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# Osteomyelitis



***Michael Wren***

Orthopaedic Surgeon

Royal Perth Hospital

# Circumstances

- Spontaneous
- Open #
- Implant (fixation / Joint replacement)

# When does it involve plastics ?

Assistance to Orthopaedic Surgeon

Your own Problem

# When does it involve plastics ?

## Assistance to Orthopaedic Surgeon

- Debridement open #
- Debridement infection
- We want soft tissue cover

## Your own Problem

# When does it involve plastics ?

## Assistance to Orthopaedic Surgeon

- Debridement open #
- Debridement infection
- We want soft tissue cover

## Your own Problem

- Complication of your fixation
- Paediatric / hand surgery

# Things plastics need to know

- ***Be suspicious:***
- ***Diagnose :***
- ***Trauma:***

# Things plastics need to know

- ***Be suspicious:*** don't be talked into a flap
- ***Diagnose :***
- ***Trauma:***



# Things plastics need to know

- ***Be suspicious:*** don't be talked into a flap
- ***Diagnose :*** infection doesn't clear / flap doesn't settle
- ***Trauma:***

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doesn't settle
- ***Trauma:*** proper debridement &  
timing of cover

# Things plastics need to know

- ***Be suspicious:*** don't be talked into a flap
- ***Diagnose :*** infection doesn't clear / flap  
doesn't settle
- ***Trauma:*** proper debridement &  
timing of cover
  
- Hard to eradicate
- Harder if implant
- Don't always have to

# Osteomyelitis

5 most important aspects of Rx

1. .

2. .

3. .

4. .

# Osteomyelitis

5 most important aspects of Rx

1. Debridement.
2. Free drainage / Dead space.
3. Antibiotic.
4. Coverage

# Osteomyelitis

5 most important aspects of Rx

1. Debridement. Appropriate *(~~radical~~)*
2. Free drainage / Dead space.
3. Antibiotic.
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# Osteomyelitis

5 most important aspects of Rx

1. Debridement. Appropriate ***(radical)***
2. Free drainage / Dead space. Elimination
3. Antibiotic.
4. Coverage

# Osteomyelitis

5 most important aspects of Rx

1. Debridement. Appropriate ~~(radical)~~
2. Free drainage / Dead space. Elimination
3. Antibiotic. Appropriate  
(organism & sensit. , Antibiotic , Penetration, Admin, Duration )
4. Coverage



# Osteomyelitis

## 5 most important aspects of Rx

1. Debridement. Appropriate ~~(radical)~~
2. Free drainage / Dead space. Elimination
3. Antibiotic. Appropriate  
(organism & sensit. , Antibiotic , Penetration, Admin, Duration )
4. Coverage ***timely, but not dictated***

# Osteomyelitis

5 most important aspects of Rx

1. Debridement. Appropriate (~~radical~~)
2. Free drainage / Dead space. Elimination
3. Antibiotic. Appropriate  
(organism & sensit. , Antibiotic , Penetration, Admin, Duration )
4. Coverage ***timely, but not dictated***
- 5 . ***Know when to bail / not get involved***

know when to bail



Problem with Osteomyelitis...  
subject is dry as a bone



# What would interest you ?





# What would interest you ?





What would interest you ?



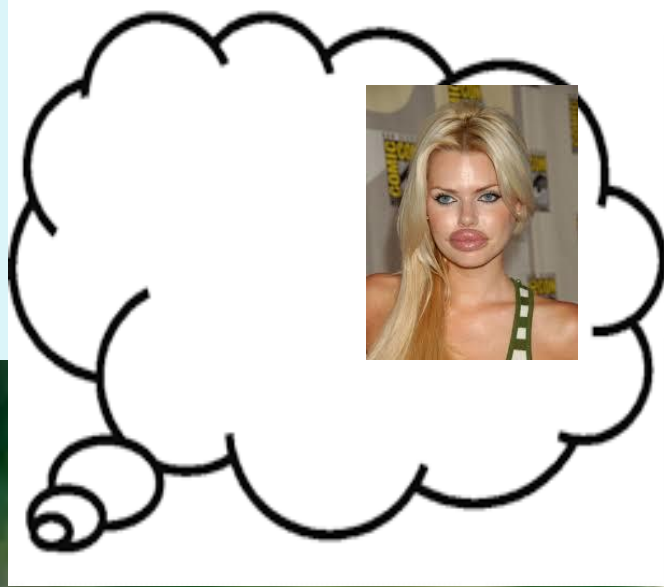


What would you ?

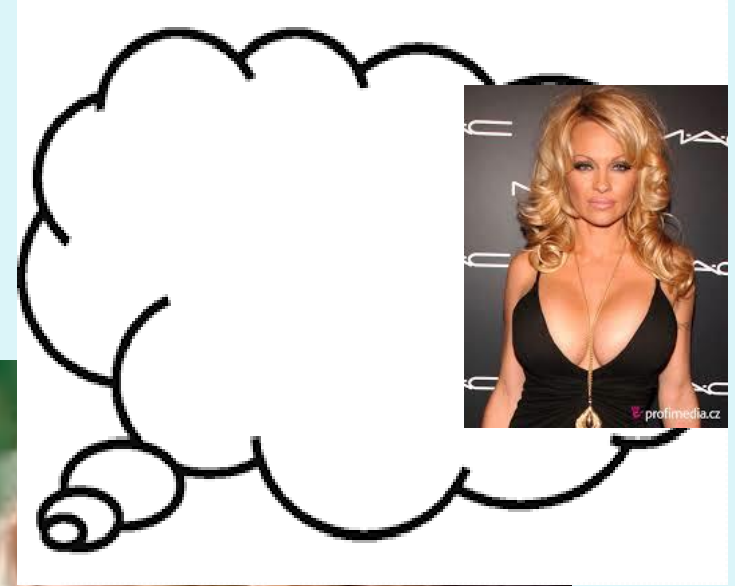
Rich, handsome  
plastic surgeon to be













GETTY IMAGES

# Osteomyelitis

- What is it (really)
- Cause
- How to Diagnose
- Avoiding it
- Treatment

# What is it ?

Infection of bone



# What is it ?

Infection of bone





# What is it **really** ?

Infection of bone



# What is it **really** ?

Infection of bone

+ / -

- Bone death
- Articular destruction



# What is it **really** ?

Infection of bone

+ / -

- Bone death
- Articular destruction
  
- Skin loss
- Musculo-tendon loss
- Dysfunction of the part



# “collateral damage”

Infection of bone

+ / -

- Bone death
- Articular destruction
- Skin loss
- Musculo-tendon loss
- Dysfunction of the part

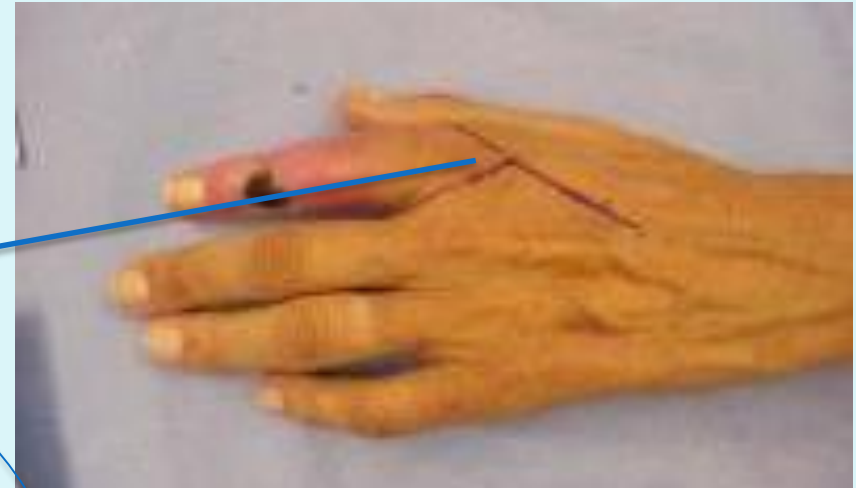


# “collateral damage”

Infection of bone

+ / -

- Bone death
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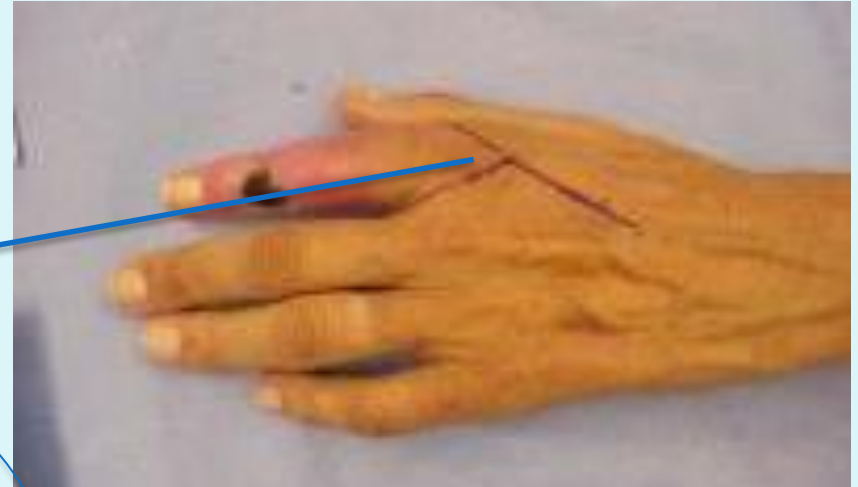


# know when to bail

Infection of bone

+ / -

- Bone death
- Articular destruction
- Skin loss
- Musculo-tendon loss
- Dysfunction of the part



What forms can infection take ?

# Cellulitis: acute





# Cellulitis: acute      chronic



# Cellulitis: acute on chronic



# Abscess: acute    chronic



# Necrosis



# Atypical



What forms can bone infection take ?

What forms can bone infection take ?

same

# What forms can bone infection take ?

- “Cellulitis of bone “ - acute  
- chronic
- Abscess
- Necrosis
- Atypical eg: fungal



# What is the Origin

*1. Direct invasion*

*2. Spread from soft tissues*

*3. Haematogenous*

# What is the Origin

## 1. Direct invasion

- Open #

Staph aureus

Gram neg.



# What is the Origin

## 1. Direct invasion

- Open #

Staph aureus

Gram neg.



*culture when infected, swab at presentation useless*

# What is the Origin

## 1. Direct invasion

### - Open #

Staph aureus

Gram neg.



### - Implant

Staph epi

Staph aureus



*Culture vital: only 1 good chance*

# “collateral damage”

## 1. Direct invasion

### - Open #

Staph aureus

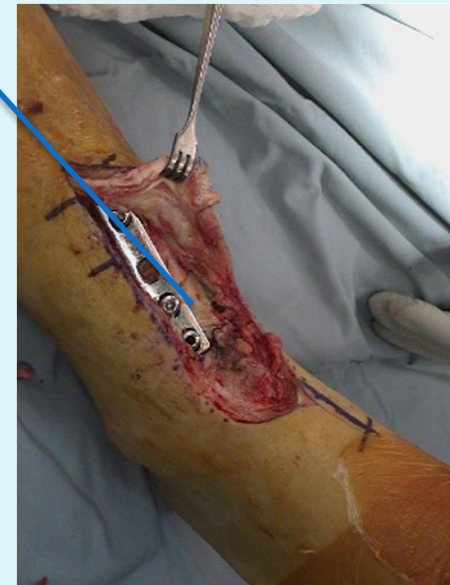
Gram neg.



### - Implant

Staph epi

Staph aureus



*Culture vital: only 1 good chance*

# What is the Origin

2. *Spread from soft tissues*



# What is the Origin

## 2. Spread from soft tissues



- ***Intact periosteum is a great protector***

# What is the Origin

## 2. Spread from soft tissues



- ***Intact periosteum is a great protector***
- Pressure points / skin & soft tissue breakdown
- esp. Diabetic feet
- Zoo of organisms





# again : much more than just bone infection

## 2. Spread from soft tissues



- ***Intact periosteum is a great protector***
- Pressure points / skin & soft tissue breakdown
- esp. Diabetic feet
- Zoo of organisms



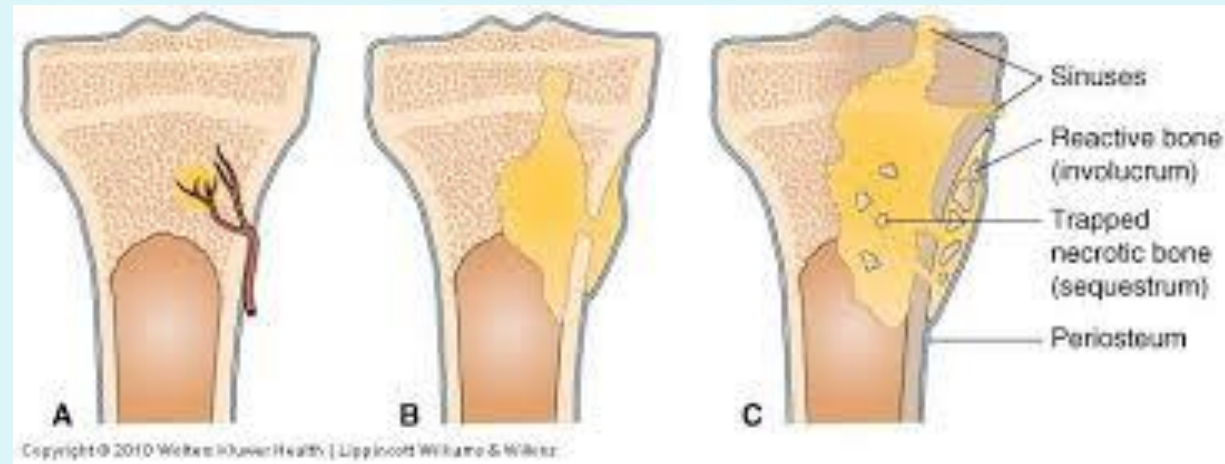
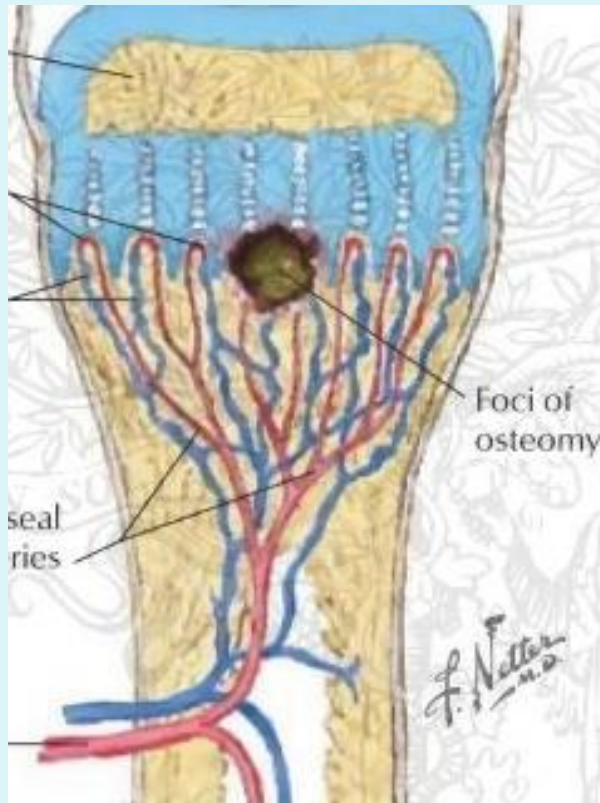
# What is the Origin

## 3. Haematogenous

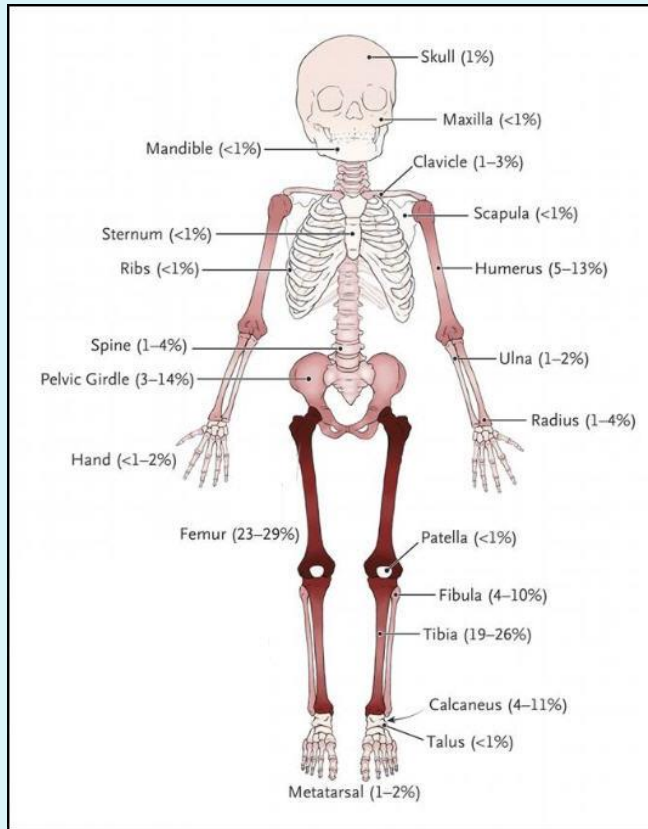
- Children
- IV Drug users
- immune compromise  
(ICU, HIV, Cancer)



# Acute, Suppurative, Haematogenous Osteomyelitis of childhood



# Acute, Suppurative, Haematogenous Osteomyelitis of childhood



# Acute, Suppurative, Haematogenous Osteomyelitis of childhood

- **Unwell**
- Fever
- Won't use limb



# Acute, Suppurative, Haematogenous Osteomyelitis of childhood

- **Unwell**
- Fever
- Won't use limb

***Observe, don't examine***

Once you lose their trust..



# Acute, Suppurative, Haematogenous Osteomyelitis of childhood

- **Unwell**
- Fever
- Won't use limb
- Local inflammation
- WCC, ESR, CRP ↑↑
- X- ray NORMAL (initially)





# Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis of childhood

- Weird disorder
- Non bacterial
- “*pseudo infection*”
- Auto-immune
- Lytic then sclerotic
- Differential diagnosis  
osteomyelitis / bone tumour





# Diagnosis

1. History

1. Examination

2. Investigations

3. Imaging

# History

- Isolated : Pain , swelling, fever, discharge
- Fracture : “ + slow healing wound +non-union
- Joint replac. : Pain, wound healing problems

# History

- Isolated : Pain , swelling, fever, discharge
- Fracture : “ + slow healing wound +non-union



Pain, wound healing problems

***Suspicious:*** *wound healing issues, courses of Ab's*

# Examination



# Investigations

- FBP
- ESR
- **CRP**
- Staph titre

# Investigations

- FBP + / - *.Beware low Hb, WC abnorm.*
- ESR Fairly sensitive , non specific  
if raised, useful to monitor Rx
- **CRP** highly sensitive. -ve excludes infec  
**no use first 2 weeks post op**
- Staph titre waste of money

# Imaging

- Xray
- Nuclear scan
- CT
- MRI

# X ray

- Normal
- Periosteum - first sign.
- Cortex - patchy erosion
  - thickening late
  - involucrum
- Sequestra









# Involucrum , sequestrum



# Bone Scan

- Sensitive ++
- Positive early (24/24)
- Used commonly in kids

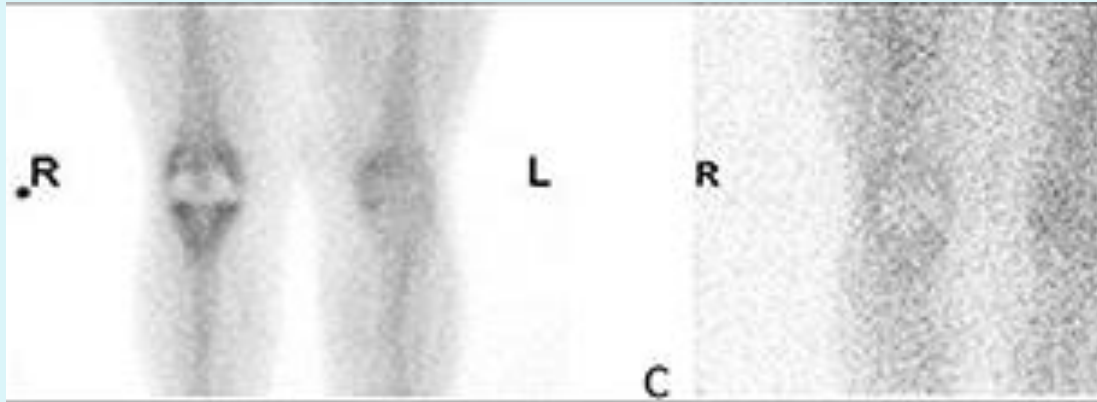
# Bone Scan

- Sensitive ++
- Positive early (24/24)
- Used commonly in kids
  
- Non specific
- Prostheses, ↑ uptake for 1 year
- # non union ↑ uptake

# Gallium scan

- Binds to neutrophil membrane (live or dead)
- Positive result : = > than bone scan uptake

# Bone & gallium

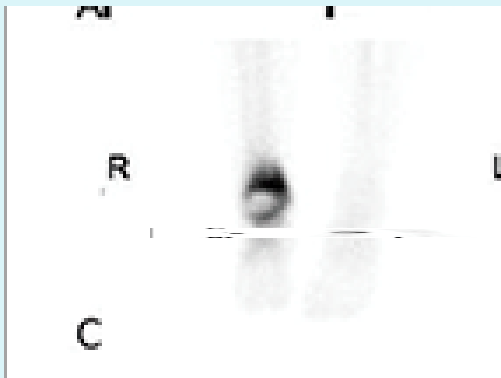


Bone

>

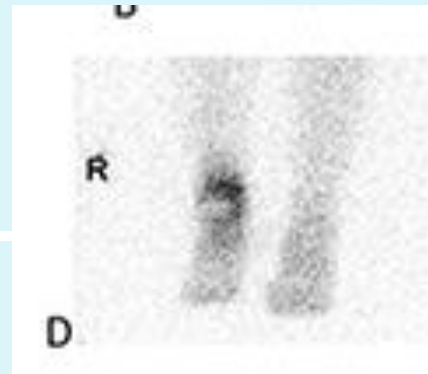
Gallium

negative



Bone

=



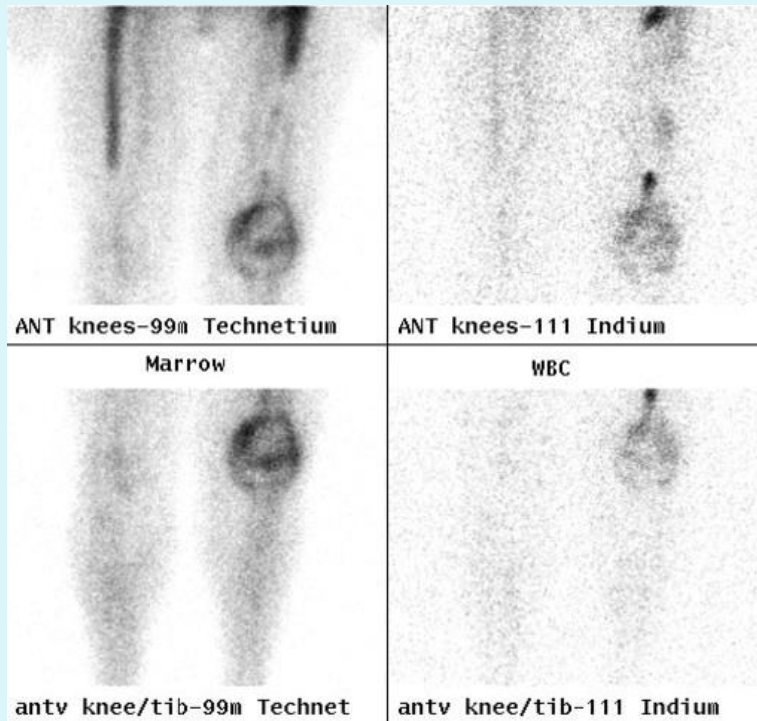
Gallium

positive



# White cell scan

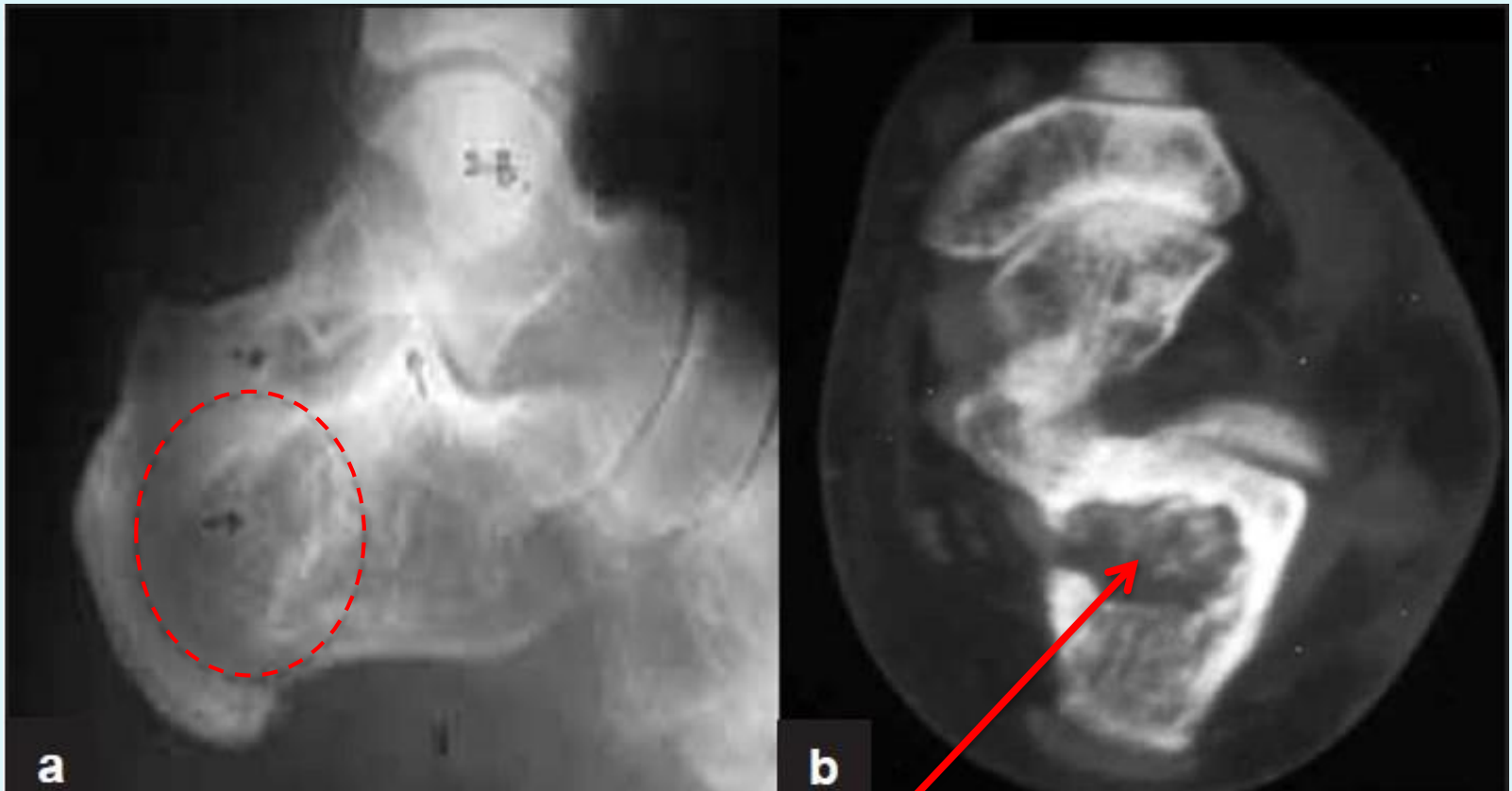
- Indium tagged neutrophils
- more sensitive acute uncomplicated infect.



# CT

- Periosteal reaction
  - Medulla lesion
  - Cortex erosion
- } more obvious
- ***Best Ix to show small sequestra***

# CT

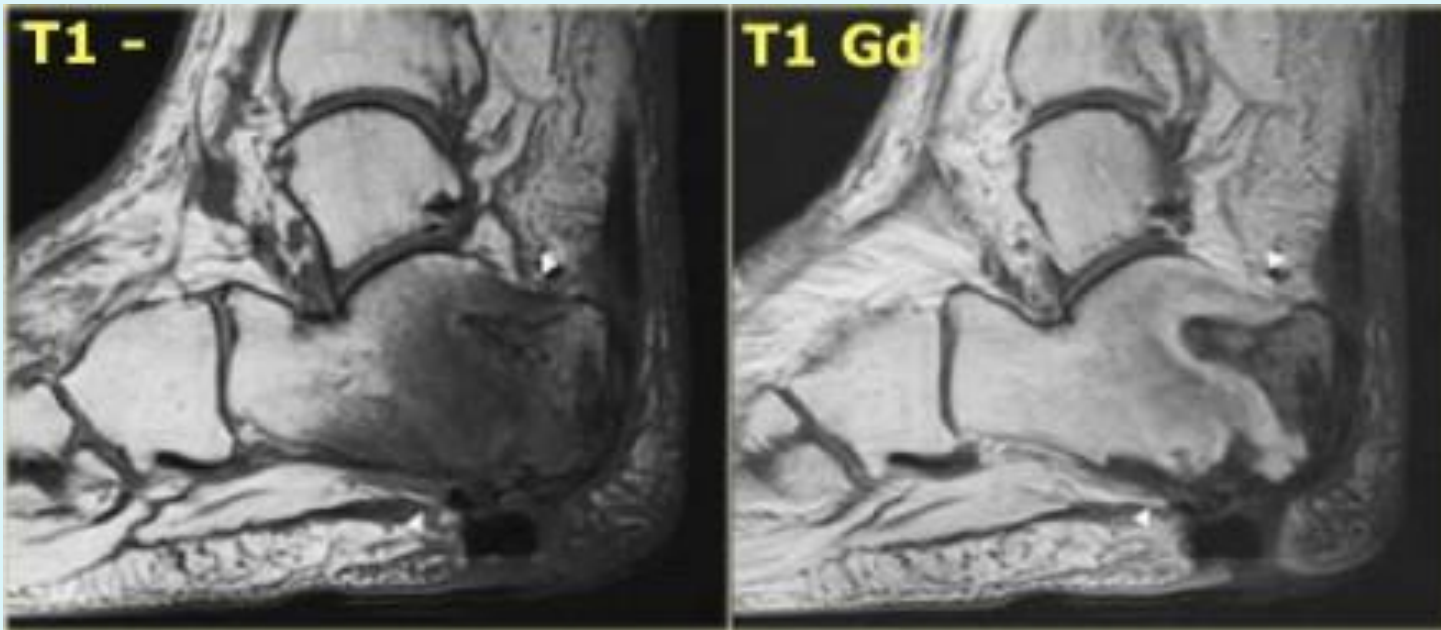


# MRI + gadolinium

- No use if fixation / prosthesis
- Useful : neuropathic changes vs. infection

# MRI + gadolinium

- No use if fixation / prosthesis
- Useful : neuropathic changes vs. infection



# What is the organism

- ***Must make every effort to identify***



# What is the organism

- *Must make every effort to identify*



# What is the organism

- *Must make every effort to identify*





# What is the organism

- ***Must make every effort to identify***
- Culture before Antibiotics
- Cease Ab's 2/52
- ***Don't delegate***
  - Swab / aspirate / biopsy
- Multiple specimens
- ***"Resuscitate organisms"***
- ***Involve micro before op.***



# Different to other organ infections

- Harder to eradicate
  - 1 Vascularity
  - 2 Structure of bone
  - 3 Biofilm

# 1. Vascularity, “Bone paradox” : like a river thru a desert



# 1. Vascularity, “Bone paradox” : like a river thru a desert



Haemopoietic marrow

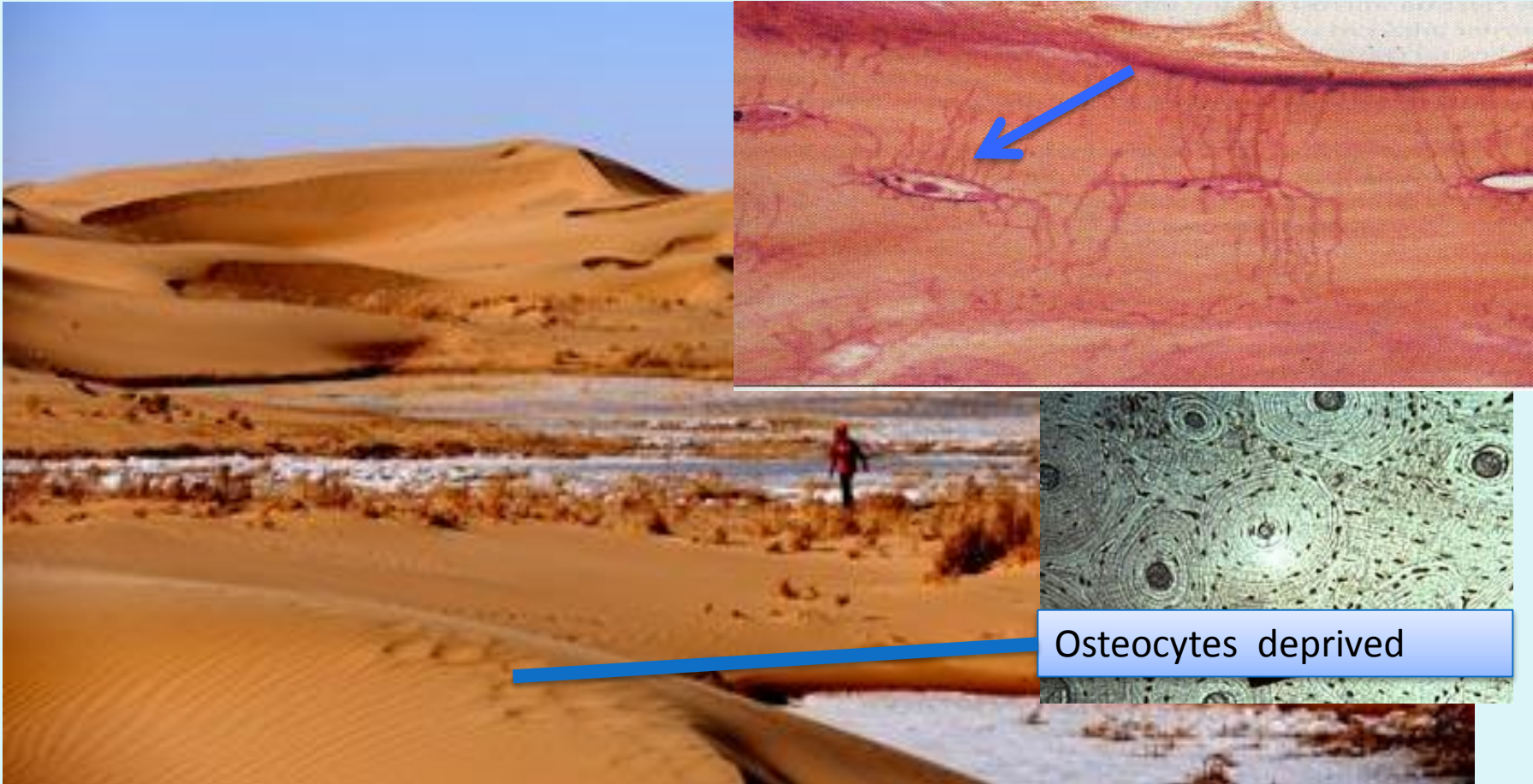


# 1. Vascularity, “Bone paradox” : like a river thru a desert

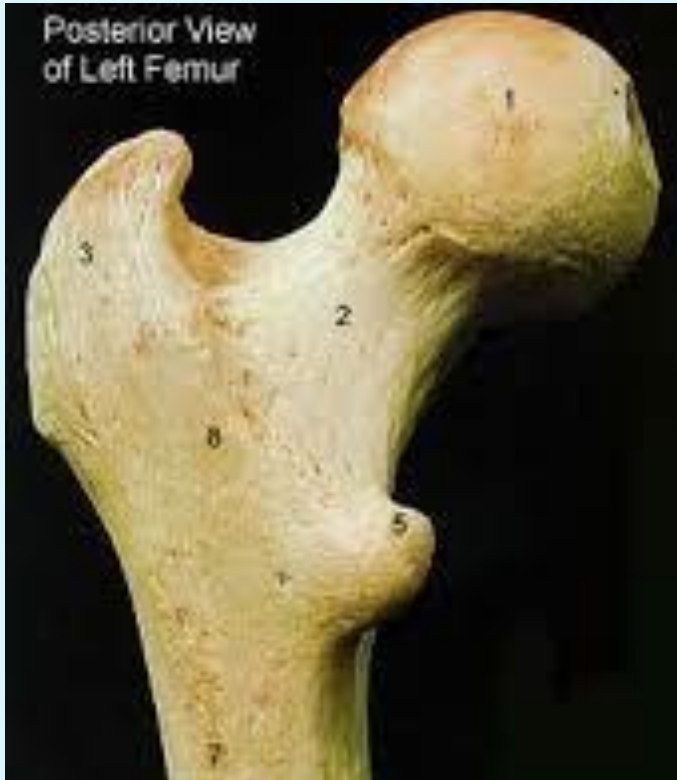


Osteocytes deprived

# 1. Vascularity, “Bone paradox” : like a river thru a desert



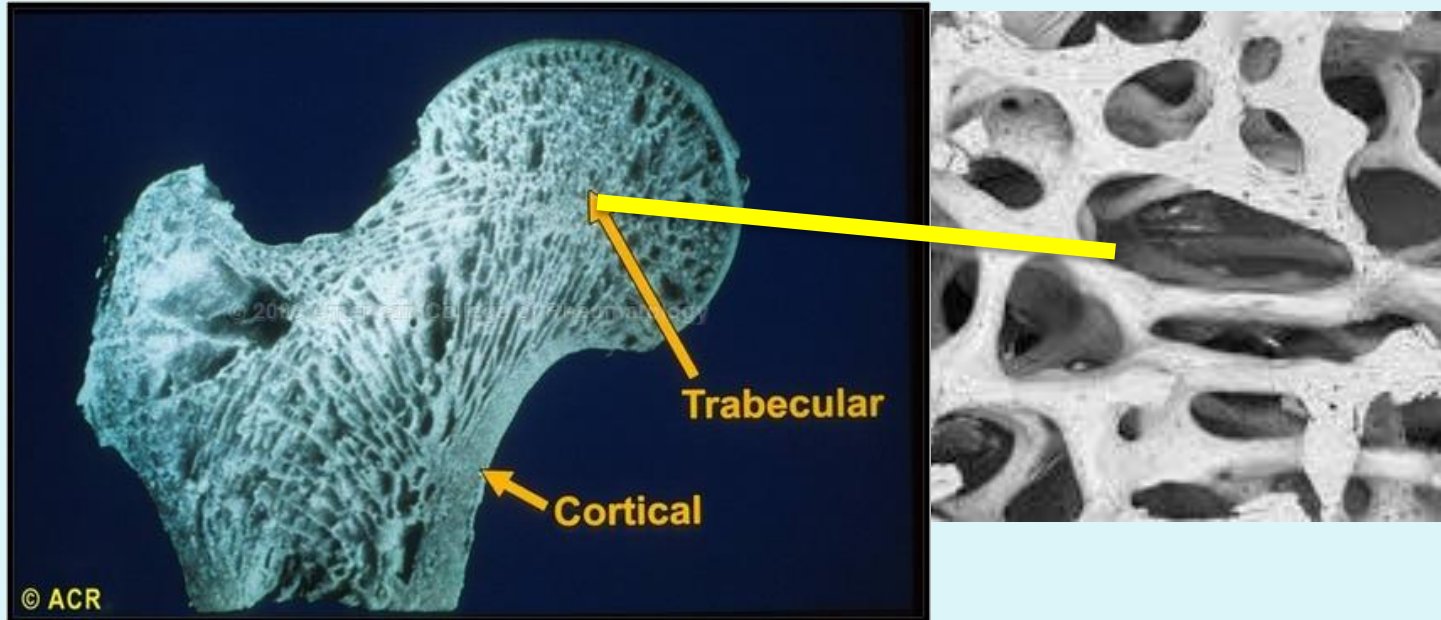
## 2. Structure of bone



Hard matrix

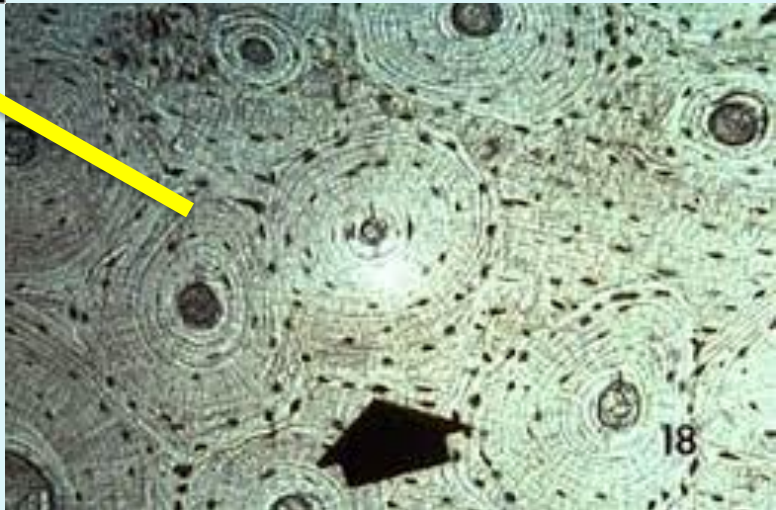
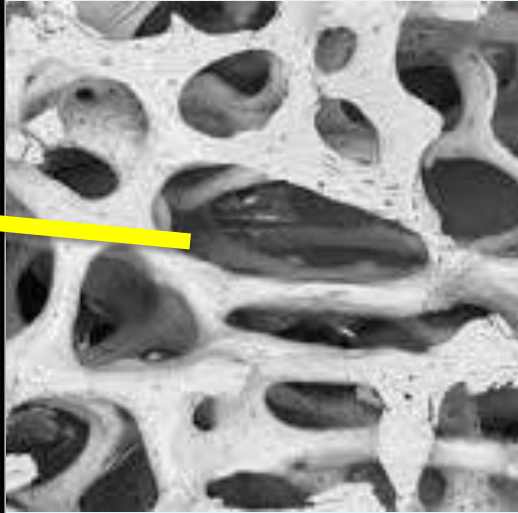
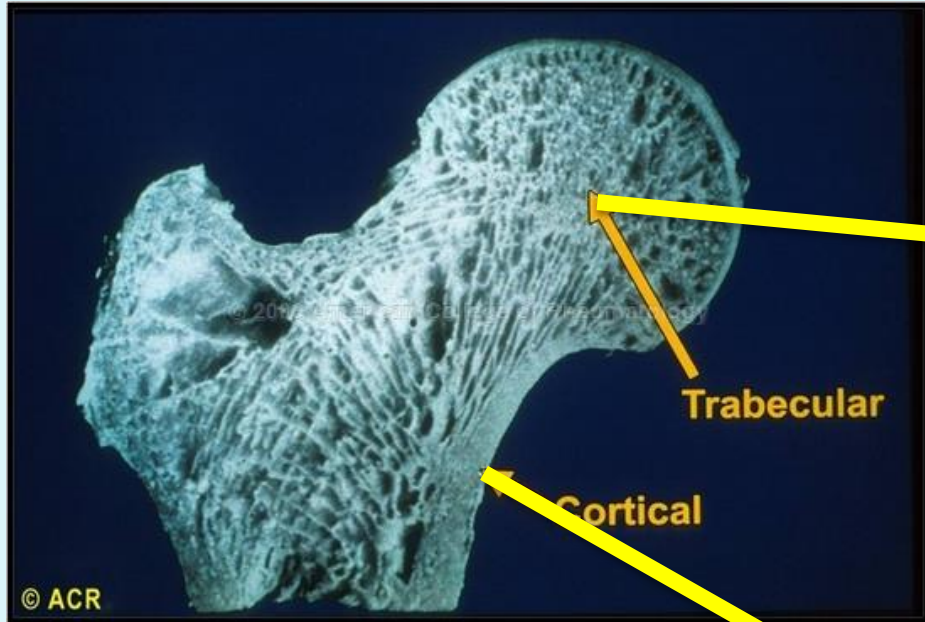


## 2. Structure of bone

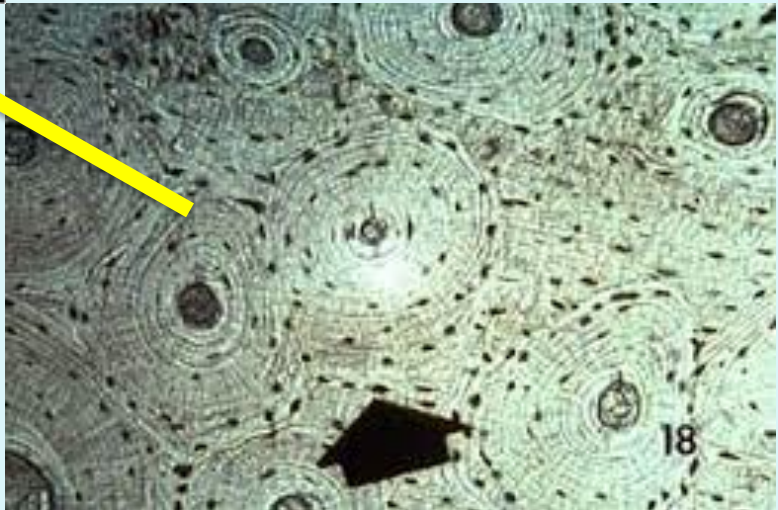
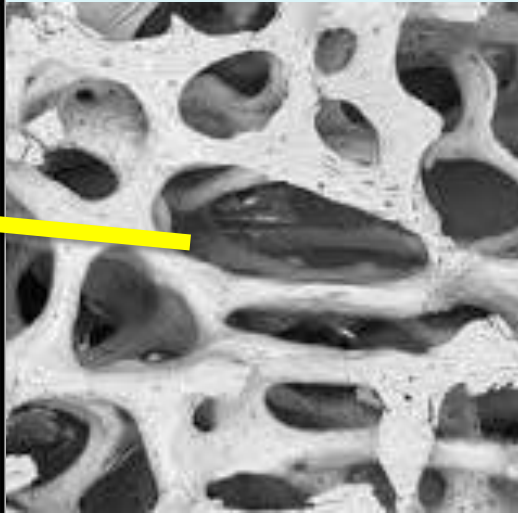
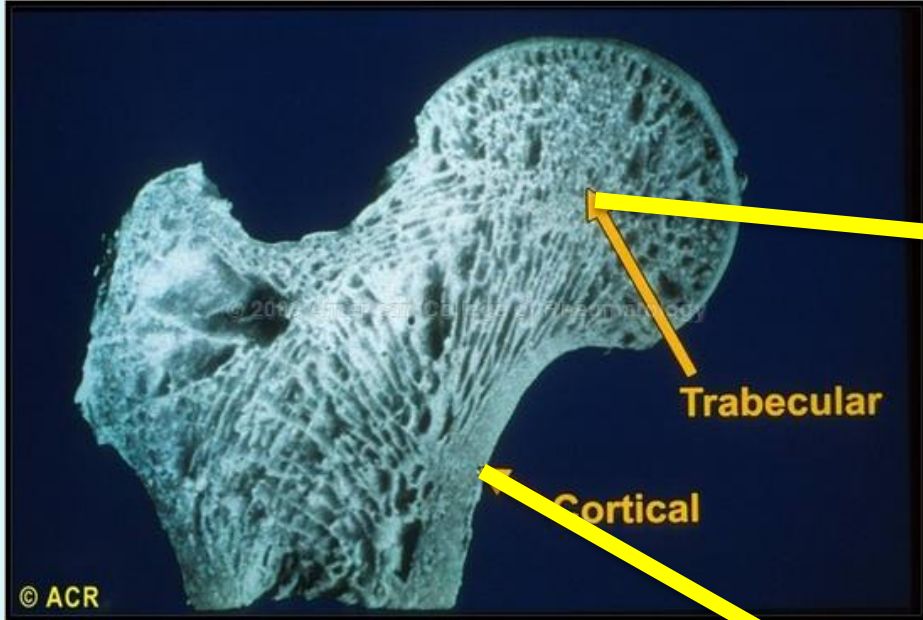




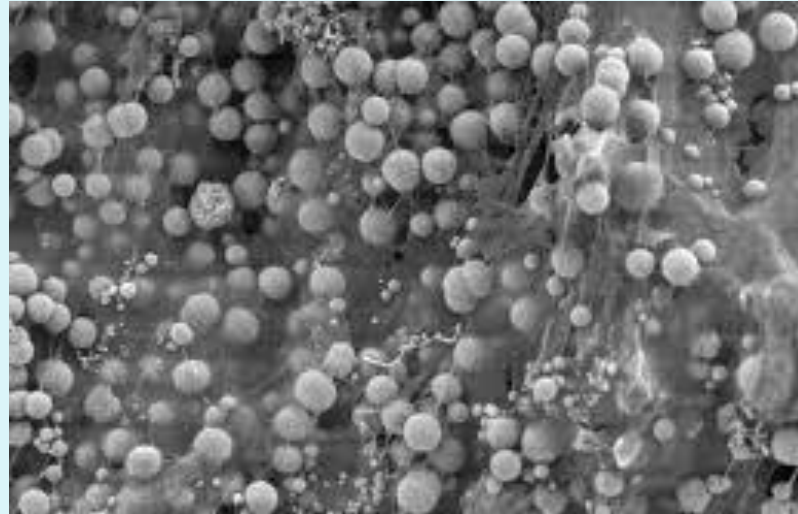
## 2. Structure of bone



# *To a bacterium a bone is an aircraft carrier*

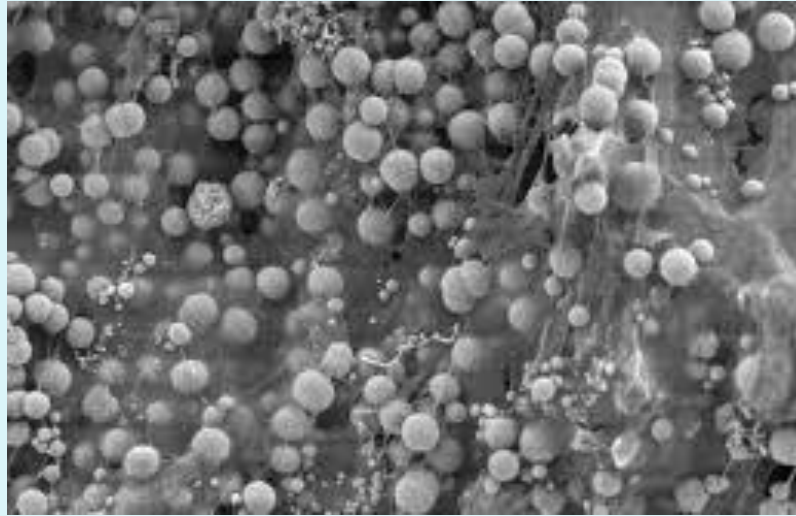


### 3. Biofilm (slime)



- Extra cellular matrix (polysaccharide)
- Adhere to inert surface Implant , sequestrum
- Staph aureus / epi , Strep, Pseudomonas

# *safe house for bacteria*



- Extra cellular matrix (polysaccharide)
- Adhere to inert surface Implant , sequestrum
- Staph aureus / epi , Strep, Pseudomonas

# Avoiding infection



BRITISH ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION and  
BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC, RECONSTRUCTIVE  
AND AESTHETIC SURGEONS  
STANDARD for TRAUMA – 2009



## **BOAST 4: THE MANAGEMENT OF SEVERE OPEN LOWER LIMB FRACTURES**

The wound, soft tissue and bone excision (debridement) is performed by senior plastic and orthopaedic surgeons working together on scheduled trauma operating lists within normal working hours and within 24 hours

Definitive skeletal stabilisation and wound cover are achieved within 72 hours and should not exceed 7 days.



# Avoiding infection



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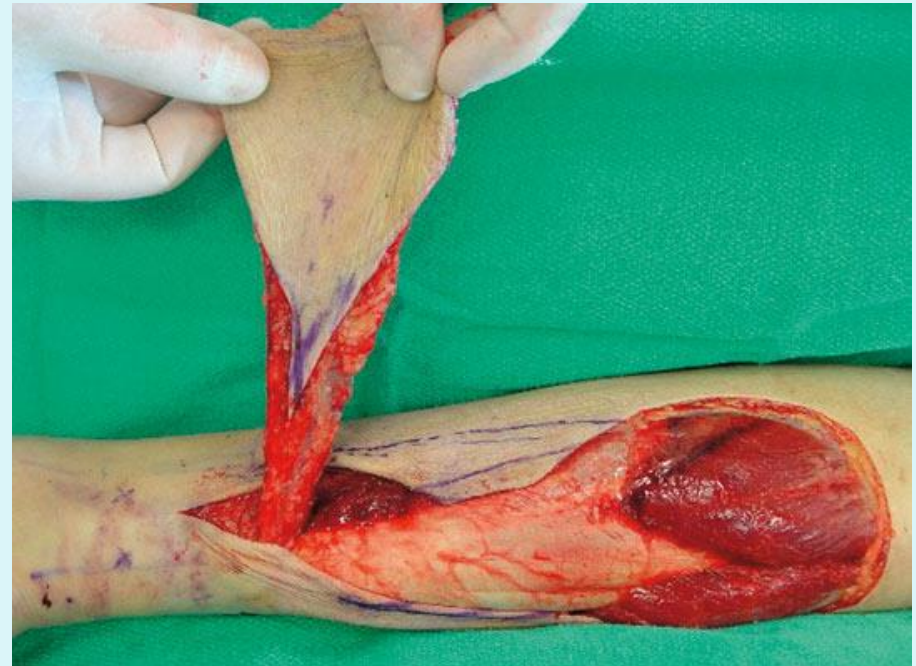
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Definitive skeletal stabilisation and wound cover are achieved within 72 hours and should not exceed 7 days.

# “fix and flap” mentality

- Implant into contaminated field



# Treating infection

- Find organism
- Antibiotics - usually IV
  - usually 6 weeks min.
  - then oral
- Remove dead stuff
- Remove implant
- No dead space
- Soft tissue cover
- Reconstruct losses



Removing implant = remove the safe house

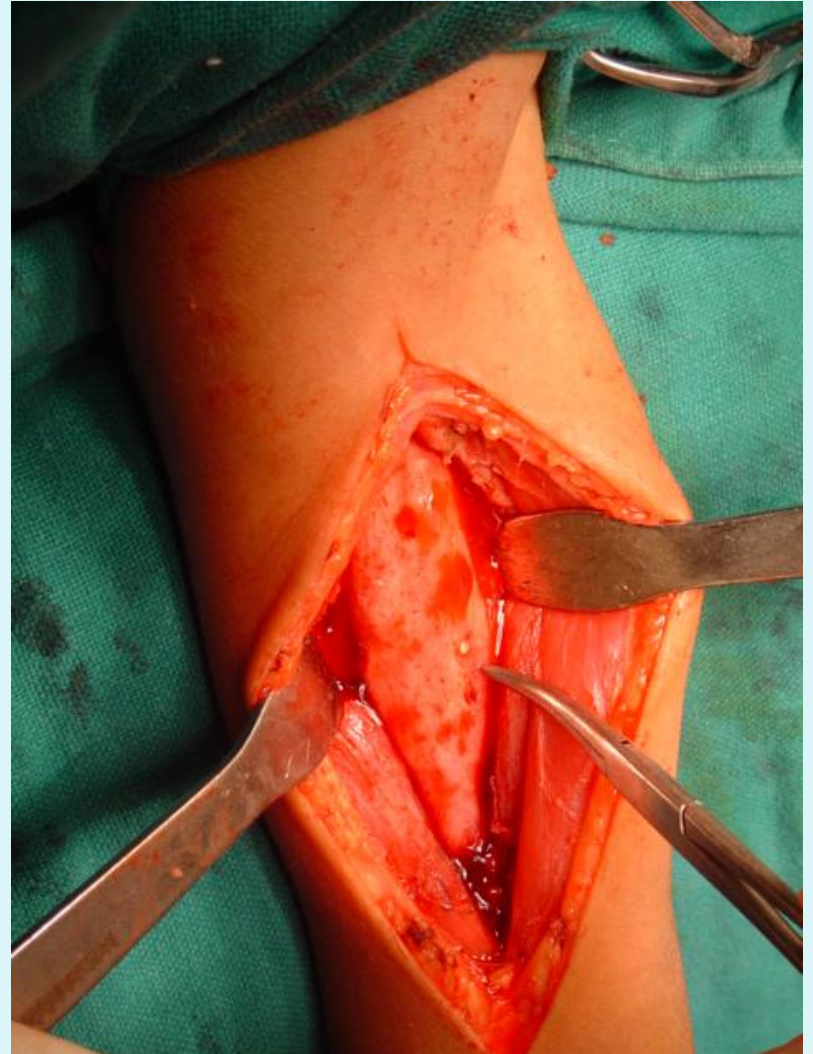


Removing implant = remove the safe house

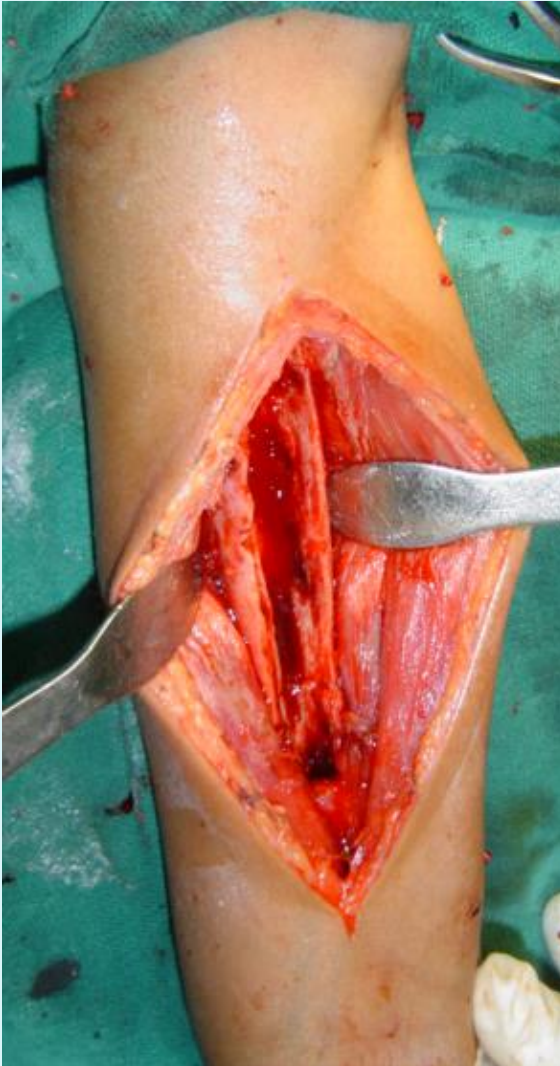




Debridement = remove dead bone



Debridement = remove dead bone



# Infection + bone loss



# Excision + lengthening

- Ms Z. M. 47 yo Australian , residing SE Asia
- Alternate lifestyle
- MBA , 3b open Tib #
  
- Ex Fix , wound left open for 3/12
- Ex Fix came loose, replaced
- MRSA infection had intermittent antibiotics
- Presents to ED on weekend

- 10 x 4 cm wound
- Mummified bone
- Pus in wound & pins
- Loose Ex fix
- Equinus ankle 10\* , stiff ankle & subtalar
- Tib Ant , EHL 2/5 Ext Dig 3/5

#### PMH

- Hep C +ve
- Depression

#### Social

- No friends or family in Perth
- No possessions





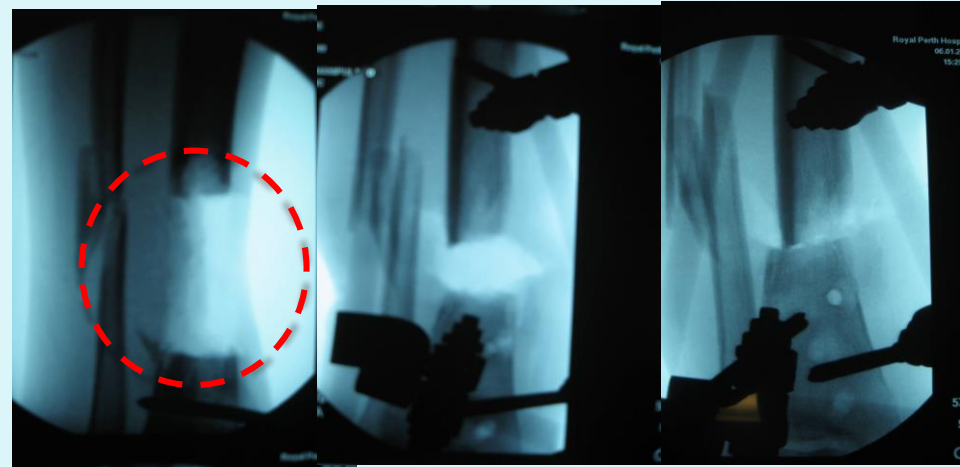




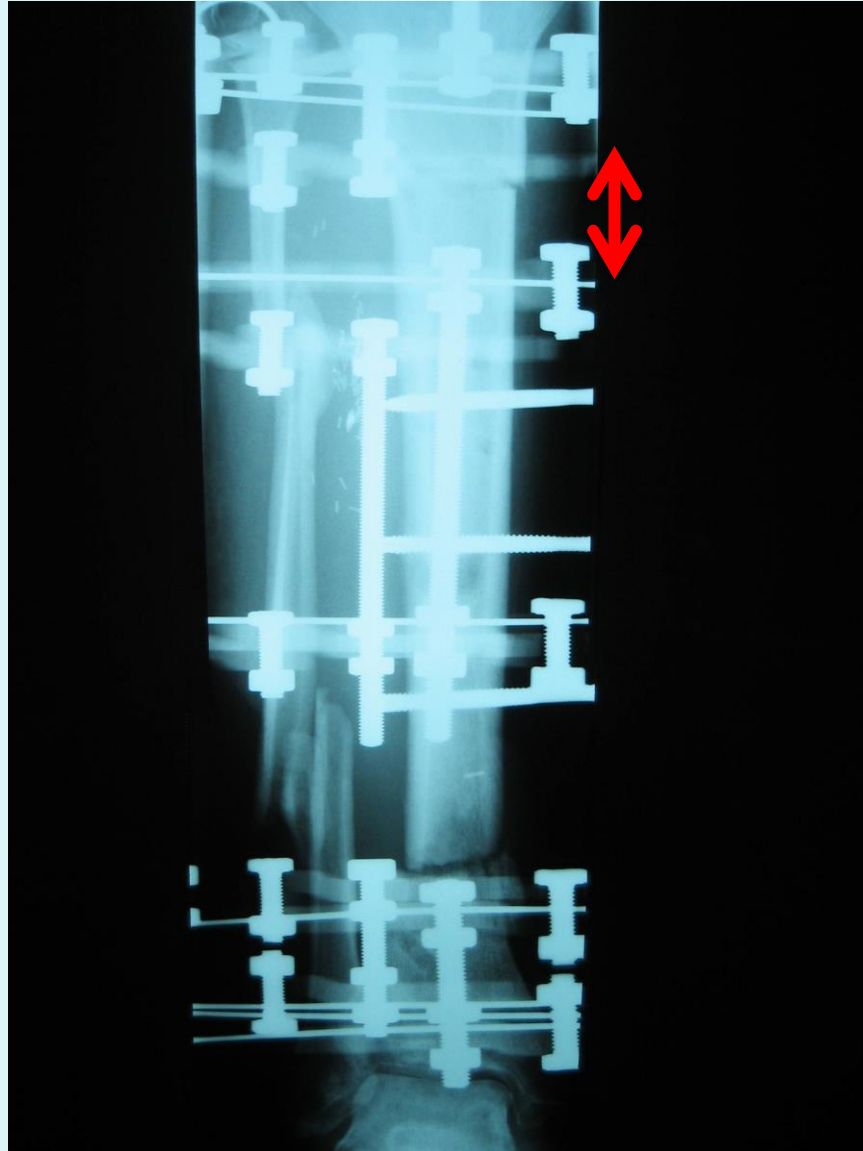
## ORTHOPAEDIC FIRST AID

- Change Ex Fix
- Excise mummified bone
- Debride
- Curette pin sites
- Swabs : MRSA
- Vancomycin + Timentin

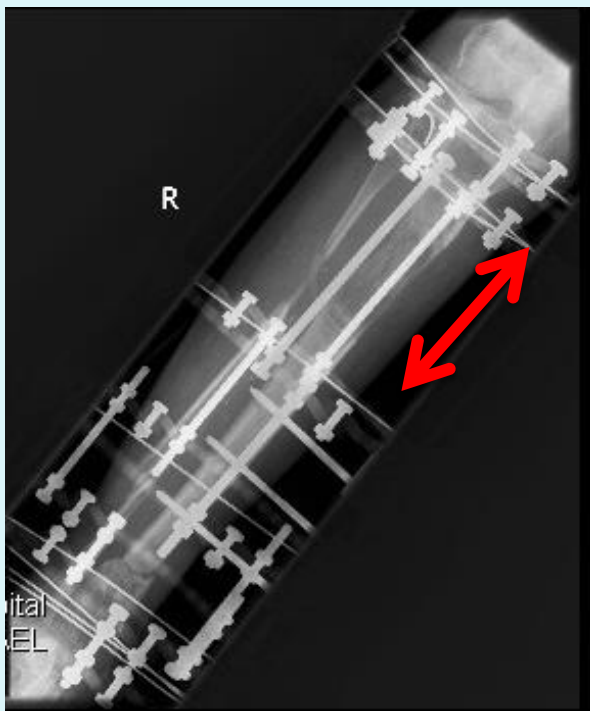
- Serial deridements
- Gradual shortening
- Difficult customer
- Refused discussion on amputation
- Narcotic + Ketamine ++
- Infection appeared controlled
- Free flap applied



# Definitive Treatment



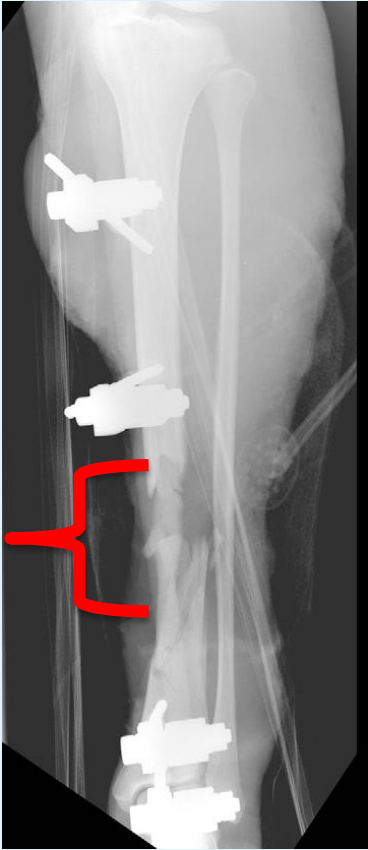
# Outcome



- Pain control difficult
- Compliance / self physio poor throughout
- Equinus to 25\* then improved . Final 5\*
- Union , length + eradication of infection
- Walks unaided

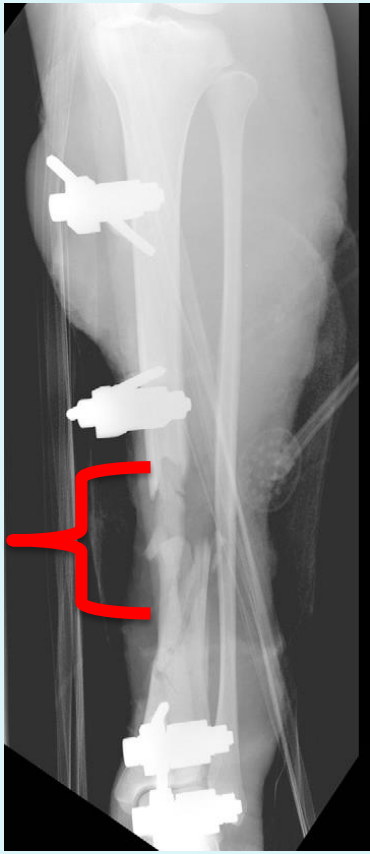
# Masquelete technique

- Membrane induced osteogenesis
- Staged bone grafting after antibiotic cement

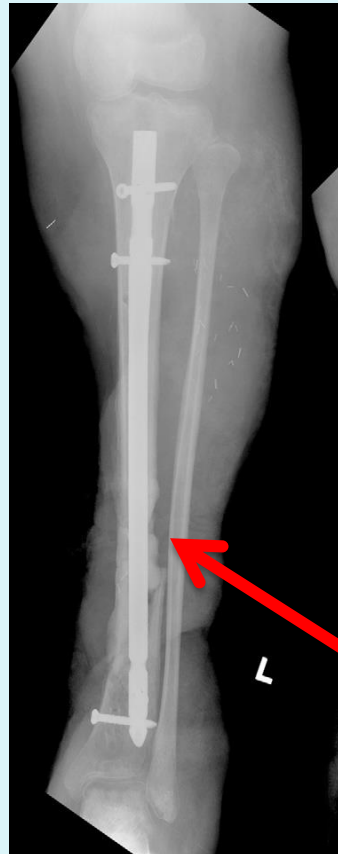


Bone defect

# Masquelete technique



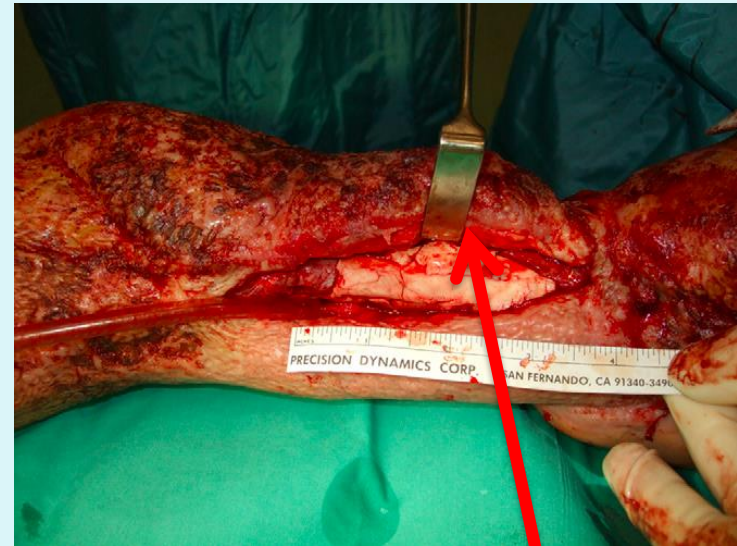
Bone defect



- Membrane induced osteogenesis
- Staged bone grafting after antibiotic cement

Cement

# Masquelete technique



: membrane

# Masquelete technique



Bone gratt / RIA



Bone

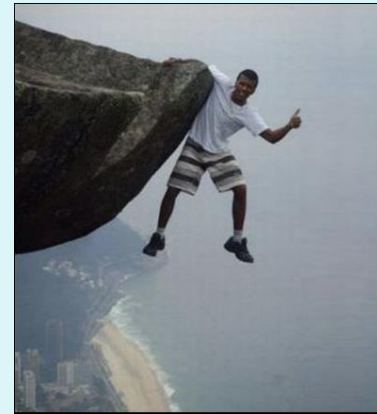
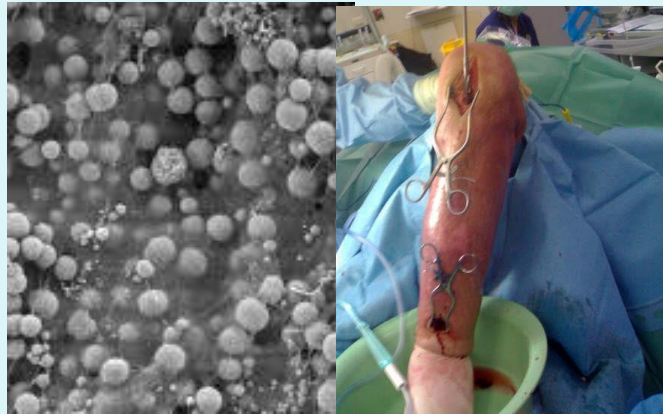


just because it worked ...



# Summary

- *Be suspicious:*
- *Diagnose :*
- *Trauma:*







thank you



# BREAST IMPLANTS

You're Doing it Wrong.











