



Home → Health Topics → Bone Infections

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/boneinfections.html>

## Bone Infections

Like other parts of the body, bones can get infected. The infections are usually bacterial, but can also be fungal. They may spread to the bone from nearby skin or muscles, or from another part of the body through the bloodstream. People who are at risk for bone infections include those with [diabetes](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/diabetes.html>] , poor circulation, or recent injury to the bone. You may also be at risk if you are having [hemodialysis](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/dialysis.html>] .

Symptoms of bone infections include:

- Pain in the infected area
- Chills and fever
- Swelling, warmth, and redness

A blood test or imaging test such as an x-ray can tell if you have a bone infection. Treatment includes antibiotics and often surgery.

## Start Here

- [Osteomyelitis](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/osteomyelitis.html) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/osteomyelitis.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/osteomyelitis.html>]
- [Osteomyelitis](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/osteomyelitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20375913?p=1) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/osteomyelitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20375913?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

## Diagnosis and Tests

- [Bone Scan](https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/bone-scan/about/pac-20393136?p=1) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/bone-scan/about/pac-20393136?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/bone-scan/about/pac-20393136?p=1>]
- [Bone X-Ray](https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/bonerad) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/bonerad>]   
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/bonerad>]
- [Musculoskeletal MRI](https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/muscmr) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/muscmr>] (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/muscmr>]

## Treatments and Therapies

- [Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy](https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy/about/pac-20394380?p=1) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy/about/pac-20394380?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy/about/pac-20394380?p=1>]

## Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Bone Diseases, Infectious [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Bone+Diseases,+Infectious%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Osteomyelitis [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Osteomyelitis%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Efficacy Of N-Acetyl-Cysteine as Adjuvant Therapy for Diabetic Foot Osteomyelitis: An... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40751519>]
- Article: Preliminary validation of a web-based MRI scoring system for children with... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40750879>]
- Article: DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PINP AND B-CROSSLAPS IN PEDIATRIC ACUTE... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40737644>]
- Bone Infections -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Bone+Diseases%2C+Infectious%22%5Bmajr%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

## Reference Desk

- Bones, Muscles, and Joints [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/bones-muscles-joints.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/bones-muscles-joints.html>]

## Find an Expert

- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/>]   
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/es/portal-en-espanol>]

## Teenagers

- Osteomyelitis [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/osteomyelitis.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/osteomyelitis.html>]

## Patient Handouts

- Bone lesion biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003923.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003923.htm>]
- Bone pain or tenderness [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003180.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003180.htm>]
- Disseminated tuberculosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000624.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000624.htm>]
- Osteomyelitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000437.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000437.htm>]
- Osteomyelitis - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000297.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000297.htm>]
- Osteomyelitis in children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007697.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007697.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Bone lesion biopsy](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003923.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003923.htm]

[Bone pain or tenderness](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003180.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003180.htm]

[Bone x-ray](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003808.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003808.htm]

[Disseminated tuberculosis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000624.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000624.htm]

[Osteomyelitis](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000437.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000437.htm]

[Osteomyelitis - discharge](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000297.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000297.htm]

[Osteomyelitis in children](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007697.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007697.htm]

## Related Health Topics

[Bone Diseases](https://medlineplus.gov/bonediseases.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/bonediseases.html]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Bone Infections* is the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<http://www.niams.nih.gov/>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](#)

[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our [quality guidelines](#)

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>].

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)