

Preface

Periprosthetic joint infection (PJI) is among the most serious complications in the field of endoprosthetics. The number of PJIs is increasing worldwide and poses a real interdisciplinary challenge for everyone involved. Beside its immense impact on patients and the health-care system, the diagnosis and management of PJI are very difficult, since there is no »gold standard«.

This book provides basic and advanced knowledge of the diverse aspects of periprosthetic joint infections and a comprehensive overview on a global scale, which was possible only because of the close collaboration of international experts. Various issues such as diagnosis, treatment options, prevention strategies and their economic impact are addressed in order to exchange versatile experience and know-how. Furthermore, attention was given to antibiotic-loaded bone cements (ALBC), spacer management and anti-infective implant coatings.

This compilation offers an ample summary to a multidisciplinary audience. Not only for the microbiologist, who is responsible for identifying the causative germs, the infectious disease specialist, who can recommend the appropriate antibiotic therapy, the clinical pharmacist, who is consulted regularly throughout the therapy to discuss the risk of potential drug interactions, or the surgeon, who will proceed with the revision surgery, following defined algorithms, but also for any other interested reader. Moreover, it may also help affected patients to understand the clinical procedure.

This book aims to contribute to a fruitful international debate concerning the ideal management of PJI. In addition, the reader can use this book as a solid platform for comparing their own approach to PJI treatment with the specialists' recommendations.

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