

# Osteoarticular Infections in Children in The Limbe Regional Hospital, Cameroon. A Report of 21 Cases

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## Introduction

Osteoarticular infections are diagnostic and therapeutic emergencies in pediatric surgery. They can lead to serious handicap and even dead if not managed promptly. Our objective was to describe the profile of children diagnosed with osteoarticular infections and managed in a resource limited setting.

## Materials and Methods

we carried out a descriptive and retrospective study in the Limbe Regional Hospital over a period of 2 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to the 31 December 2013.

## Discussion/ Conclusion

Osteoarticular infections are common on the lower limb in school aged females with sickle cell disease. Staphylococcus is the main germ isolated and the post operatives' complications are often severe.

## Results

Twenty-one files were registered with an average age of 9.6years(1-15years)

Table 1 : Patients Characteristics

| Patient characteristics      | Number    |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Sex</b>                   |           |
| male                         | 7         |
| <b>female</b>                | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Associated condition</b>  |           |
| <b>Sickle cell (SS)</b>      | <b>7</b>  |
| Sickle cell trait (AS)       | 1         |
| HIV                          | 1         |
| <b>Type of infection</b>     |           |
| <b>Chronic osteomyelitis</b> | <b>11</b> |
| Septic arthritis             | 7         |
| Both                         | 3         |
| <b>Germ isolated</b>         |           |
| Staphylococcus aureus        | <b>7</b>  |
| Escherichia coli             | 1         |
| Serratia Liquifecien         | 1         |
| <b>Procedure</b>             |           |
| Curettage/ sequestrectomy    | 15        |
| Arthrotomy/ irrigation       | 12        |

Table 1: continues

## Bone/joint affected

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| <b>Femur</b> | <b>7</b> |
| Humerus      | 4        |
| Tibia        | 3        |
| Radius       | 1        |
| <b>Knee</b>  | <b>5</b> |
| Ankle        | 2        |
| Hip          | 2        |
| Shoulder     | 2        |
| Elbow        | 1        |

## Complications according to Clavien Dindo grading

|                            |                 |          |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| ankylosis                  | Grade 1         | 2        |
| <b>Pathologic fracture</b> | <b>Grade 3b</b> | <b>4</b> |
| Chronic osteomyelitis      | Grade 3b        | 1        |
| Death                      | Grade 5         | 2        |

## Reference

1. Lamini N'soundhat NE, Ondima IPL, Moyikoua RF, et al Les Infections Ostéoarticulaires de l'Enfant : Étude Rétrospective Monocentrique de 112 Cas Suivis au Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Brazzaville (Congo) Health Sci. Dis : Vol 20 (6) November - December 2019