

Research Article

**Frequency of septic arthritis, Causative organisms
and their susceptibility to the antibiotics**

**Muhammad Haroon Bilal, Sumra Umer Khan,
Iffat Shameem and Muhammad Ali Umer Khan**

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Dera Ghazi Khan Medical College,
D.G. Khan Cell: 03216786787, E-mail: drmuhab@gmail.com

²Medical Officer, Multan Medical and Dental College, Multan

³House Officer, Nishter Hospital Multan, Cell: 03114289333

⁴House Officer, Bahawal Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur,
Cell: 03216836657, Email: Auk83@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Objective: To see the frequency of septic arthritis. To identify the causative organisms (*Staphylococcus aureus*) and its susceptibility to the antibiotic (ceftriaxone).

STUDY DESIGN: Cross sectional study

SETTINGS: The study was conducted at Medical Department, OPD and COD DG Khan Hospital, DG Khan.

DURATION OF STUDY: January 2017 to June 2017

RESULTS: Out of 73 patients septic arthritis was found in 37% patients. Among the 73 patients, male was 38 (52.1%) and female was 35 (47.9%). Knee joint was involved in 65 (89%) cases, hip was involved in 8 (11%) cases and elbow was not in any case. *S. aureus* was involved in 72.6% patients and ceftriaxone was found susceptible in 79.5% cases.

CONCLUSION: Septic arthritis was more common in male as compare to female patients and it can be occurred in any age group. Knee is the most common joint involved in septic arthritis. *S. aureus* was the most common organism isolated and the most susceptible drug was ceftriaxone.

KEY WORDS: Synovial fluid, Arthritis, Biopsy, Rheumatoid arthritis

INTRODUCTION

The presentation of a patient with one or more hot swollen joints is a common medical emergency. Such symptoms have a broad differential diagnosis, and, although not the most typical, the most serious cause is septic arthritis. This disease has substantial morbidity and mortality.¹ Septic arthritis has an annual incidence of 10 per 100,000 individuals in the United States and is more common among those with rheumatoid arthritis or a prosthetic joint, with up to 70 cases per

100,000.² Patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are also at increased risk for nongonococcal septic arthritis.² Septic arthritis most commonly affects the knee, which accounts for approximately 50% of cases. In decreasing order of frequency, septic arthritis also affects the shoulder, hip and elbow, although virtually any articular surface can become infected.³ Most cases result from hematogenous spread, since bacterial organisms can easily enter the synovial fluid

because synovial tissue lacks a basement membrane.⁴ Prompt diagnosis to facilitate appropriate antibiotic management of septic arthritis is essential, since cartilage can be destroyed within days, and in-hospital mortality of treated infections can be as high as 15%.² Permanent disability and increased mortality are associated with delayed presentations and diagnosis. Prior research suggests that using history, physical examination and synovial tests, clinicians are able to deduce the etiology of acute nontraumatic monoarticular arthritis within 3 days in most cases. Since emergency physicians often lack the luxury of 3-day admissions for most monoarticular arthritis patients, identification of key diagnostic findings to accurately differentiate septic from nonseptic arthritis within minutes to hours is essential.^{2,5}

When conceptualized quantitatively, clinical decision-making is a continuum of disease probabilities from 0% to 100%.⁶ Health care providers continually revise disease probabilities throughout the clinical encounter based on multiple factors, including elements of the current and past medical examination, imaging and laboratory studies, and therapeutic responses.⁷ In 1980, Drs. Pauker and Kassirer described one theoretical model to compute test and treatment thresholds. Basically, the Pauker-Kassirer algebraic equation provides estimates whereby patients can be divided into three groups: 1) disease probability below the test threshold with further diagnostic testing likely to be more harmful than helpful; 2) disease probability intermediate between the test and treatment thresholds for the diagnosis in question so further testing would be beneficial; 3) disease probability exceeds the treatment threshold with further confirmatory testing a risk to harm patients, either via therapeutic delay or via unintended consequences of diagnostic test related adverse events.^{8,9}

Septic arthritis is not an uncommon infection in our population, it may be helpful in generating regional data about pathogens, their susceptibility to the antibiotics providing guidelines so as to

reduce irrational use of antibiotics and development of antibiotic resistance.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

Septic Arthritis:

When WBC count in synovial fluid >50000 cells/mm³ was labeled as Septic Arthritis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study Design: Cross sectional study

Setting: The study was conducted at Medical Department, OPD and COD DG Khan Hospital, DG Khan.

Duration of the study: January 2017 to June 2017.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Patients with fever, joint pain and swelling of joint.
- Both male and female.
- Age 14 to 60 years.
- **Exclusion Criteria:**
- The patients with dry taps.
- The patients with an open joint injury, tuberculous infection and infections after elective surgery were excluded.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Study is approved ethically by institutional review board. Patients fulfilling the inclusion criteria was included in this study after taking written consent from every patient. We were take synovial fluid by taping the joint under ultrasound guidance and sample was send to the laboratory for:

Physical/naked eye examination: color, consistency, hemmorrhagic.

Chemical: protein level, glucose level.

Microbial: RBC, WBC (TLC, DLC), gram staining, ZN staining, culture and sensitivity etc.

Report was identify the etiological agent as well culture and sensitivity for the etiological agent. The identified etiological agent and the drug of choice from culture and sensitivity report was recorded on the pre designed proforma. It was help me to identify the organism and the drug susceptible to it. Demographic data like age, gender and type of joint (knee joint, hip joint)

involved was also be entered in predesigned Performa.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Data was entered on computer software SPSS version 16. Mean ± SD was calculated for age as quantitative variable. Qualitative variable like septic arthritis, gender, type of joint involved was presented as frequency and percentage. Etiological agent, susceptibility to ceftriaxone according to culture and sensitivity was also be present as frequency and percentages. Stratification was done for age, gender, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) to control the effect modifiers. Chi-square test was applied and p-value ≤ 0.05 was considered as significant.

RESULTS:

All the data of 73 patients were entered in SPSS version 17 and analyzed. Mean age of the patients was 45.03 ± 12.9 years. Out of 73 patients septic arthritis was found in 27 (37%) patients. (Fig. 1).

Etiological agent (Staphylococcus aureus) found involved in 53 (72.6%) cases. Shown in Fig. 2 and ceftriaxone was found susceptible in 58 (79.5%) cases. Shown in Fig. 3

Out of 73 cases, rheumatoid arthritis was found in 45 (61.6%) cases. Shown in Fig. 4

Stratification for age was done. Two groups were made. First group consisted on patients having age 14-37 years and group consisted on patients having age 38-60 years. In age group 14-37 years there were total 18 (24.66%) patients and septic arthritis was found in 9 (50%) patients. No association was found between age group and septic arthritis. P. value 0.26. (Table No.1)

After stratification for gender, out of 38 (52.06%) male patients septic arthritis was found in 13 (34.21%) patients. Out of 35 (47.94%) female patients, septic arthritis was found only in 14 (40%) patients. No association was found between gender and septic arthritis. P. Value 0.64. (Table No.2).

Stratification was done for type of joint involved. Knee joint was found involved in 65 (89.04%)

patients and septic arthritis was found in 25 (38.46%) patients. Out of 8 (10.96%) patients with hip joint involved, septic arthritis was found in 2 (25%) patients and elbow joint was not involved in any patient. No association was found between type of joint involved and septic arthritis. (Table No.3) As shown in table No.4, out of 45 (61.64%) patients with rheumatoid arthritis, septic arthritis was found in 14 (31.11%) patients. No association was found between rheumatoid arthritis and septic arthritis.

Stratification for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) was done. Out of 3 (4%) patients with SLE septic arthritis was found in 2 (66.67%) patients. Out of 70 (96%) patients without SLE, septic arthritis was seen in 25 (35.7%) patients. No association was found between SLE and septic arthritis. P. value 0.55. See table No.5

Fig. 1: Frequencies for Septic Arthritis

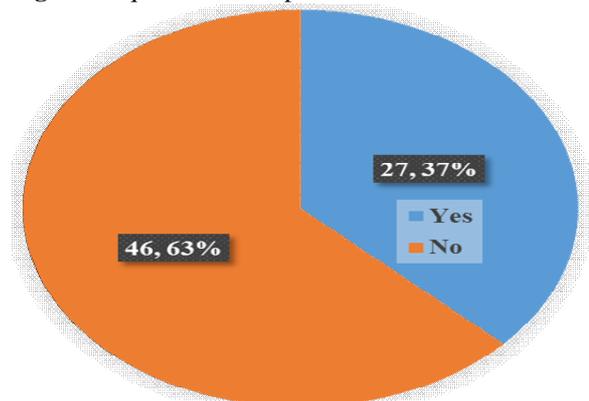


Fig. 2: Frequencies for Etiological agent (Staphylococcus aureus)

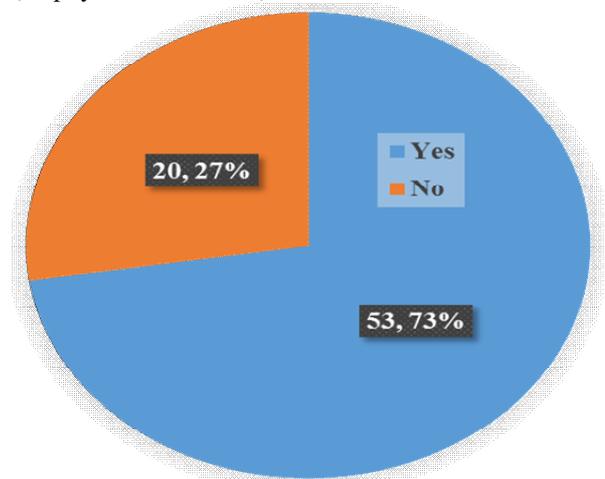


Fig. 3: Frequencies for susceptibility to ceftriaxone according to culture and sensitivity

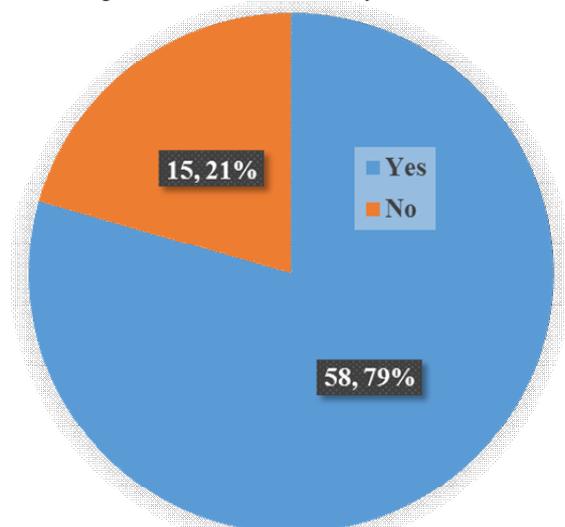


Fig. 4: Frequencies for Rheumatoid Arthritis

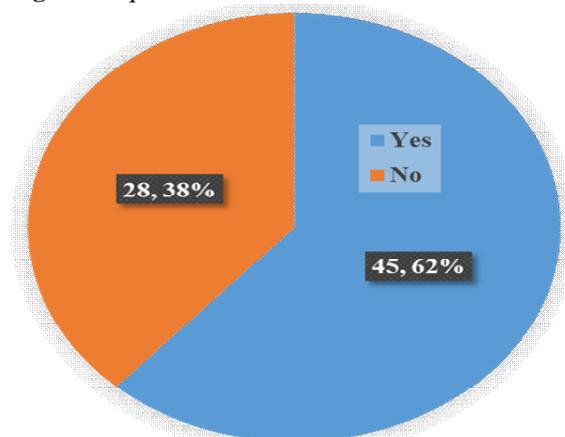


Table No.1: Stratification for age

Age	Septic Arthritis		Total	P. value
	Yes (%)	No (%)		
14-37 Years	9 (50)	9 (50)	18 (24.66)	0.26
38-60 Years	18 (32.73)	37 (67.27)	55 (75.34)	
Total	27 (37)	46 (63)	73	

Table No.2: Stratification for gender

Gender	Septic Arthritis		Total	P. value
	Yes	No		
Male	13 (34.21)	25 (65.79)	38 (52.06)	0.64
Female	14 (40)	21 (60)	35 (47.94)	
Total	27 (37)	46 (63)	73	

Table No.3: Stratification for type of joint

Type of joint	Septic Arthritis		Total	P. value
	Yes	No		
Knee	25 (38.46)	40 (61.54)	65 (89.04%)	0.46
Hip	2 (25)	6 (75)	8 (10.96%)	
Elbow	0	0	0	
Total	27 (37)	46 (63)	73	

Table No.4: Stratification for rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid Arthritis	Septic Arthritis		Total	P. value
	Yes	No		
Yes	14 (31.11)	31 (68.89)	45 (61.64)	0.22
No	13 (46.43)	15 (53.57)	28 (38.36)	
Total	27 (37)	46 (63)	73	

Table No.5: Stratification for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	Septic Arthritis		Total	P. value
	Yes	No		
Yes	2 (66.67)	1 (33.33)	3 (4)	0.55
No	25 (35.7)	45 (64.3)	70 (96)	
Total	27 (37)	46 (63)	73	

DISCUSSION:

In this study mean age of the patients was 45.03 years which is contrast with the study of Li SF¹⁰ et al who reported mean age of the patients of septic arthritis as 53 years. But the study by Weston et al¹¹ is in agreement with my study.

Out of 73 patients, septic arthritis was found in 37% patients. These findings are not in agreement with the study of Li SF et al.¹⁰ In one study by Nutt et al¹² septic arthritis was found in 29% patients. These findings are in agreement with my findings.

In this study male are more sufferer than female patients. These findings are in agreement with the study by Kaushiket al¹³ conducted in Kuwait. Another study by Fahmiet al¹⁴ also documented that mare are more sufferer of septic arthritis as

compare to female. His findings were also in agreement with my study.

In my study knee was the most common (89%) affected joint. In a study by Abidet al¹⁵ knee was the most common joint affected with septic arthritis. A study by Kaushiket al¹³ was also in agreement with my study. Uthman et al¹⁶ also found the knee as most common joint involved in patients with septic arthritis.

In present study *S. aureus* was the most common 72.6% etiological agent causing the septic arthritis. Yadav et al¹⁷ also found the *S. aureus* as most common 62% organism. These findings are in favour of my study. Studies by Abidet al¹⁵ and Nahman et al¹⁸ were also in agreement with my study. Kalantari et al¹⁹ also found *S. aureus* as most common pathogen as 60.5% patients which was also in favor in my study. A study by Arnold et al²⁰ was in contrast with my study who found *H. influenzae* as an important cause of septic arthritis in third world nations.

Ceftriaxone was susceptible in 79.5% patients in present study which was in agreement with the study of Yadav et al¹⁷ which showed susceptibility of ceftriaxone as 83%. These findings are in favour of my study.

CONCLUSION:

Septic arthritis was more common in male as compare to female patients and it can be occurred in any age group. Knee is the most common joint involved in septic arthritis. *S. aureus* was the most common organism isolated and the most susceptible drug was ceftriaxone.

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