

Septic Arthritis vs Synovitis

- Septic Arthritis

- Rare
- Younger children – toddlers
- Severe pain with micro-motion
- Toxic appearance
- CBC, ESR, CRP all elevated

- Surgical emergency

- Synovitis

- Common
- Older children
- Pain with motion but less severe
- Kids do not look sick
- Can be normal labs

- Generally resolves with supportive care

Kocher criteria

Criteria

1 point for each positive

Probability of septic arthritis

Non weight bearing

$4/4 = 99\%$

Fever > 38.5 C (101.3F)

$3/4 = 93\%$

ESR > 40 mm/hr

$2/4 = 40\%$

WBC $> 12,000$ cells/mm³

$1/4 = 3\%$