

מידע להורים

## SEPTIC ARTHRITIS – דלקת פרקים חיידקית

### Information for Parents

## Bacterial joint inflammation –SEPTIC ARTHRITIS

### What is arthritis?

An infection caused by bacteria that reaches the joint via the bloodstream. The bacteria enter the bloodstream through the skin and at times, the mouth. There is no way to prevent this inflammation.

### What are the symptoms of the disease?

In most cases, fever and local pain will appear, along with swelling and difficulty in moving the inflamed joint.

### How is the disease diagnosed?

The diagnosis is made by physical examination, blood tests and imaging tests such as x-Ray, ultrasound, bone mapping, and in certain cases, CT or MRI. In addition, at the doctor's discretion, a sample is taken from the inflamed joint (using a needle) in order to accurately identify the bacteria causing the infection. This procedure is performed under mild sedation to prevent pain.

### How is it treated?

Treatment is with antibiotics.

The treatment is initiated intravenously. When there is an improvement in the child's condition, the fever drops, and the blood tests indicate an improvement, continued treatment with the same medication, or oral similar medication, can be considered. The duration of the treatment is 3 - 4 weeks, part of which can be done at home, depending on the condition of the disease.

### Continued follow up

The discharge letter will include a recommendation for follow up with an orthopedist or with an infectious diseases specialist, in order to ensure no damage was caused, and to receive instructions for continued treatment.

The chance that a healthy child will fall ill with recurrent septic arthritis is low. A child with a tendency toward recurrent septic arthritis will be referred by the attending physician for a comprehensive checkup.

**We are here for you, and will be happy to answer any question**

**We wish your child a quick and full recovery**

**The Staff of the Pediatric Department and the Infectious Disease Unit**

**Shaare Zedek Medical Center**

Composed by: Dr. Orli Megged - Hospitalization Services Director, the Pediatric Department

Validated by: Dr. Yechiel Schlesinger - Director of the Pediatric Department; Efrat Even - Pediatric

Department Head Nurse

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