

RECOGNISING PROSTHETIC JOINT INFECTION (PJI)

PJI CAN RESULT IN SEVERE PAIN, DISABILITY AND DEATH

- It can occur soon after surgery or many years later
- Incidence is up to 2.1% within two years of hip joint replacement

What to LOOK for

FIRST 4 WEEKS POST-OP

Unexplained pain
Slow wound healing
Increasing discharge
Worsening erythema
Reduced function

AT ALL TIMES

Any patient who was previously performing well but develops any of these signs or symptoms, & new or worsening pain, that persists for > 48hours

WHAT TO DO

Vigilance and early recognition is critical.
If you suspect an infection, contact your local orthopaedic team immediately.

DO NOT PRESCRIBE/RECOMMEND ANTIBIOTICS
(unless necessary to treat overwhelming sepsis. If possible, discuss with Orthopaedic team prior to giving antibiotics.)

The Orthopaedic team must collect microbiology samples **BEFORE** antibiotics, **TO AVOID DELAYING TARGETED TREATMENT**

The full INFORM guidelines on the management of PJI are available here: (bristol.ac.uk)

