

Fast Facts

Osteomyelitis

- Medical term for an infection of the bones
- Usually caused by staphylococcus bacteria (normally found on the skin or in the nose)
 - Problem is when the bacteria get inside the bones
- Happens when bacteria is present inside the bloodstream because it's present somewhere else in your body and travels to a weakened spot in one of the bones, the bacteria enters the body through a deep puncture wound or if a bone is broken severely enough that it breaks through the skin
 - Can also become infected if you have surgery to replace a joint or fix a fracture
- Circulation disorders, having a compromised immune system, using certain types of intravenous lines or catheters can place you at a higher risk of developing it
- Several complications can arise, like septic arthritis, open sores on your skin (increase chance of squamous cell cancer) and bone tissue death
- For children, if they develop osteomyelitis in their joints or growth plates (softer area of bone at the ends of the long bones in their arms and legs), their growth maybe impaired

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
-Swelling, warmth, redness and pain to the affected area -Fever -Fatigue -Some don't have any symptoms at all	-Drainage of fluid or pus from area -Removal of infected/dead portion of the bone, surrounding tissue and any hardware from previous surgeries -IV antibiotics -Bone/tissue graft -Amputation of affected limb	-Reduce overall risk of infection -Take necessary precautions to avoid cuts, scrapes, scratches and bites. -If you do have an injury, be sure to clean the area immediately with soap and water -Cover any open sores with bandages and keep the area clean and dry -Monitor any open sores for any signs of infection, like redness, swelling, warmth and drainage, especially if it smells bad or looks like pus

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