

## Key Session 2

# [O4] INTRODUCTION TO THE SCALE AND COST OF THE PROBLEM AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

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Prosthetic joint infection is a devastating complication of arthroplasty surgery that can lead to debilitating morbidity for the patient and significant expense for the healthcare system.

With the continual rise in the number of arthroplasty cases worldwide every year, the revision burden for infection is becoming a greater financial strain on healthcare budgets.

The prevention of infection has to be the key to reducing this burden. For treatment, it is critical for us to collect quality data that can guide future management strategies to minimise morbidity / mortality for patients but that also considers healthcare costs.

There has been a management shift in many countries to a less expensive 1-stage strategy and in selected cases to the use of debridement, antibiotics and implant retention. These appear very attractive options on many levels, not least cost.

However, with a consensus on the definition of joint infection only clarified in 2011, there is still the need for high quality cost analysis data to be collected on how the use of these different methods could impact the healthcare expenditure of countries around the world. With a projected spend on revision for infection at US\$1.62 billion in the US alone, this data is vital and urgently needed.

Data collection in this area is still poor and requires a clear strategy that goes well beyond current registry aspirations.