## American College of Radiology
## ACR Appropriateness Criteria®

### Suspected Osteomyelitis, Septic Arthritis, or Soft Tissue Infection (Excluding Spine and Diabetic Foot)

#### Variant 1: Suspected osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, or soft-tissue infection (excluding spine and diabetic foot). First study.

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<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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#### Variant 2: Soft-tissue or juxta-articular swelling. Suspected soft-tissue infection. Additional imaging following radiographs.

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### Final Tabulations

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Variant 3: Soft-tissue or juxta-articular swelling with a history of puncture wound. Suspected foreign body. Negative radiographs.

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## Variant 4: Soft-tissue or juxta-articular swelling with cellulitis and a skin lesion, injury, wound, ulcer, or blister. Suspected osteomyelitis. Additional imaging following radiographs.

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### Variant 5: Soft-tissue or juxta-articular swelling with a history of prior surgery. Suspected osteomyelitis or septic arthritis. Additional imaging following radiographs.

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**Variant 6:** Pain and swelling or cellulitis associated with site of previous nonarthroplasty hardware. Suspected osteomyelitis or septic arthritis. Additional imaging following radiographs.
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Variant 8: Clinical examination suggesting crepitus. Suspected soft-tissue gas. First study.
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**Variant 9:** Initial radiographs showing soft-tissue gas in absence of puncture wound.

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<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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Appendix Key
A more complete discussion of the items presented below can be found by accessing the supporting documents at the designated hyperlinks.

**Appropriateness Category:** The panel's recommendation for a procedure based on the assessment of the risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the specified clinical scenario.

**SOE:** Strength of Evidence. The assessment of the amount and quality of evidence found in the peer reviewed medical literature for an appropriateness recommendation.

- **References:** The citation number and PMID for the reference(s) associated with the recommendation.
- **Study Quality:** The assessment of the quality of an individual reference based on the number of study quality elements described in the reference.

**RRL:** Relative Radiation Level. A population based assessment of the amount of radiation a typical patient may be exposed to during the specified procedure.

**Rating:** The final rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Median:** The median rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Final tabulations:** A histogram showing the number of panel members who rated the procedure as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Additional supporting documents about the AC methodology and processes can be found at [www.acr.org/ac](http://www.acr.org/ac).