



# Adherence of Moroccan Rheumatologists to Septic Arthritis Management Recommendations: Results of a Survey by the Moroccan Society of Rheumatology



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## INTRODUCTION

Septic arthritis represents a diagnostic and therapeutic emergency that can jeopardize the life and functionality of patients, emphasizing the importance of ensuring proper management based on specific recommendations.

## Objective

To assess the level of adherence of Moroccan rheumatologists to recommendations for the management of septic arthritis.

## Materials and Methods

A survey was conducted among Moroccan rheumatologists using a questionnaire that collected sociodemographic data and information on the application of septic arthritis management recommendations in their daily practice.

## Results

Out of 440 contacted rheumatologists, 131 participated in the survey (mean age  $42.9 \pm 12.7$  years, 84.8% female, average practice experience of  $13.8 \pm 11.4$  years, response rate of 33.5%).

## Results

In cases of suspected septic arthritis, Moroccan rheumatologists assess severity using the quick sofa, perform joint aspiration, and obtain at least 2 blood cultures before initiating antibiotic therapy in 51.1%, 96.9%, and 59.6% of cases, respectively.

Only 5.3% of rheumatologists wait for microbiological results before starting antibiotic therapy. Regarding empirical antibiotic therapy,

Only 9.2% use a first-generation cephalosporin in patients under 70 years old.

In the event of an unfavorable outcome, only 14.5% refer patients to a traumatologist for surgical lavage.

No factor among the rheumatologists characteristics was associated with the level of adherence to septic arthritis management recommendations.

## Conclusion

This study highlights the low adherence of Moroccan rheumatologists to recommendations for the management of septic arthritis, both in terms of diagnosis and treatment. Therefore, further studies are needed to explore factors associated with the issue of non-adherence.