

Key Session 3

[O33] HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM OWN MISTAKES? THE URGENT NEED FOR STANDARDIZED DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA AND OUTCOME DEFINITION OF PROSTHETIC JOINT INFECTION

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Several definition criteria for the diagnosis of prosthetic joint infection (PJI) are used, but none of them is clinically validated and uniformly accepted. Particularly the definition of low-grade PJI cause great variability of epidemiological and outcome data between institutions and makes them difficult to compare. Therefore, establishment of a uniform database is proposed, using standardized diagnostic criteria, follow-up evaluation and outcome definition: the European PJI cohort study (EPJIC).

The first aim of EPJIC study is to improve the management of PJI and learn from own mistakes by systematic analysis of consecutively included patients with revision joint surgery. Factors associated with better outcome regarding infection (assessed by the infection-free interval), joint function (assessed by the degree of pain, mobility, range of motion) and quality of life will be analyzed. Patients with revision joint surgery of hip, knee and shoulder joints for PJI and aseptic reasons will be recruited in selected participating study centers. Clinical, radiological, pharmacological, laboratory, microbiological, treatment and outcome data will be systematically collected using a standardized electronic Case Report Form. Long-term follow-up will be implemented with clinical evaluation after 3 months and 1 year, followed by phone or mail contact after 2, 5 and 10 years after PJI diagnosis. In addition to the databank, a linked biobank of clinical strains will be established.

The second aim of EPJIC is to provide an accessible infrastructure for implementation of side-projects investigating specific research questions regarding diagnosis, antimicrobial or surgical treatment.

The third aim is to obtain objective, accurate and comparable data on PJI on a broad international level to raise public awareness and get important information for funding applications to European agencies.