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# Prosthetic Joint Infection Update from the Laboratory

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Research Collaborator | Mayo Clinic



## Déclaration d'intérêts de 2012 à 2015

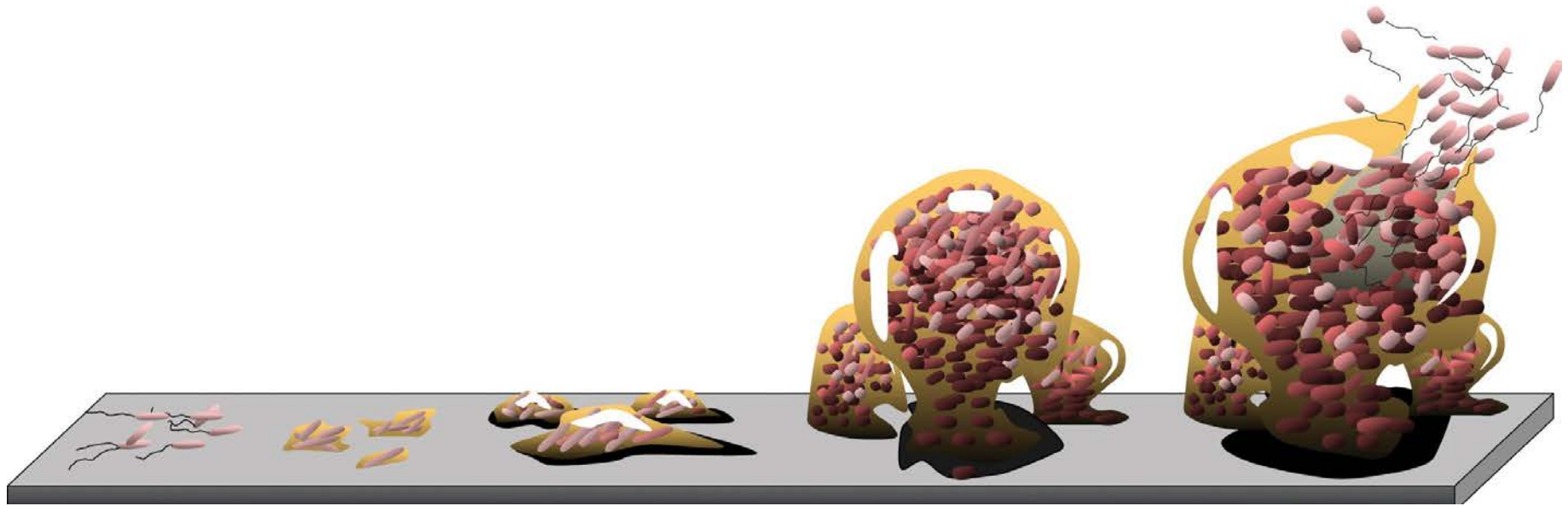
- **Conflict of interest:**
  - Nil to declare
- **Funding acknowledgement:**
  - Australian National Health & Medical Research Council



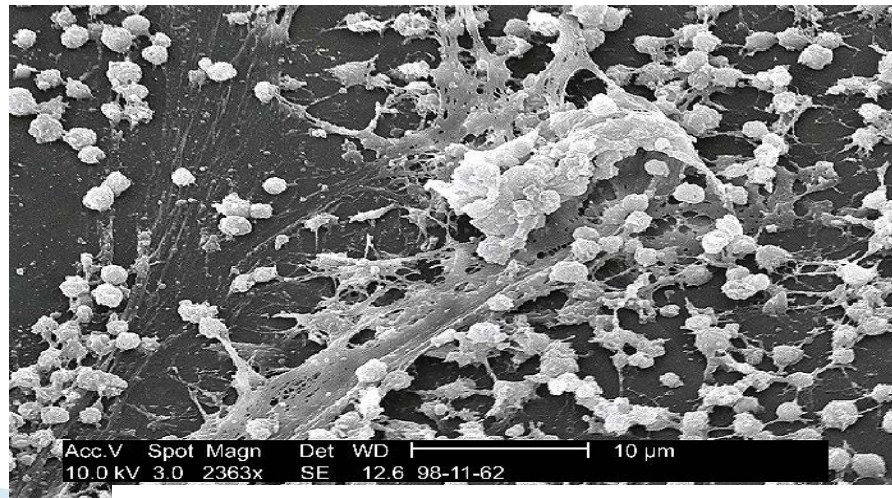
- ▶ >1.4million arthroplasties in 2015 in US
  - >140,000 revisions
  - Will increase by >40% by 2020
    - Kurtz et al (JBJS 2014;96:624)
- ▶ Infections 1–3%
  - US\$1.1 billion
    - Kurtz et al (J Arthro 2012;27(S1):61)



Permission to use Peter Choong SVHM



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4a/Biofilm.jpg>



Acc.V Spot Magn Det WD | 10 µm  
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CDC/Dr. Rodney M. Donlan <http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/details.asp>



- ▶ No gold standard
- ▶ Differentiating pathogen from contaminant
- ▶ Overlap in symptomatology
- ▶ Prompt diagnosis important (DAIR)
- ▶ Diagnosis of shoulder arthroplasty infections



- ▶ Diagnostic Criteria
  
- ▶ Pre-operative diagnosis
  - Inflammatory markers
  - Synovial Aspirate
  - New diagnostic tests
  
- ▶ Operative Diagnosis
  - Culture based
  - Non-culture based molecular techniques
  - Histopathology



## MSIS Criteria

Major 1.  $\geq 2$  positive cultures

2. Sinus tract

Minor a.  $\uparrow$ CRP or  $\uparrow$ ESR

b.  $\uparrow$ Synovial WCC or ++  
leukocyte esterase strip

c.  $\uparrow$ Synovial PMN%

d. Positive histology

e. Single positive culture

PJI = 1 major or 3/5 minor

## IDSA Criteria

1.  $\geq 2$  positive cultures

2. Sinus tract

3. Positive histopathology

4. Intra-operative purulence

PJI = 1 or more present



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

The Journal of Arthroplasty

journal homepage: [www.arthroplastyjournal.org](http://www.arthroplastyjournal.org)



**Table 2**

Defi The Threshold for the Minor Diagnostic Criteria.

CrossMark

Criterion	Acute PJI (<90 days)	Chronic PJI (>90 days)
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (mm/hr)	Not helpful. No threshold was determined	30
C-Reactive Protein (mg/L)	100	10
Synovia White Blood Cell Count (cells/ $\mu$ l)	10,000	3,000
Synovial Polymorphonuclear (%)	90	80
Leukocyte Esterase	+ Or ++	+ Or ++
Histological Analysis of Tissue	>5 neutrophils per high power field in 5 high power fields ( $\times$ 400)	Same as acute





## Inflammatory Blood Laboratory Levels as Markers of Prosthetic Joint Infection

A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis


By Elie Berbari, MD, Tad Mabry, MD, Geoffrey Tsaras, MD, Mark Spangehl, MD, Pat J. Erwin, MLS, Mohammad Hassan Murad, MD, James Steckelberg, MD, and Douglas Osmon, MD

THE JOURNAL OF BONE & JOINT SURGERY · JBJS.ORG  
VOLUME 92-A · NUMBER 11 · SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

	Sensitivity (95%CI)	Specificity (95%CI)
CRP	88% (86–90)	74% (71–76)
ESR	75% (72–77)	70% (68–72)
IL-6	97% (93–99)	91% (87–94)*
WCC	45% (41–49)	87% (85–89)

## C-Reactive Protein, Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate and Orthopedic Implant Infection

Kerryl E. Piper<sup>1</sup>, Marta Fernandez-Sampedro<sup>1</sup>, Kathryn E. Steckelberg<sup>1</sup>, Jayawant N. Mandrekar<sup>2</sup>, Melissa J. Karau<sup>1</sup>, James M. Steckelberg<sup>1</sup>, Elie F. Berbari<sup>1</sup>, Douglas R. Osmon<sup>1</sup>, Arlen D. Hanssen<sup>4</sup>, David G. Lewallen<sup>4</sup>, Robert H. Cofield<sup>4</sup>, John W. Sperling<sup>4</sup>, Joaquin Sanchez-Sotelo<sup>4</sup>, Paul M. Huddleston<sup>4</sup>, Mark B. Dekutoski<sup>4</sup>, Michael Yaszemski<sup>4</sup>, Bradford Currier<sup>4</sup>, Robin Patel<sup>1,3\*</sup>

February 2010 | Volume 5 | Issue 2 | e9358  PLoS ONE | www.plosone.org

**Table 3.** Sensitivity and specificity of CRP (>10 mg/l) and/or ESR (>30 mm/h) for the detection of infected knee, hip and shoulder arthroplasty and spinal instrumentation.

	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Area Under the ROC Curve	p-value from Logistic Regression
Shoulder ESR >30 mm/h	16 (3/19)	98 (44/45)	75 (3/4)	73 (44/60)	0.57	0.0764
Shoulder CRP >10 mg/l	42 (8/19)	84 (38/45)	53 (8/15)	78 (38/49)	0.63	0.0269
Shoulder ESR >30 mm/h or CRP >10 mg/l	42 (8/19)	82 (37/45)	50 (8/16)	77 (37/48)	0.62	0.0455

- ‘Normal’ ESR & CRP in 23% of shoulder infections



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## The Journal of Arthroplasty

journal homepage: [www.arthroplastyjournal.org](http://www.arthroplastyjournal.org)



## Definition of Periprosthetic Joint Infection



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The Threshold for the Minor Diagnostic Criteria.

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Histological Analysis of Tissue	>5 neutrophils per high power field in 5 high power fields ( $\times$ 400)	Same as acute



[emedicine.medscape.com/article/79994-technique#c2](http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/79994-technique#c2)



## ▶ Acute ( $\leq 42$ days)

- Paul et al THA
  - WCC 10000/ $\mu$ L
    - Sensitivity 95%
    - Specificity 91%
  - PMN 89%
    - Sensitivity 84%
    - Specificity 69%
- Bedair et al TKA
  - WCC  $\geq 12800$ /  $\mu$ L
    - Sensitivity 89%
    - Specificity 100%
  - PMN 89%
    - Sensitivity 81%
    - Specificity 90%

## ▶ Chronic ( $> 90$ days)

- Cipriano et al THA and TKA
- WCC 3450/ $\mu$ L
  - Sensitivity 91%
  - Specificity 93%
- PMN 78%
  - Sensitivity 95.5%
  - Specificity 87.3%



- ▶ Most data based on lower limb arthroplasty
  - Less robust data for other joints
  - Most studies exclude inflammatory arthritis
  - Metal-on-metal falsely elevates cell count
    - Manual leucocyte counts more reliable

Tande & Patel CMR 2014;27:302  
Parvizi et al J Arthro 2014;29:1331



## Preoperative Aspiration Culture for Preoperative Diagnosis of Infection in Total Hip or Knee Arthroplasty

Xinhua Qu,<sup>a</sup> ZanJing Zhai,<sup>a</sup> Chuanlong Wu,<sup>a</sup> Fangchun Jin,<sup>b</sup> Haowei Li,<sup>a</sup> Lei Wang,<sup>a</sup> Guangwang Liu,<sup>a,d</sup> Xuqiang Liu,<sup>a</sup> Wengang Wang,<sup>a</sup> Huiwu Li,<sup>a</sup> Xiaoyu Zhang,<sup>c</sup> Zhenan Zhu,<sup>a</sup> Kerong Dai<sup>a</sup>

2013;51:3830

- ▶ Sensitivity 72% (65–78)
- ▶ Specificity 95% (93–97)
  - Less sensitive for THA than TKA
  - Marked heterogeneity
  - No comment on culture media or duration



## Culture with BACTEC Peds Plus/F Bottle Compared with Conventional Methods for Detection of Bacteria in Synovial Fluid

JOHN G. HUGHES,<sup>1</sup> EMILY A. VETTER,<sup>1</sup> ROBIN PATEL,<sup>1,2</sup> CATHY D. SCHLECK,<sup>3</sup> SCOTT HARMSEN,<sup>3</sup>  
L. THOMAS TURGEANT,<sup>2</sup> AND FRANKLIN R. COCKERILL III<sup>1,2\*</sup>

JCM 2001;39:4468

- ▶ Blood culture bottles
  - Increased yield cf agar
  
- ▶ Acute vs Chronic infection
  - Sensitivity 91% acute vs 79% chronic
  - Specificity 100% both
  - Font–Vizcarra et al (CORR;2010:468:2238)



[https://c1.staticflickr.com/1/28/48025150\\_db0fa4b573.jpg](https://c1.staticflickr.com/1/28/48025150_db0fa4b573.jpg)



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## The Journal of Arthroplasty



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	Histological Analysis of Tissue	>5 neutrophils per high power field in 5 high power fields ( $\times$ 400)	Same as acute





## Diagnosis of Periprosthetic Joint Infection: The Utility of a Simple Yet Unappreciated Enzyme

Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS, Christina Jacovides, BS, Valentin Antoci, MD, PhD, and Elie Ghanem, MD

- ▶ “Point of care”
- ▶ Measure of ‘+’ or ‘++’
- ▶ Sensitivity
  - 80% – 92.9%
- ▶ Specificity
  - 89–100%
- ▶ Cellular debris
  - 10 – 29% unable to be read



## Leukocyte esterase in the diagnosis of shoulder periprosthetic joint infection



Gregory N. Nelson, MD<sup>a,\*</sup>, E. Scott Paxton, MD<sup>b</sup>, Alexa Narzikul, BS<sup>c</sup>,  
Gerald Williams, MD<sup>c</sup>, Mark D. Lazarus, MD<sup>c</sup>, Joseph A. Abboud, MD<sup>c</sup>

*J Shoulder Elbow Surg* (2015) 24, 1421-1426

**Table IV** Accuracy of leukocyte esterase in Musculoskeletal Infection Society periprosthetic joint infection–positive revision shoulder arthroplasty

Variable	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	PPV (%)	NPV (%)
<b>PJI</b>				
True	28.6	63.6	28.6	87.5
Potential	33.3	–	14.3	–
True + potential	30.0	66.7	42.9	83.3
<b>“Bloody” results considered positive</b>				
True PJI	57.1	63.6	66.7	87.5
Potential PJI	66.7	–	33.3	–
True + potential PJI	60.0	66.7	37.5	83.3

NPV, negative predictive value; PJI, periprosthetic joint infection; PPV, positive predictive value.



## Diagnosis of Periprosthetic Joint Infection Using Synovial C-Reactive Protein

Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS, James C. McKenzie, BS, and James P. Cashman, MD

- ▶ Sensitivity 85–87.1%
- ▶ Specificity 71–97.7%
  
- ▶ Threshold / cut-off not well established
  - Parvizi et al proposed 9.5mg/L
- ▶ Value unclear
  - Strongly correlates with serum CRP ( $r^2$  0.72)
    - Parvizi et al
  - CRP manufactured in liver
    - Emerging evidence that other sites may produce CRP

Deirmengian et al CORR 2010;468:2017

Jacovides et al J Arthro 2011;26(S1):99

Parvizi et al J Arthro 2012;27(S1):12

Deirmengian et al JBJS 2014;96:1439

Clin Orthop Relat Res (2014) 472:3254–3262

## Diagnosing Periprosthetic Joint Infection

Has the Era of the Biomarker Arrived?

Carl Deirmengian MD, Keith Kardos PhD,  
Patrick Kilmartin, Alexander Cameron, Kevin Schiller,  
Javad Parvizi MD

- ▶ Synovial  $\alpha$ -defensin
  - Sensitivity 97.3%
  - Specificity 95.5%
- ▶ Synvosure<sup>®</sup>
  - CD diagnostics
  - Not FDA approved
- ▶ Not widely studied

J Shoulder Elbow Surg (2015) 24, 1021-1027



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SURGERY

[www.elsevier.com/locate/jymse](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jymse)

**Table III** Diagnostic parameters of synovial fluid  $\alpha$ -defensin

Parameter	$\alpha$ -Defensin
Optimized cutoff	0.48 S/CO
Area under the curve	0.78
Sensitivity (%)	63
Specificity (%)	95
Positive likelihood ratio*	12.1
Negative likelihood ratio <sup>†</sup>	0.38

\* A value > 5 is considered useful for ruling in infection.

<sup>†</sup> A value < 0.2 is considered useful for ruling out infection.



- ▶ Microbiological culture is paramount
  - Confirmation of diagnosis
  - Allows susceptibility testing
    - Guide therapy
    - Avoid unnecessarily broad-spectrum antimicrobials
    - Epidemiology / Infection Control
  
- ▶ Disadvantages
  - Slow
  - Low sensitivity
  - Challenges differentiating pathogen vs contaminant



SYMPOSIUM: 2012 MUSCULOSKELETAL INFECTION SOCIETY

## Swab Cultures Are Not As Effective As Tissue Cultures

**Table 3.** Sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and likelihood ratios for tissue and swab cultures

Number of positive cultures considered diagnostic	Intraoperative test	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	PPV (%)	NPV (%)	Positive diagnostic likelihood ratio	Negative diagnostic likelihood ratio
≥ 1	Tissue culture	93.3 (79–98)	97.7 (92–99)	93.3 (79–98)	97.7 (92–99)	40.6 (10.2–160.3)	0.07 (0.02–0.26)
	Swab culture	70.0 (52–83)	88.5 (80–93)	67.7 (50–81)	89.5 (81–94)	6.1 (3.2–11.4)	0.34 (0.20–0.59)
≥ 2	Tissue culture	63.3 (46–78)	97.7 (92–99)	90.5 (71–97)	88.5 (81–94)	27.6 (6.8–111.4)	0.38 (0.23–0.60)
	Swab culture	53.3 (36–70)	97.7 (92–99)	88.9 (67–97)	85.9 (78–91)	23.2 (5.6–95.0)	0.48 (0.33–0.70)

The 95% CIs are reported in parentheses; PPV = positive predictive value; NPV = negative predictive value.



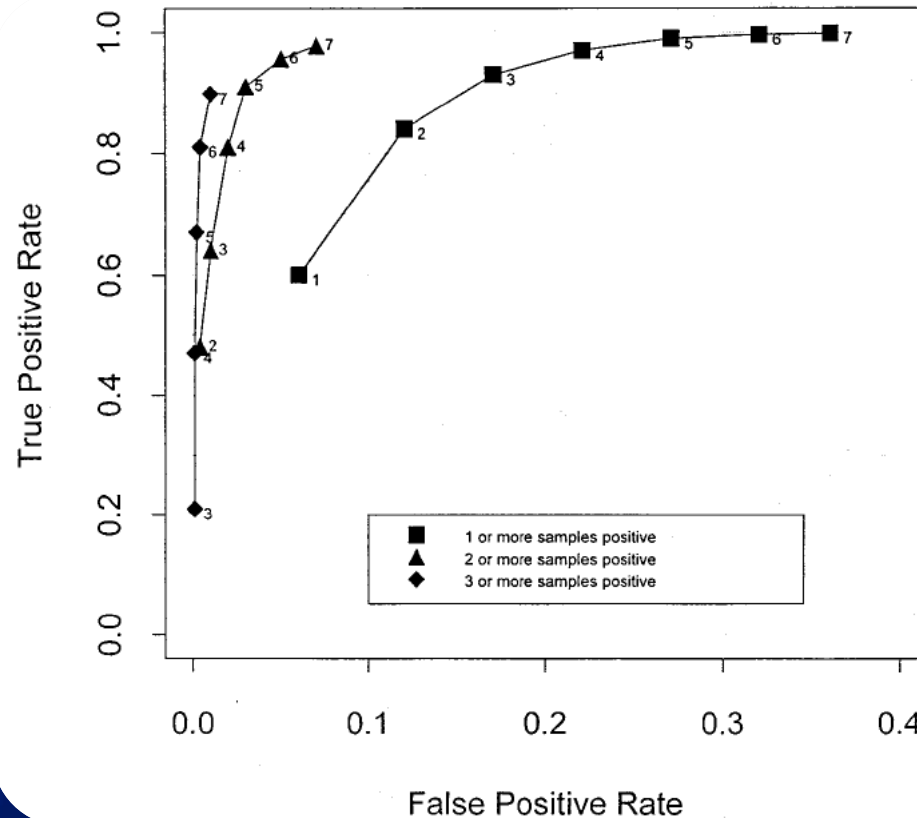


## Prospective Evaluation of Criteria for Microbiological Diagnosis of Prosthetic-Joint Infection at Revision Arthroplasty

BRIDGET L. ATKINS,<sup>1,2</sup> NICHOLAS ATHANASOU,<sup>3,4</sup> JONATHAN J. DEEKS,<sup>5</sup> DERRICK W. M. CROOK,<sup>2</sup> HAMISH SIMPSON,<sup>4,6</sup> TIMOTHY E. A. PETO,<sup>2</sup> PETER McLARDY-SMITH,<sup>4</sup> ANTHONY R. BERENDT,<sup>2,4\*</sup> AND THE OSIRIS COLLABORATIVE STUDY GROUP†

*Public Health Laboratory,<sup>1</sup> Department of Pathology,<sup>3</sup> Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,<sup>6</sup> and Bone Infection Unit,<sup>4</sup> Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Academic Unit of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, John Radcliffe Hospital,<sup>2</sup> and Centre for Statistics in Medicine, Institute of Health Sciences,<sup>5</sup> Oxford, United Kingdom*

JCM 1998;36:2692



**TABLE 2** Sensitivity and specificity of periprosthetic tissue culture techniques using Bayesian latent class modeling and Infectious Diseases Society of America criteria for prosthetic joint infection diagnosis as gold standards<sup>a</sup>

Culture medium <sup>b</sup>	No gold standard (Bayesian LCM)		IDSA PJI criteria as gold standard	
	Sensitivity (95% credible interval)	Specificity (95% credible interval)	Sensitivity (95% confidence interval)	Specificity (95% confidence interval)
<b>Individual culture media</b>				
Aerobic agar	59.4 (45.3, 72.5)	99.5 (98.3, 100.0)	26.5 (18.8, 35.5)	100.0 (98.6, 100.0)
Anaerobic agar	32.2 (20.8, 45.7)	99.5 (98.3, 100.0)	14.5 (8.7, 22.2)	100.0 (98.6, 100.0)
Thioglycolate	74.8 (61.5, 85.8)	99.4 (98.1, 99.9)	33.3 (24.9, 42.6)	100.0 (98.6, 100.0)
Aerobic blood culture bottle	82.0 (69.5, 91.1)	97.1 (94.8, 98.6)	42.7 (33.6, 52.2)	100.0 (98.6, 100.0)
Anaerobic blood culture bottle	90.2 (79.4, 96.5)	96.3 (93.7, 98.1)	47.9 (38.5, 57.3)	99.6 (97.8, 100.0)
<b>Combinations of culture media</b>				
Aerobic and anaerobic agars	48.9 (38.3, 59.7)	99.7 (98.7, 100.0)	33.3 (24.9, 42.6)	100.0 (98.6, 100.0)
Aerobic and anaerobic agars and thioglycolate	62.6 (51.7, 72.5)	98.1 (96.1, 99.3)	44.4 (35.3, 53.9)	98.8 (96.6, 99.8)
Aerobic and anaerobic BCBs	92.1 (84.9, 97.0)	99.7 (98.7, 100.0)	60.7 (51.2, 69.6)	98.8 (96.6, 99.8)
Aerobic and anaerobic BCBs and thioglycolate	92.1 (84.9, 97.0)	98.8 (97.0, 99.6)	63.3 (53.8, 72.0)	98.8 (96.6, 99.8)
Aerobic and anaerobic BCBs and aerobic agar	94.6 (88.1, 98.6)	99.7 (98.7, 100.0)	62.4 (53.0, 71.2)	98.8 (96.6, 99.8)
Aerobic and anaerobic BCBs and anaerobic agar	96.8 (91.3, 99.3)	99.8 (98.7, 100.0)	62.4 (53.0, 71.2)	98.0 (95.4, 99.4)
Aerobic and anaerobic BCBs and aerobic and anaerobic agars	99.1 (95.7, 100.0)	99.7 (98.7, 100.0)	64.1 (54.7, 72.8)	98.0 (95.4, 99.4)
All media combined	99.1 (95.7, 100.0)	97.3 (94.8, 98.7)	67.5 (58.2, 75.9)	96.8 (93.8, 98.6)



## Improved Diagnosis of Prosthetic Joint Infection by Culturing Periprosthetic Tissue Specimens in Blood Culture Bottles

TABLE 3 Time to detection of microorganisms with different culture media<sup>a</sup>

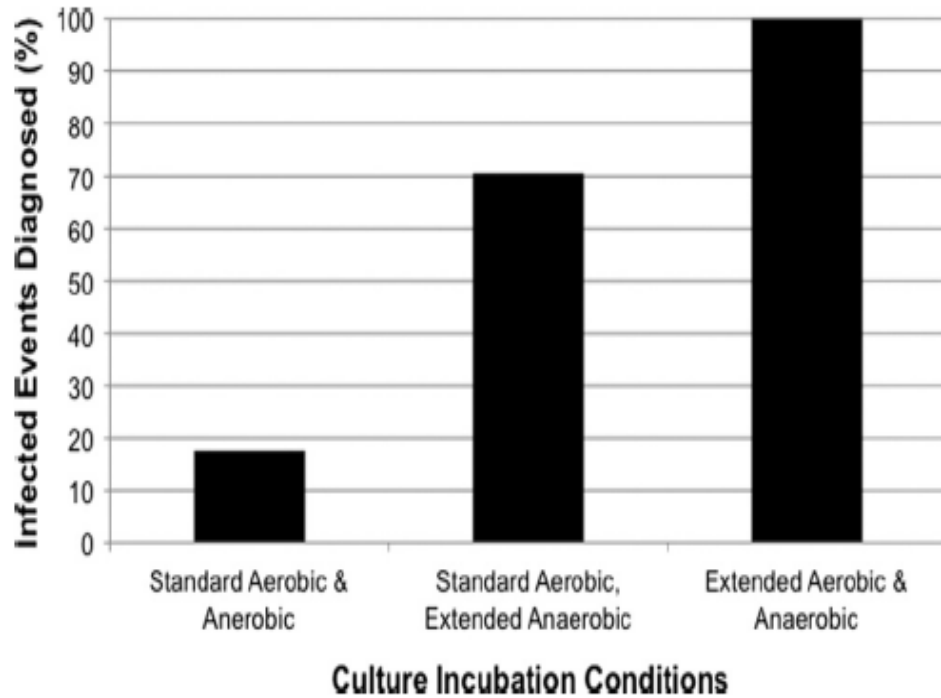
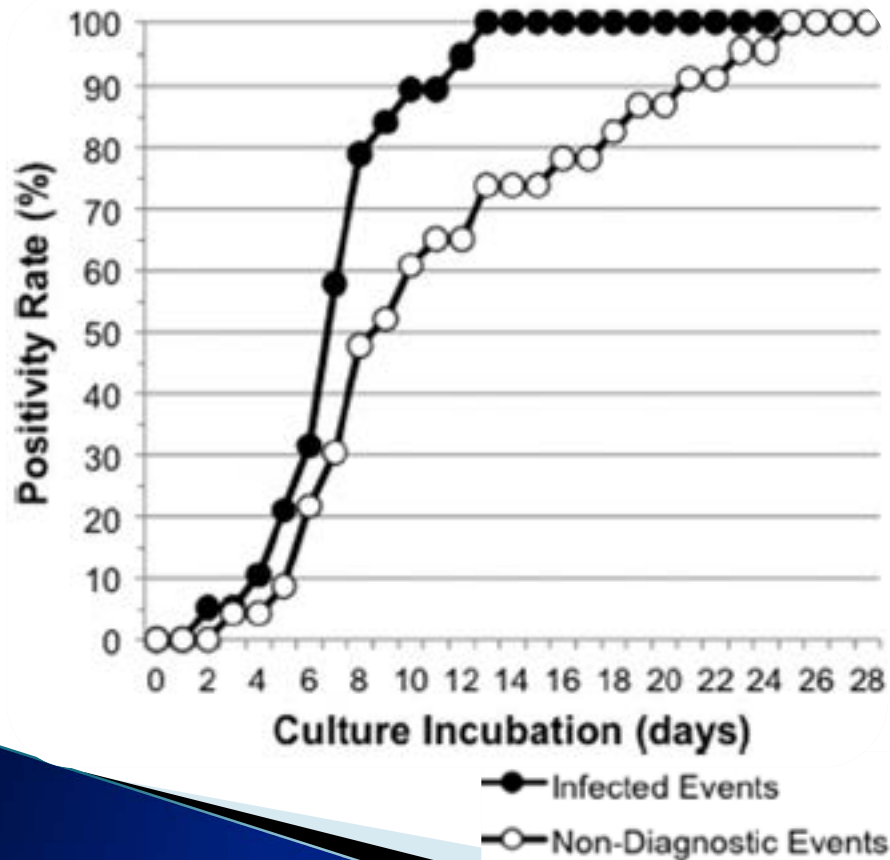
Culture medium	Median time (h) to detection (IQR)			<i>P</i> value <sup>b</sup>
	Complete cohort ( <i>n</i> = 369)	Met IDSA criteria for PJI		
		No ( <i>n</i> = 252)	Yes ( <i>n</i> = 117.0)	
Aerobic agar	41 (21, 63)	49 (45, 95)	33 (21, 62)	0.003
Anaerobic agar	62 (43, 144)	144 (50, 163)	52 (43, 140)	0.3
Thioglycolate	65 (43, 92)	160 (65, 195)	64 (43, 90)	0.01
Aerobic blood culture bottle	21 (14, 45)	27 (21, 42)	21 (13, 45)	0.8
Anaerobic blood culture bottle	23 (16, 47)	52 (24, 147)	22 (14.5, 38.5)	0.02

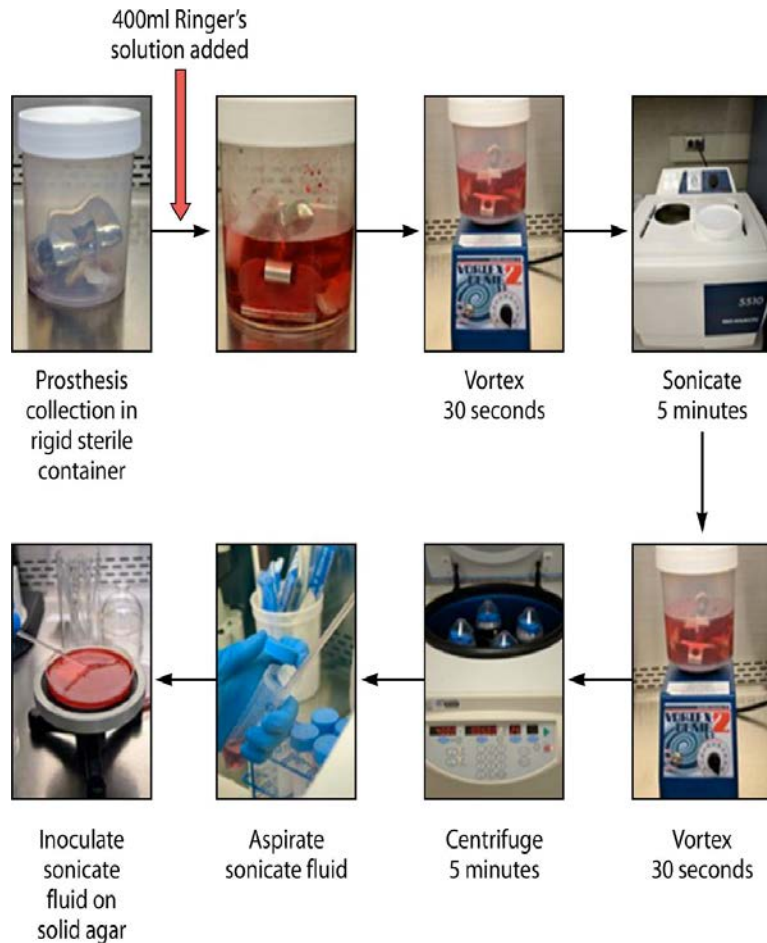


## Optimization of Periprosthetic Culture for Diagnosis of *Propionibacterium acnes* Prosthetic Joint Infection<sup>∇</sup>

Susan M. Butler-Wu,<sup>1\*</sup> Erica M. Burns,<sup>2†</sup> Paul S. Pottinger,<sup>3</sup> Amalia S. Magaret,<sup>1</sup>  
Jennifer L. Rakeman,<sup>1‡</sup> Frederick A. Matsen III,<sup>2</sup> and Brad T. Cookson<sup>1,4</sup>

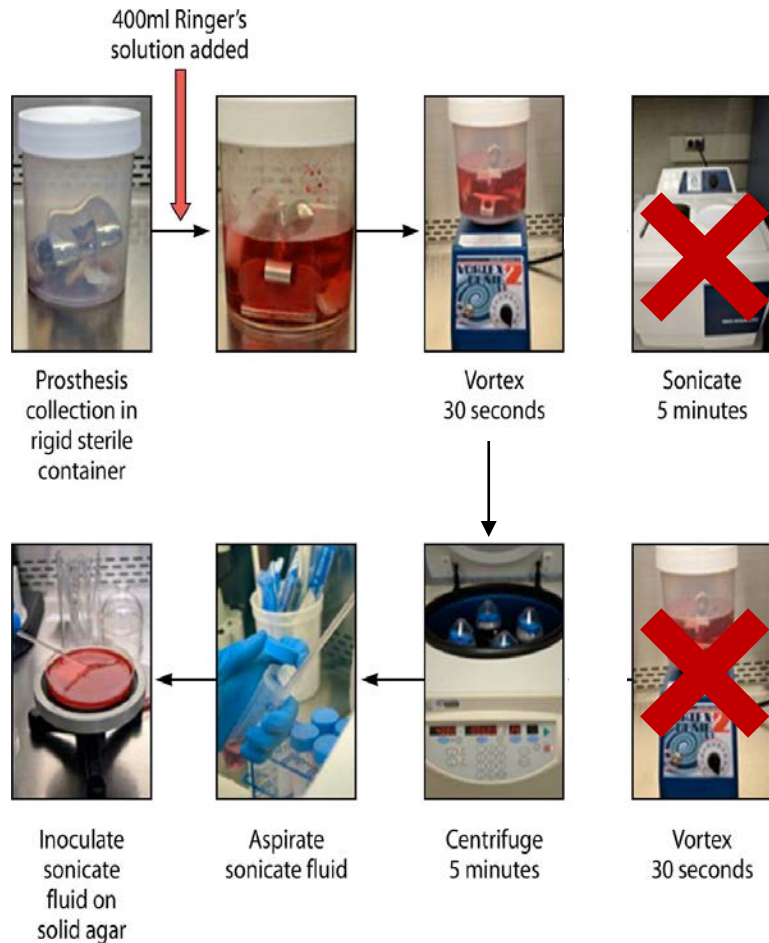
*Department of Laboratory Medicine,<sup>1</sup> Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine,<sup>2</sup> Department of Medicine,<sup>3</sup> and  
Department of Microbiology,<sup>4</sup> University of Washington, Seattle, Washington*





- ▶ **Meta-analysis Zhai et al**
  - Pooled data
    - Sensitivity 80%
    - Specificity 95%
    - Moderate quality studies
  - Best cut-off  $\geq 5\text{CFU/mL}$ 
    - (unconcentrated)
    - Not taking in account organism
  - Better results with
    - Ringer's solution
    - Containers
    - Extended cultures to 14 days
- ▶ **Useful if prior antibiotics**

Photo courtesy of David Lynch, Mayo Clinic MN  
From Tande & Patel Clin. Microbiol. Rev. 2014;27:302



- ▶ Portillo et al compared
  - Vortex + Sonication
  - Vortex alone
- ▶ Cut-off  $\geq 1$  CFU/mL
  - Similar sensitivity (71 v 69%)
  - Sonication more sensitive with chronic PJI (58 vs 33%;  $p=0.2$ )
- ▶ Cut-off  $\geq 50$  CFU/mL
  - Sonication more sensitive
    - 60% vs 40% ( $p=0.2$ )
- ▶ Vortex alone
  - Reasonable if sonication not available

Photo courtesy of David Lynch, Mayo Clinic MN  
From Tande & Patel Clin. Microbiol. Rev. 2014;27:302



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Criterion	Acute PJI (<90 days)	Chronic PJI (>90 days)
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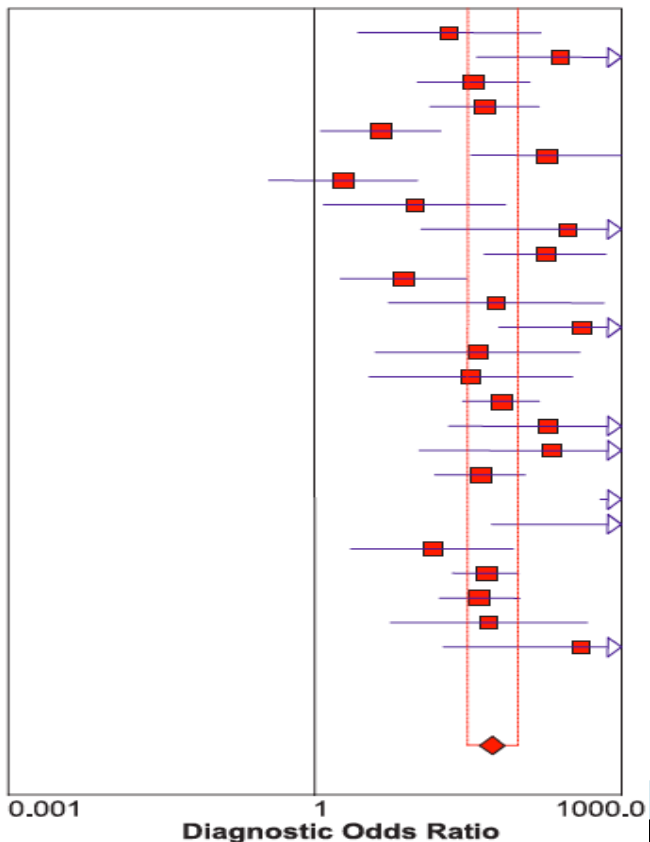


## Utility of Intraoperative Frozen Section Histopathology in the Diagnosis of Periprosthetic Joint Infection

A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Geoffrey Tsaras, MBChB, MPH, Awele Maduka-Ezeh, MBBS, MPH, Carrie Y. Inwards, MD, Tad Mabry, MD, Patricia J. Erwin, MLS, M. Hassan Murad, MD, MPH, Victor M. Montori, MD, MSc, Colin P. West, MD, PhD, Douglas R. Osmon, MD, MPH, and Elie F. Berbari, MD

JBJS 2012;94:1700



- ▶ 26 studies THA and TKA
- ▶ DOR 54.7 (31.2–95.7)
  - LR+ 12.0 (8.4–17.2)
  - LR- 0.23 (0.15–0.35)
- ▶ Significant heterogeneity
- ▶ Majority small studies
- ▶ Diagnostic thresholds vary





## Sensitivity of Frozen Section Histology for Identifying *Propionibacterium acnes* Infections in Revision Shoulder Arthroplasty

*J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2014;96:442-7

Matthew J. Grosso, BS, Salvatore J. Frangiamore, MD, Eric T. Ricchetti, MD,  
Thomas W. Bauer, MD, PhD, and Joseph P. Iannotti, MD, PhD

**TABLE V Frozen Section Histopathology\***

	<i>P. acnes</i> Infection Group (N = 18)	Other Infection Group (N = 12)	Total (N = 30)
<b>Sensitivity</b>			
Institutional guidelines	50% (9)	67% (8)	57% (17)
Periprosthetic Joint Infection AAOS Guideline #1 <sup>B</sup>	50% (9)	58% (7)	53% (16)
Periprosthetic Joint Infection AAOS Guideline #2 <sup>B</sup>	39% (7)	58% (7)	47% (14)
Morawietz et al. (2009) <sup>19</sup>	56% (10)	67% (8)	60% (18)
ROC cutoff	72% (13)	75% (9)	73% (22)
<b>Specificity†</b>			
Institutional guidelines	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)
Periprosthetic Joint Infection AAOS Guideline #1 <sup>B</sup>	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)
Periprosthetic Joint Infection AAOS Guideline #2 <sup>B</sup>	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)
Morawietz et al. (2009) <sup>19</sup>	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)
ROC cutoff	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)

\*The values are given as the percentage of positive results on culture, with the number of patients in parentheses. †Specificity was derived from the non-infection group (n = 15). As there were no false positives, the specificity was the same (100%) for all groups.



## ▶ PCR

- Specific PCR
  - Targets a single bacteria eg *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Broad-range PCR
  - Bacterial ribosome (16S rDNA)
    - Highly conserved region
    - Allows detection of DNA from many bacteria species



## PCR-Based Diagnosis of Prosthetic Joint Infection

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- ▶ 14 studies (11 16sRibosomal PCR)
  - Sensitivity 86%
  - Specificity 91%
  
- ▶ Challenges
  - High false positive rate
  - Requires specific expertise
  - Expensive
  - Issues with polymicrobial infections
    - Comprise 10–30% of infections



- ▶ Species specific and multiplex PCR
  - Septifast<sup>©</sup> (Roche Diagnostics)
  - Portillo et al
    - Performed on sonicate
    - PCR more sensitive 96% compared to:
      - Periprosthetic tissue culture 71% (p=0.03)
      - Sonicate culture 67% (p=0.02)\*
    - 50% patients had received antibiotics in 14 days prior
      - PCR was positive in 96% cf 50% culture
    - Limitations
      - Probe for specific pathogen needs to be included
        - Eg *Propionibacterium acnes*



# SUMMARY



- ▶ ESR and CRP aid clinical judgment
  - IL-6 promising but not widely in use
- ▶ Synovial aspirate
  - Synovial WCC, PMN% and culture (BCB)
  - Role of leukocyte esterase and CRP unclear
  - $\alpha$ -defensin promising but further studies required



- ▶ Peri-prosthetic tissue samples
  - Ideally 5–6 specimens
    - NOT swabs
  - Inoculation into blood culture bottles
  - Culture for 14 days
- ▶ Specimen for frozen section
- ▶ Sonication of the prosthesis
  - If aspiration is negative or recent antibiotics
- ▶ Consider additional specimen for PCR
  - Multiplex / species specific
  - If recent antibiotics and culture negative



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