

Septic Arthritis (of the Knee)



Overview

This is an infection in the knee joint. It causes your knee to become painfully inflamed. Without proper treatment, it can become a chronic problem. It can permanently damage your knee.

Causes

Septic arthritis is most often caused by a bacterial infection. It can also be caused by a fungus. Your knee can be infected directly through a cut or a puncture. Or, the infection can start somewhere else in your body and then spread to your knee through your bloodstream.

Symptoms

Septic arthritis causes severe pain in your knee. You may have redness and swelling. You may have fever, and it may be hard for you to move your knee.

Treatment

Septic arthritis is treated with antibiotics. Draining your knee may help it heal. For some people, surgery is needed. Your healthcare provider can create a plan that's right for you.

