

# Introduction to Musculoskeletal Infection

In-person training for Distributor Sales Representatives

# Training objectives

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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

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- Key terms
- Overview of musculoskeletal infection
- The cause of musculoskeletal infection
- Gram's method of staining
- Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)
- Biofilm
- Periprosthetic joint infection
- Infected non-unions
- Diabetic foot ulcers with osteomyelitis
- Summary of key points

# Key terms

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**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.

**Antiphagocytic:** Impeding or preventing the action of phagocytes.

**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.

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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

# Key terms

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

**Foot ulcer:** An open sore or wound that is commonly located on the lower legs or bottom of the feet.

**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.

# Key terms

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

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

**Non-union:** A fracture that will not heal.

**OSHA:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

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

**Phagocytosis:** The engulfing and destruction of particulate matter (bacteria) by a cell.

**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.

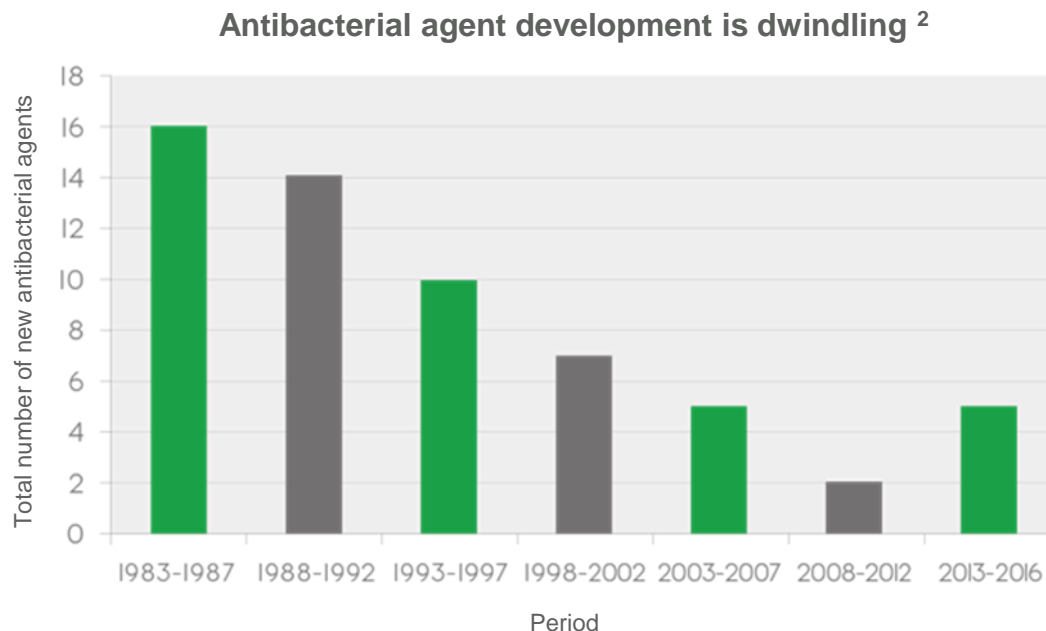
**Polymicrobial:** Disease state involving multiple species of multiple organisms.

**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 of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

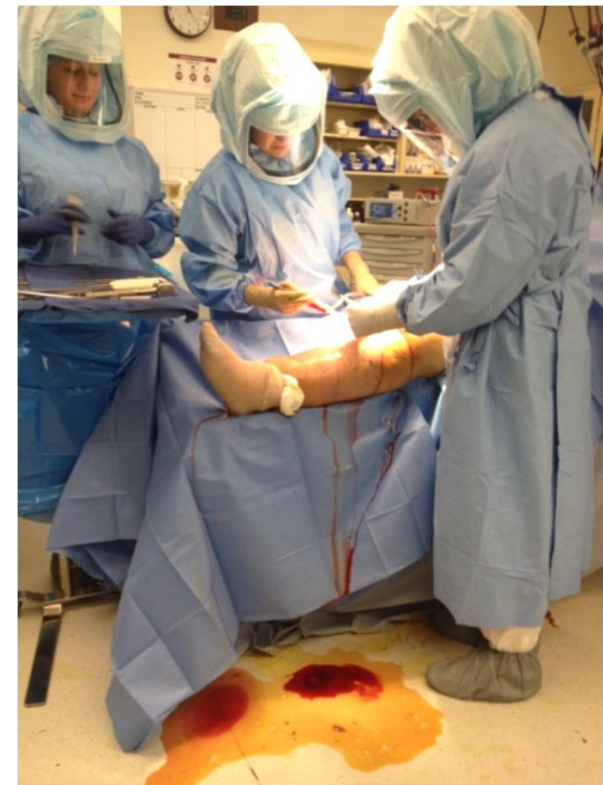
- Caused by invasion and multiplication of pathogenic micro-organisms in the body.
- 50-60% of all hospital acquired infections are caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.<sup>1</sup>
- Rapid growth of antibiotic-resistant strains and biofilms continues to outpace the development of new antibiotics and antibiotic strategies.<sup>2,3</sup>



# Overview of musculoskeletal infection

Periprosthetic joint infections, infected non-unions & diabetic foot ulcers with osteomyelitis are the most common musculoskeletal infections

- 1.7M patients per year acquire an infection while in the hospital, resulting in 5.8% of deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- Surgical site infections account for approximately 23% of all hospital acquired infections.<sup>4</sup>





# Overview of musculoskeletal infection

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Musculoskeletal infections are a huge burden on hospital resources and expenditure

- Musculoskeletal infections can sometimes be treated with antibiotics but often require an additional surgery to treat the infection.
- Hospital acquired infections average \$9.8B in the U.S. and \$32.5B worldwide.<sup>1</sup>
- Average hospital cost per patient can increase from \$32K to \$185K when an infection is present.<sup>1</sup>
- The cost of antibiotic-resistant infections is \$21B to \$34B each year with more than 8 million additional hospital days.<sup>5</sup>

# The cause of musculoskeletal infection

## Bacteria

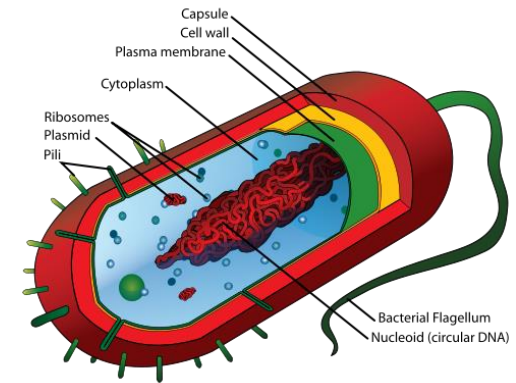
- A large group of unicellular microorganisms.
- Differentiated into gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.

### Gram-positive bacteria (77% of bacteria):<sup>6</sup>

- Most commonly found in microscopic skin particles.
- Spread through the air or by direct contact with coated objects.
- Includes *Staphylococci*, *Streptococci*, and *Pneumococci*.
- More receptive to antibiotics than Gram-negative bacteria.

### Gram-negative bacteria (23% of bacteria):<sup>7,8</sup>

- Found and transferred through direct contact with wet objects.
- Includes *Eschericia coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.
- Resistant to multiple drugs and are increasingly resistant to most available antibiotics.
- Can cause infections of the bloodstream, pneumonia, meningitis, and wound or surgical site infections.



# Gram's method of staining

## Gram Stain

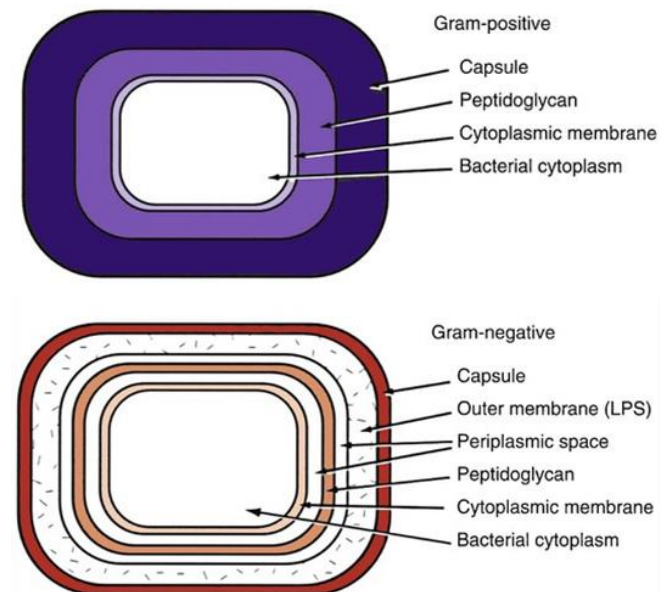
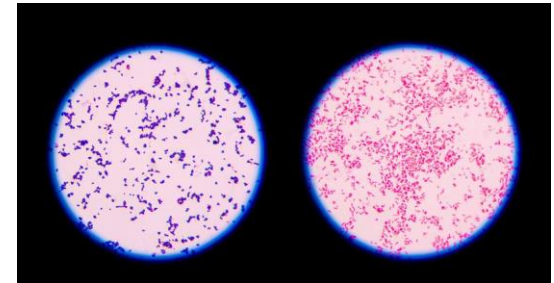
- A technique used to differentiate bacteria based on the difference in their cell wall properties.
  - Distinguishes between gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria by coloring their cells violet or red.

### 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)

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## 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.

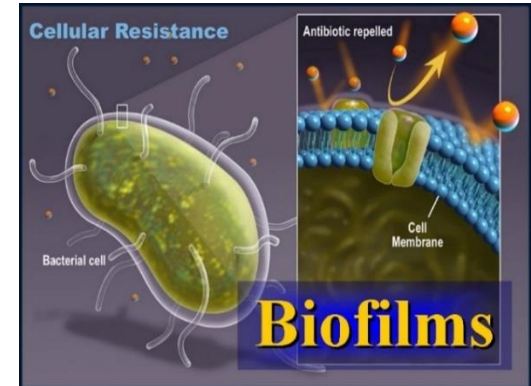
# Biofilm

## Overview

- Complex community of bacterial cells enclosed in a secreted extracellular matrix (ECM).
- Can adhere to inert or living surfaces.
- Can be the cause of chronic disease.

## Properties of biofilm that lead to infection:<sup>9</sup>

- The ECM acts as a mechanical barrier and prevents the inward diffusion of antimicrobials.
- pH differences exist that allow some bacteria to become dormant while others remain active.
- Dormant bacteria are able to withstand antibiotic attack and develop a resistance to antibiotics.
- Biofilm displays antiphagocytic properties that make detection and eradication difficult.
- There are currently no methods or chemicals to dissolve a biofilm.



# Treatment of biofilm

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## Effective treatment for an established biofilm

- Removal of implant and foreign body material.
- Surgical debridement.
- Local dose of antimicrobial agent(s) at or above MIC.
- Raise pH to a physiological level (infected sites are normally acidic).
- Suppress local inflammation.

*Note: The treatment strategy and response to treatment is dependent on the host's (patient) immune system.*

# Periprosthetic joint infection (PJI)

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## Overview

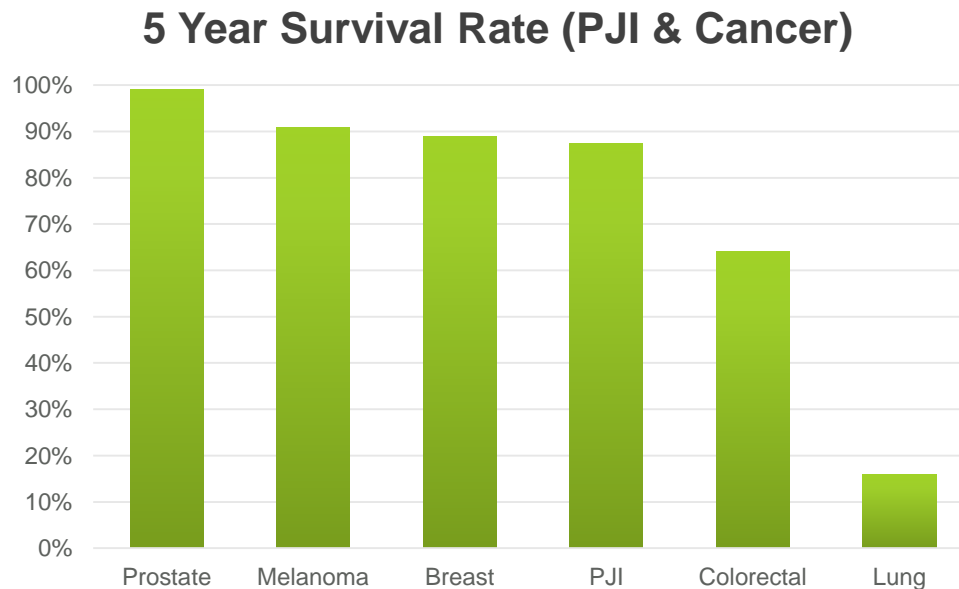
- Post-operative complication following THA and TKA procedures by bacterial inoculation at the time of surgery or through open draining wounds.
  - 1% of primary hip and knee arthroplasties become infected.<sup>10</sup>
  - 16% of hip revisions are carried out due to infection.<sup>11</sup>
  - 23% of knee revisions are carried out due to infection.<sup>11</sup>
- 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 current cost of revisions for PJI exceeds \$556M in the US and is expected to exceed \$1.6B by the year 2020.<sup>12</sup>
- PJI revisions are associated with 5 times the risk of death compared to aseptic revisions.<sup>13</sup>
- Relative 5 year survival rate for patients with PJI is 87.3%, which is lower than the survival rate for the three most common cancers.<sup>13</sup>





# Acute PJI

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## 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

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## 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.

# Infected non-unions

## Overview

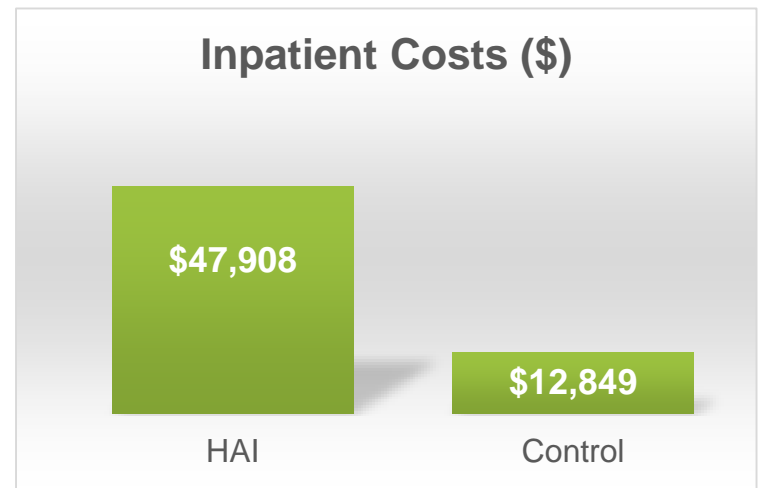
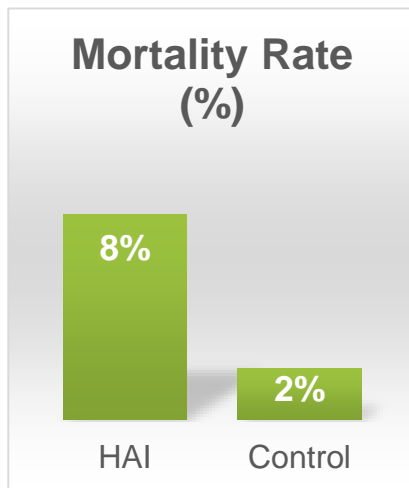
- Post-operative fracture that will not heal.
- Caused by contamination by bacteria and failure of fixation.
- Risk of infection depends on the type of fracture:
  - 0-5% risk with closed fracture.<sup>14</sup>
  - 0-50% risk with open fracture.<sup>14</sup>
- Complications:
  - Bone and soft tissue 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 patients<sup>15</sup>

- 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 with osteomyelitis

## 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.<sup>16,17</sup>
- If untreated, a diabetic foot ulcer can become infected and lead to osteomyelitis.
  - The prevalence of osteomyelitis ranges from 10-20%.<sup>18</sup>
- Osteomyelitis is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower extremity amputations.
  - 60% of lower extremity amputations are caused by osteomyelitis.<sup>18</sup>



# Diabetic foot ulcers with osteomyelitis

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## 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 patient.<sup>19</sup>
  - Ulcer care adds \$9B to \$13B to the direct yearly costs associated with diabetes.<sup>20</sup>
- Remission rates for osteomyelitis can range up to 88%.<sup>18</sup>
- Approximately 50% of patients who have foot amputations due to diabetes die within five years.<sup>21</sup>

# 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 osteomyelitis.<sup>20</sup>





# Musculoskeletal infection

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## Key points

- One of the biggest healthcare challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

# Musculoskeletal infection

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## Treatment goals

- Provide a novel and innovative solution for high risk patients or infected sites.
- Reduce avoidable complications.
- Improve patient outcomes and decrease hospital readmissions.
- Improve treatments while decreasing overall treatment cost.
- Reduce the potential cost to the hospital of penalties imposed by the Affordable Care Act.

# Musculoskeletal infection

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