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REVIEWED
By Chris Tighe at 11:18 am, Jun 26, 2015

Diseases and Conditions

Osteomyelitis

SECTIONS



Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Osteomyelitis is an infection in a bone. Infections can reach a bone by traveling through the bloodstream or spreading from nearby tissue. Osteomyelitis can also begin in the bone itself if an injury exposes the bone to germs.

In children, osteomyelitis most commonly affects the long bones of the legs and upper arm, while adults are more likely to develop osteomyelitis in the bones that make up the spine (vertebrae). People who have diabetes may develop osteomyelitis in their feet if they have foot ulcers.

Once considered an incurable condition, osteomyelitis can be successfully treated today. Most people require surgery to remove parts of the bone that have died — followed by strong antibiotics, often delivered intravenously, typically for at least six weeks.

Symptoms



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References

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- . [Newsletter: Mayo Clinic Health Letter](#)
- !. [Book: Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 4th Edition](#)

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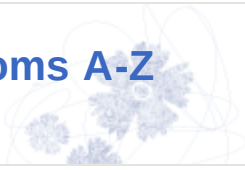
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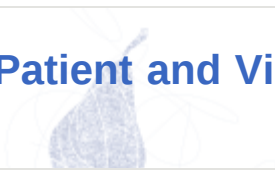
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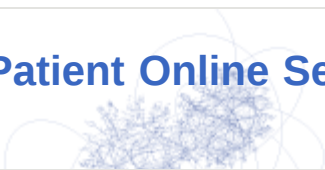
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