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[O16] IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERIOPERATIVE POSITIVE CULTURES OR POSITIVE LEUKOCYTE COUNTING DURING EXCHANGE ARTHROPLASTY AND POSTOPERATIVE INFECTIONS?

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Aim: The purpose of this work is to study whether there is or not, in the case of an aseptic arthroplasty exchange, a relationship between positive cultures and an early periprosthetic joint infection.

Method: We carried out a retrospective review of our cases of aseptic exchange arthroplasties of hip, knee and shoulder performed between January 2007 and December 2015.

The follow-up period was, in average, from 1 to 9 years, and in all the cases perioperative cultures were evaluated.

Results: The number of arthroplasties reviewed was 183, corresponding to 180 patients. Seventy-six cultures were positive for one or more microorganisms. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* was the microorganism most isolated followed by other Coagulase Negative *Staphylococci*.

Five cases (6.58%) were followed by an acute infection. In three of these cases (60%) the previous culture were positive, but only in one single case, one of the microorganisms isolated after the infection was the same as the isolated previously.

Conclusions: Perioperative cultures in aseptic exchange arthroplasties seems not to have any value as infection predictor.

Neither the previous isolated microorganisms, in case of postoperative infection, have any value as a predictor of the etiological agent.