptive to antibiotics than Gram-negative bacteria

Gram-negative bacteria^{9,10}

- Found and transferred through direct contact with wet objects
- Resistant to most available antibiotics



Gram's method of staining

Gram Stain

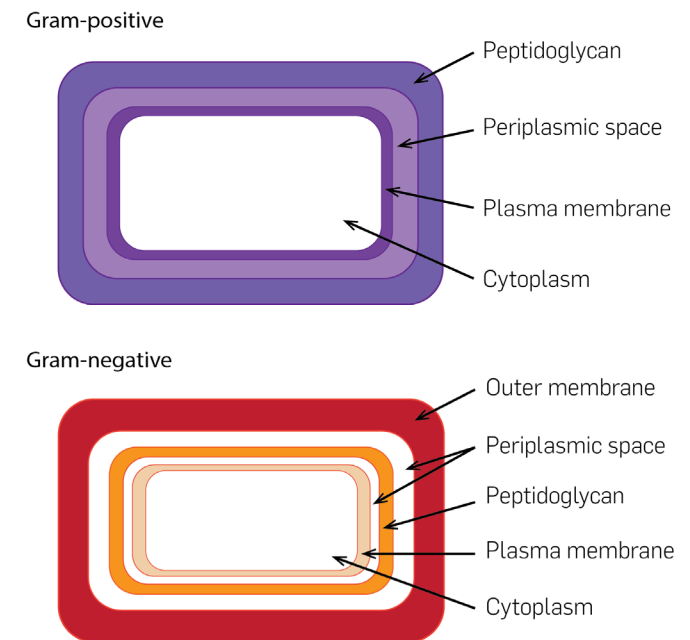
- A technique used to differentiate bacteria based on the difference in their cell wall properties
 - Distinguishes between Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria by coloring their cells violet or red

Gram-positive bacteria:

- Cell wall composed of a thick layer of peptidoglycan
- Stain Gram-positive: the cell wall retains the color of the crystal violet stain

Gram-negative bacteria:

- Cell wall composed of a thin layer of peptidoglycan, located between an inner cell membrane and a bacterial outer membrane
- Stain Gram-negative: the thin cell wall does not retain the crystal violet stain, and takes on the color of the red counterstain



Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)

Overview

- MIC is the lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that will inhibit the visible growth of a bacterium
- MIC is used by clinicians to choose which antibiotics to administer for specific infections and to identify the clinically effective dose of antibiotic
 - Different antibiotics are used for Gram-positive, Gram-negative and polymicrobial infections
 - Polymicrobial infections often require more than one antibiotic to target all bacterial pathogens
- This is important because populations of bacteria exposed to an insufficient concentration of a particular drug or to a broad-spectrum antibiotic, can evolve resistance to those drugs
- MIC scores aid in improving outcomes for patients and preventing drug-resistant microbial strains evolving

Planktonic bacteria vs. biofilm

Forms of bacteria in the body¹¹

Planktonic bacteria

- Free-floating unicellular organisms
- Adhere to tissue or implant surfaces
- Easily identified
- Cleared by host's immune system or antibiotics

Biofilm

- Complex community of bacterial cells enclosed in a self-secreted extracellular matrix (ECM)
- Can firmly attach to inert or living surfaces
- Difficult to detect
- Resistant to immune system and antibiotics
- Cause of chronic disease

Biofilm lifecycle

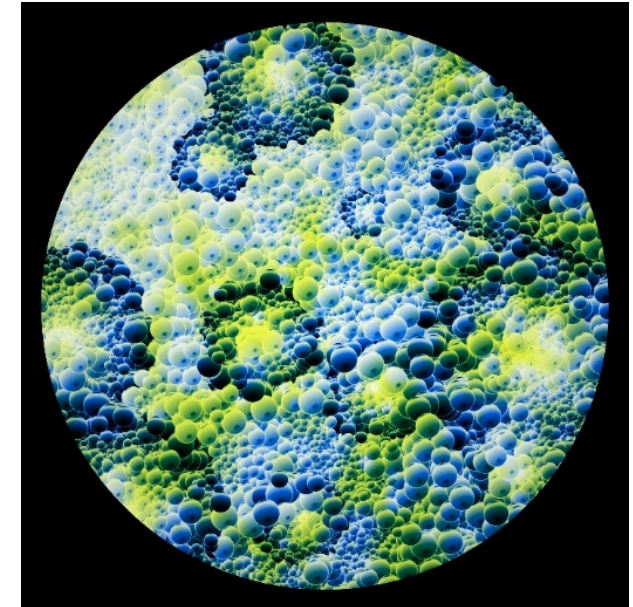
Timeline for biofilm development¹²

Biofilm stage	Timeline
Free-floating planktonic bacteria attach to a surface	minutes
Firmly attached microcolonies form	2-4 hours
Extracellular matrix develops	6-12 hours
Fully mature biofilm entering a dormant “persister” state	2-4 days
Biofilm re-forms after dispersion	24 hours

Biofilm

Properties of biofilm that lead to infection

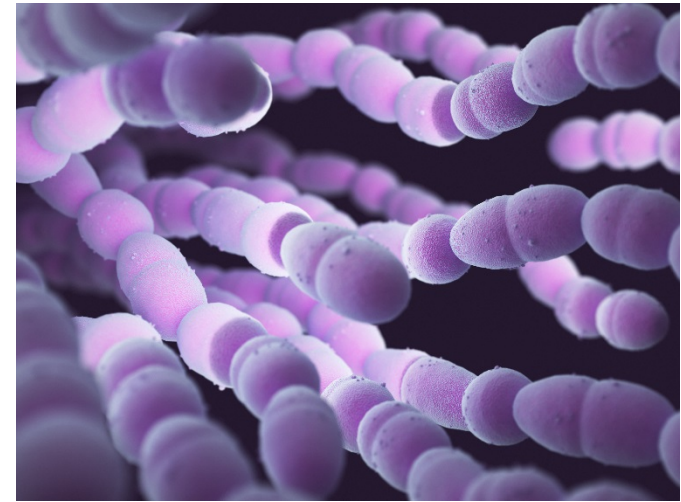
- Limits the penetration of antimicrobials¹³
- pH differences allow some bacteria to become dormant while others remain active¹³
- Persister cells can withstand antibiotic attack and develop resistance to antibiotics¹⁴
- Difficult to detect and eradicate¹³
- Ability to avoid body's immune defenses¹⁵
- No methods or chemicals exist to dissolve a biofilm¹³



Types of musculoskeletal infection

Common infections in orthopaedics

- Periprosthetic joint infection
- Osteomyelitis
- Infected non-unions
- Diabetic foot ulcers



Periprosthetic joint infection (PJI)

Overview

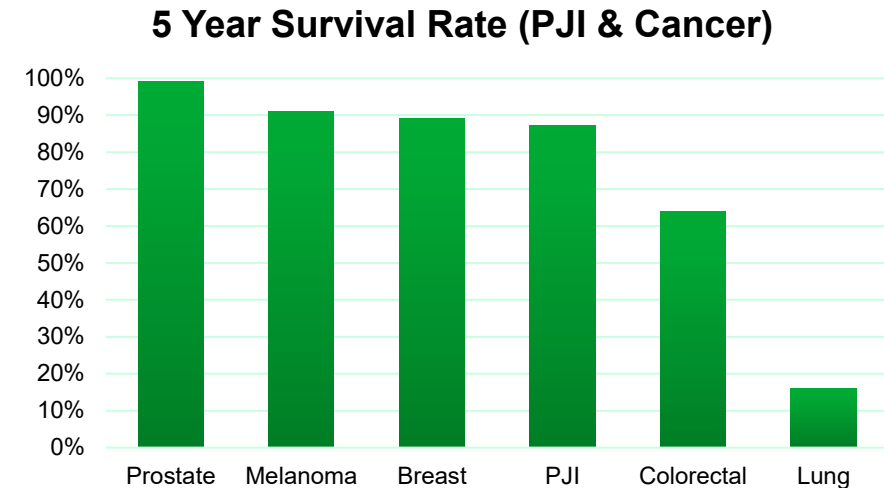
- Postoperative complication following arthroplasty procedures
 - Occurs in 2.1% of total hip and 2.3% of total knee arthroplasty procedures¹⁶
 - 15% of hip revisions are carried out due to PJI¹⁶
 - 25% of knee revisions are carried out due to PJI¹⁶
- Acute PJI:
 - Present for less than 30 days
 - Biofilm is not established and treatment is focused on implant preservation
- Chronic PJI:
 - A prolonged or persistent invasion of the body by pathogens, which indicates that biofilm is present
 - Two stage procedures are often required for the treatment of the infection and for revision arthroplasty



Periprosthetic joint infection (PJI)

Impact

- The annual hospital cost for hip and knee PJI is expected to reach \$1.85 billion by 2030¹⁶
- Revisions for PJI are associated with a fivefold increase in mortality compared to revisions for aseptic failure¹⁷
- PJI has a lower 5 year survival rate than the three most common cancers¹⁷
 - 2018 data: The 5 year survival rate for Medicare patients with PJI was 67% after total hip arthroplasty and 72% after total knee arthroplasty¹⁸
 - 2013 data: The relative 5 year survival rate for patients with PJI was 87.3%¹⁷



Acute PJI

Treatment example

- Debridement (used when joint components are not loose):
 - Incision and arthrotomy
 - Irrigation and debridement
 - Polyethylene insert exchange
 - Antibiotic therapy
- One-stage resection arthroplasty:
 - Incision and arthrotomy
 - Irrigation and debridement
 - Removal of cement and infected total knee components
 - Immediate implantation of new total knee components
 - Lavage and periprosthetic antibiotic therapy

Chronic PJI

Treatment example – 2 stage resection arthroplasty

- Stage 1 - Focused on eradicating the infection:
 - Incision and arthrotomy
 - Resection of implant components
 - Irrigation and debridement
 - Use of antibiotic impregnated spacers to maintain space and provide stability
- Stage 2 - Occurs after infection is eradicated:
 - Incision and arthrotomy
 - Removal of antibiotic spacers
 - Irrigation and debridement
 - Implantation of revision arthroplasty components
 - Dead space and soft tissue management



Osteomyelitis

Overview

- Osteomyelitis is an infection of bone and bone marrow
 - The incidence of osteomyelitis in the U.S. is reported to be 50,000 cases annually¹⁹
- Common in infected non-unions and diabetic foot ulcers
- Chronic osteomyelitis occurs in 5-50% of open fractures and is associated with significant morbidity²¹
- The recurrence rate of chronic osteomyelitis in adults is 30% within 12 months²⁰



Infected non-unions

Overview

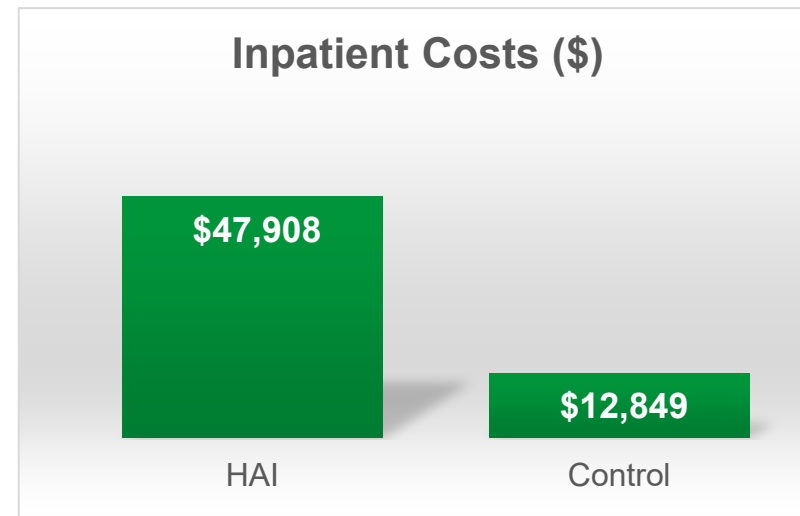
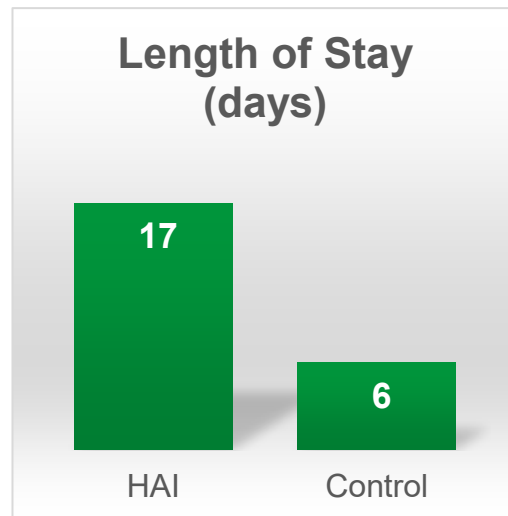
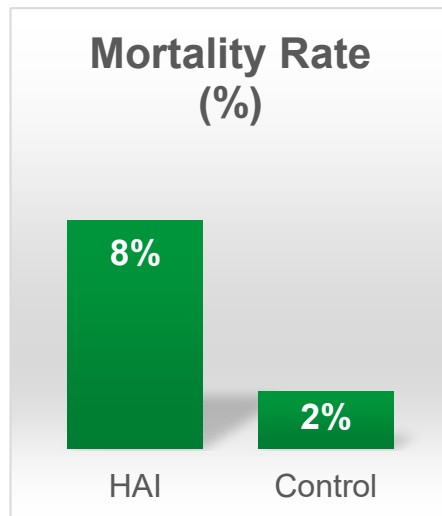
- Post-operative fracture that will not heal
 - 10% of patients who sustain fractures (790,000) have impaired bone healing, resulting in delayed union or non-union²²
- Caused by contamination by bacteria and failure of fixation
- Risk of infection depends on the type of fracture:
 - Closed fractures: Infection rates $\leq 5\%$ ²³
 - Open fractures: Infection rates $\leq 50\%$ ²³
- Complications:
 - Bone and soft tissue loss
 - Internal fixation loosening or breakage
 - Poor vascularity of the bony fragments
 - Osteomyelitis



Infected non-unions

A study was conducted to explore the clinical impact and economic burden of hospital acquired infections (HAIs) in trauma patients²⁴

- Increased mortality rates for patients with HAIs
- Longer hospitalization periods for patients with HAIs
- Higher costs for patients with HAIs



Infected non-unions

Treatment example

- Removal of original hardware
- Debridement
- Revision stabilization of the fracture
- Supplemental bone grafting
 - Unmanaged spaces may contribute to infection
- Treatment of infection with antibiotics
- Two stage treatments may also be required to treat the infection and stabilize the non-union



Diabetic foot ulcers

Overview

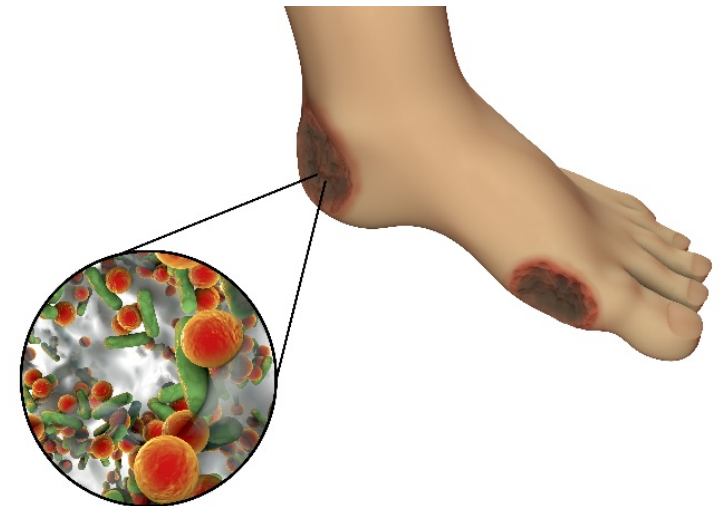
- A foot ulcer is an open sore or wound that is commonly located on the lower legs or bottom of the feet
 - 7.3 million people affected by diabetes in the U.S. have a lifetime risk of developing a foot ulcer^{25,26}
- If untreated, a diabetic foot ulcer can become infected and lead to osteomyelitis
 - The prevalence of osteomyelitis ranges from 10-20%²⁷
- Osteomyelitis is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower extremity amputations
 - 60% of lower extremity amputations are caused by osteomyelitis²⁷



Diabetic foot ulcers with osteomyelitis

Impact

- Diabetic foot ulcers impose a tremendous medical and financial burden on our healthcare system
 - Patients require frequent emergency room visits, have increased hospital readmissions and require longer lengths of stay
 - Treatment costs are estimated to be ~\$45,000 per patient²⁸
 - Ulcer care adds \$9-\$13 billion to the direct yearly costs associated with diabetes²⁹
- Remission rates for osteomyelitis can range up to 88%²⁹
 - Approximately 50% of patients who have foot amputations due to diabetes die within five years³⁰
 - 40% of amputations could be prevented with appropriate wound care²⁶



Diabetic foot ulcers with osteomyelitis

Treatment example

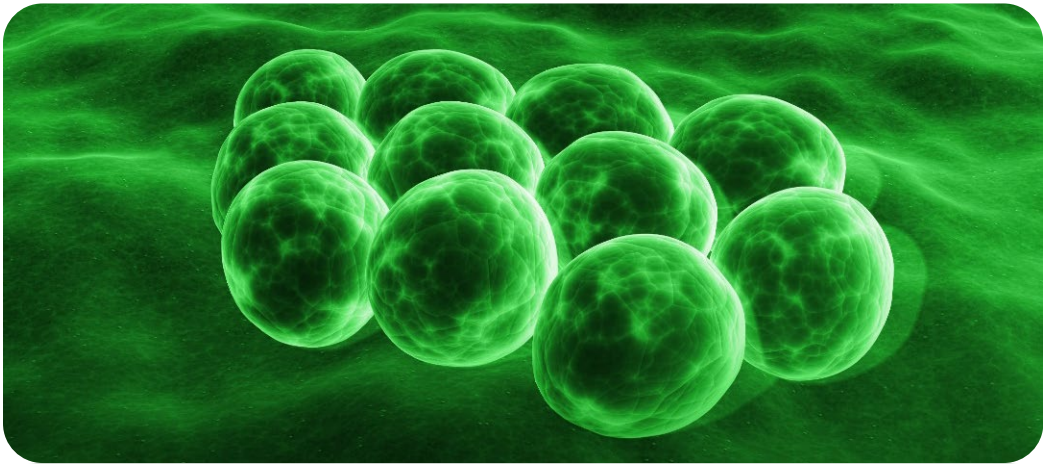
- Diagnosis of osteomyelitis
- Remove load from the ulcer site to redistribute force
- Debridement of infected bone
- Resection of compromised soft tissue
- Antimicrobial therapy
- Wound dressings with regular changes
- Increased healing rates and decreased length of antibiotic treatment have been reported with early surgical intervention for osteomyelitis²⁹



Musculoskeletal infection

Key points

- One of the biggest healthcare challenges of the 21st century
- Present a tremendous medical and economic burden on the healthcare system
- Represents a major cause of patient morbidity and mortality
- Care delivery is becoming increasingly challenging and complicated



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- Minimizing avoidable complications
- Improving outcomes
- Reducing costs

Musculoskeletal infection

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Patents Pending: GB1502655.2, GB1704688.9, EP 18275044.8, US 15/933936, CN 108619579A

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