

**FASST**   
FOOT & ANKLE SYMPOSIUM & SURGICAL TECHNIQUES  
**DIABETIC DILEMMAS**  
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021  
BROUGHT TO YOU IN PARTNERSHIP BY  
DES MOINES UNIVERSITY  
BESPA GLOBAL

**How Long Do I Have to be on Antibiotics?**

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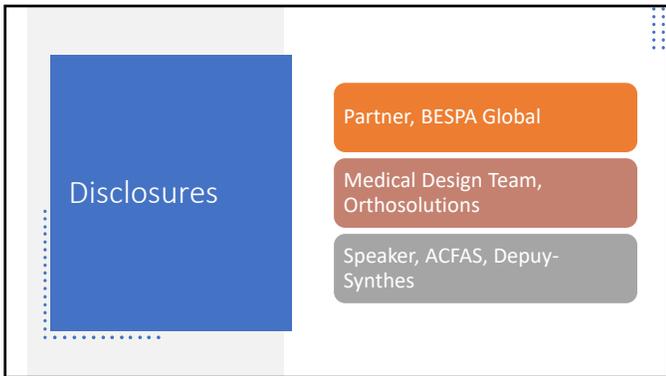
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**Disclosures**

- Partner, BESPA Global
- Medical Design Team, Orthosolutions
- Speaker, ACFAS, Depuy-Synthes

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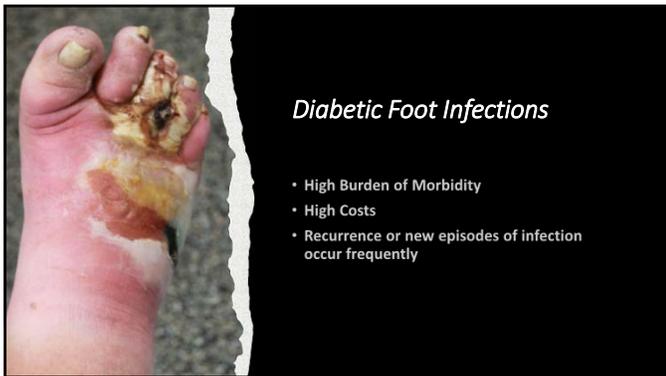
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**Diabetic Foot Infections**

- High Burden of Morbidity
- High Costs
- Recurrence or new episodes of infection occur frequently

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Thought Process...

- Prescribing an unnecessarily broad-spectrum regimen
- Parenteral rather than oral therapy
- Longer duration than necessary

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Supplement Article

Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of foot infection in persons with diabetes (IWGDF 2019 update)

Benjamin A. Lippert<sup>1,2</sup>, Eva Senneker<sup>3</sup>, Jullianne C. Allen<sup>4</sup>, Javier Angulo-Sánchez<sup>5</sup>, Matthew DiSopio<sup>6</sup>, John M. Enoch<sup>7</sup>, Shigen Kono<sup>8</sup>, Laurence A. Lavery<sup>9</sup>, Matthew Madigan<sup>10</sup>, Suzanne A. van Rader<sup>11</sup>, Vitor Alcântara-Santos<sup>12</sup>, Edgar J.C. Peeters<sup>13</sup> on behalf of the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF)

Table 3: Ten major rules for antimicrobial stewardship in diabetic foot infection (DFI)

1. **Prescribe DFI:** Clearly record diabetic proven or at risk for infection and spectrum of research related to foot care, including appropriate for type, nail and skin care and treatment of any wounds.

2. **Empiric DFI therapy:** Do not start empiric DFI therapy until diagnosis, and identify the severity of infection.

3. **Exclude noninfectious causes of foot ulceration:** These include trauma, gout/pseudogout, Charcot neuroarthropathy, fracture, pyoderma, vasculitis, and venous ulcers.

4. **Identify appropriate pathogens:** List etiologies of acute foot ulcers and preferably those for suspected osteomyelitis. Review results of any previously obtained cultures. Attempt to differentiate pathogens requiring treatment from colonizing or commensuring organisms. Differentiate between soft-tissue and bone infection. This helps in making decisions with respect to medical versus surgical, systemic and duration of treatment.

5. **Choose specific monotherapy for most moderate and all severe infections:** Evaluate and individualize treatment options for each patient in response to local antibiotic susceptibility for commonly multidrug-resistant, especially gram-negative.

6. **Choose an effective antibiotic regimen with the narrowest spectrum:** For empiric, and especially definitive, therapy select an antibiotic regimen based on the likely to present, common pathogens, their antibiotic sensitivities, and evidence of efficacy for DFI. Consider using a more targeted penicillin therapy.

7. **Optimize antimicrobial effectiveness of antibiotics:** Therapy. Evaluate for factors such as adherence to the treatment regimen, targeted drug concentrations, effectiveness of antibiotic therapy. Evaluate for factors such as adherence to the treatment regimen, targeted drug concentrations, effectiveness of antibiotic therapy. Evaluate for factors such as adherence to the treatment regimen, targeted drug concentrations, effectiveness of antibiotic therapy.

8. **Stop antibiotic therapy as long as necessary and as short as possible:** For most mild and moderate soft tissue infections 1–2 weeks of therapy is sufficient. For osteomyelitis with medical infection, prescribe no more than 6 weeks of antibiotic therapy. Consider shorter treatment durations if clinical response quickly.

9. **Empiric treatment:** can best be used for antibiotic therapy. Drawing blood cultures and treating related bone can best be done with antibiotic therapy.

10. **Principles and practice of antibiotic stewardship in the management of diabetic foot infections**

Ben Lippert<sup>1</sup>, Maria DiSopio<sup>2</sup>, Patrick Senneker<sup>3</sup>, and Benjamin A. Lippert<sup>4</sup>

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#1 Prevent DFI

- Closely monitor diabetic patients at risk for infection and optimize all aspects related to foot care, including appropriate footwear, nail and skin care and treatment of any wounds

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## #2 Diagnosing DFI Correctly

Clinical classification of infection, with definitions	IWGDF classification
<b>Uninfected</b> No systemic or local symptoms or signs of infection.	1 (uninfected)
<b>Infectad</b> At least two of these items are present: • Local swelling or induration • Erythema $>0.5$ cm <sup>2</sup> around the wound • Local tenderness or pain • Local increased warmth • Purulent discharge And no other cause(s) of an inflammatory response of the skin (eg, trauma, gout, acute Charcot neuro-osteopathy, fracture, thrombosis, or venous stasis)	2 (mild infection)
- Infection with no systemic manifestations (see below) involving: • only the skin or subcutaneous tissue (not any deeper tissues), and • any erythema present does not extend $>2$ cm <sup>2</sup> around the wound	3 (moderate infection)
- Infection with no systemic manifestations and involving: • erythema extending $\geq 2$ cm <sup>2</sup> from the wound margin, and/or • tissue deeper than skin and subcutaneous tissue (eg, tendon, muscle, joint, and bone)	4 (severe infection)
- Any foot infection with associated systemic manifestations (of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome [SIRS], as manifested by $\geq 2$ of the following: • Temperature $>38$ °C or $<36$ °C • Heart rate $>90$ beats/min • Respiratory rate $>20$ breaths/min or PaCO <sub>2</sub> $<33$ kPa (25 mmHg) • White blood cell count $>12,000/\text{mm}^3$ or $<4000/\text{mm}^3$ or $>10\%$ immature band forms - Infection involving bone (osteomyelitis)	Add 'O' after 3 or 4

• Be precise and consistent when diagnosing, and describing the severity of, infection

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## #3 Exclude noninfectious causes of foot inflammation

Clinical classification of infection, with definitions	IWGDF classification
<b>Uninfected</b> No systemic or local symptoms or signs of infection.	1 (uninfected)
<b>Infectad</b> At least two of these items are present: • Local swelling or induration • Erythema $>0.5$ cm <sup>2</sup> around the wound • Local tenderness or pain • Local increased warmth • Purulent discharge And no other cause(s) of an inflammatory response of the skin (eg, trauma, gout, acute Charcot neuro-osteopathy, fracture, thrombosis, or venous stasis)	2 (mild infection)
- Infection with no systemic manifestations (see below) involving: • only the skin or subcutaneous tissue (not any deeper tissues), and • any erythema present does not extend $>2$ cm <sup>2</sup> around the wound	3 (moderate infection)
- Infection with no systemic manifestations and involving: • erythema extending $\geq 2$ cm <sup>2</sup> from the wound margin, and/or • tissue deeper than skin and subcutaneous tissue (eg, tendon, muscle, joint, and bone)	4 (severe infection)
- Any foot infection with associated systemic manifestations (of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome [SIRS], as manifested by $\geq 2$ of the following: • Temperature $>38$ °C or $<36$ °C • Heart rate $>90$ beats/min • Respiratory rate $>20$ breaths/min or PaCO <sub>2</sub> $<33$ kPa (25 mmHg) • White blood cell count $>12,000/\text{mm}^3$ or $<4000/\text{mm}^3$ or $>10\%$ immature band forms - Infection involving bone (osteomyelitis)	Add 'O' after 3 or 4

• These include trauma, gout/pseudogout, Charcot neuro-osteopathy, fracture, phlebotrombosis, and venous stasis

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## Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of foot infection in persons with diabetes (IWGDF 2019 update)

Diabetes Metab Res Rev. 2020;36(S1)

- In a person with diabetes and suspected osteomyelitis of the foot, we recommend using a combination of the **probe-to-bone test**, the **erythrocyte sedimentation rate** (or C-reactive protein and/or procalcitonin), and **plain X-rays** as the initial studies to diagnose osteomyelitis.

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**#4 Identify causative pathogens**

- Send samples of tissue (not swabs) and preferably bone (for suspected osteomyelitis)
- Review results of any previously obtained cultures
- Attempt to differentiate pathogens (requiring treatment) from colonizing or contaminating organisms

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**#5 Differentiate between soft-tissue and bone infection**

Clinical classification of infection, with definitions	IWGDF classification
<b>Uninfected</b> No systemic or local symptoms or signs of infection.	1 (uninfected)
<b>Mild</b> At least two of these items are present: • Local swelling or induration • Erythema <2.5 cm around the wound • Local tenderness or pain • Local increased warmth • Purulent discharge And no other evidence of an inflammatory response of the skin (eg, trauma, gout, acute Charcot neuro-osteomyelopathy, fracture, thrombosis, or venous stasis)	2 (mild infection)
- Infection with no systemic manifestations and involving: • only the skin or subcutaneous tissue (not any deeper tissues), and • any erythema present does not extend >2 cm around the wound	3 (moderate infection)
- Infection with no systemic manifestations and involving: • erythema extending >2 cm from the wound margin, and/or • tissue deeper than skin and subcutaneous tissue (eg, tendon, muscle, joint, and bone)	4 (severe infection)
- Any foot infection with associated systemic manifestations (of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome [SIRS], as manifested by ≥2 of the following: • Temperature >38°C or <36°C • Heart rate >100 beats/min • Respiratory rate >20 breaths/min or PaCO <sub>2</sub> <32.0 mmHg (22 mmHg) • White blood cell count >12,000/mm <sup>3</sup> , or <4000/mm <sup>3</sup> , or ≥10% immature band forms - Infection involving bone (osteomyelitis)	Add 'O' after 3 or 4

- This helps in making decisions with respect to medical versus surgical, urgency of, and duration of, treatment.

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**Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of foot infection in persons with diabetes (IWGDF 2019 update)**  
 Diabetes Metab Res Rev. 2020;36(S1)

- In a person with diabetes and suspected **osteomyelitis** of the foot, in whom making a definitive diagnosis or determining the causative pathogen is necessary for selecting treatment, collect a **sample of bone (percutaneously or surgically)** to culture clinically relevant bone microorganisms and for histopathology

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<p><i>Couturier A, Chabaud A, Desbriez F, et al. Comparison of microbiological results obtained from per-wound bone biopsies versus transcutaneous bone biopsies in diabetic foot osteomyelitis: a prospective cohort study. Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis. 2019;38:1287-1291</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the reliability of per-wound bone biopsy (PWB) cultures by comparing them with concomitant Transcutaneous bone cultures obtained through healthy skin</li> <li>• Two bone biopsies were performed on each consenting patient:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCB through a cutaneous incision in healthy skin</li> <li>• Per-wound bone biopsy (PWB)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 46 paired cultures             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 (42%) of the PWB and TCB pairs had identical culture results</li> <li>• PWB revealed all microorganisms found in the transcutaneous specimen in 26/38 samples (68.5%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In patients with DFO, the culture results of specimens taken by per-wound biopsies did not correlate well with those obtained by TCB.</p>
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<p><i>Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of foot infection in persons with diabetes (IWGDF 2019 update) Diabetes Metab Res Rev. 2020;36(S1):e3280.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect an appropriate specimen for culture for almost all clinically infected ulcers to determine the causative pathogens</li> <li>• For a soft tissue DFI, obtain a sample for culture by aseptically collecting a tissue specimen (by curettage or biopsy) from the ulcer</li> </ul>
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<p><i>#6 Ensure specialist consultation for most moderate and all severe infections</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and individualize treatment options for each patient</li> <li>• In complex cases, involve specialists (or optimally multidisciplinary teams), especially surgeons</li> </ul>
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<p><i>Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of foot infection in persons with diabetes (IWGDF 2019 update)</i> Diabetes Metab Res Rev. 2020;36(S1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonsurgeons should urgently consult with a surgical specialist in cases of severe infection or of moderate infection complicated by extensive gangrene, necrotizing infection, signs suggesting deep (below the fascia) abscess or compartment syndrome, or severe lower limb ischemia</li> <li>• In a patient with diabetes and uncomplicated <b>forefoot</b> osteomyelitis, for whom there is no other indication for surgical treatment, <b>consider treating with antibiotic therapy without surgical resection of bone</b></li> </ul>
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<p><i>#7 Choose an effective antibiotic regimen with the narrowest spectrum</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For empiric, and especially definitive, therapy select an antibiotic regimen based on the likely or proven: causative pathogen(s); their antibiotic susceptibilities; and, evidence of efficacy for DFIs</li> </ul>
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<p><i>#8 Optimize patient-related effectiveness of antibiotic therapy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate for factors such as adherence to the treatment regimen, impaired gastrointestinal absorption, key comorbidities (obesity, renal failure), and presence of clinically significant peripheral arterial disease in affected limb</li> </ul>
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**Stopping antibiotics after surgical amputation in diabetic foot and ankle infections—A daily practice cohort**  
 Anne Rossel, Dan Lebowitz, Karim Gariani  
*Endocrinol Diab Metab.* 2019

- Determine appropriate duration of antibiotic therapy for diabetic foot infections (DFI) after surgical amputation in toto
- Minimum follow-up was 2 months
- 482 amputated DFI episodes for a median of 2.1 years after the index episode.
- Osteomyelitis in 239 cases (239/482, 50%).
- Surgical amputation
  - Toes (n = 155)
  - Midfoot (280)
  - Hindfoot (47)
  - 178 cases (37%) required revascularization
- After amputation, the median duration of antibiotic administration was 7 days
- 109 cases (25%), antibiotics were discontinued immediately after surgery
- Clinical failure occurred in 90 DFIs (17%), due to the same pathogens in only 38 cases.
- In multivariate analysis, neither duration of total postsurgical antibiotic administration nor immediate postoperative discontinuation altered failure rate
- Conclusion: "According to our clinical pathway, we found no benefit in continuing postsurgical antibiotic administration in routine amputation for DFI. In the absence of residual infection (ie, resection at clear margins), antibiotics should be discontinued"

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**Remission in diabetic foot infections: Duration of antibiotic therapy and other possible associated factors**  
 Karim Gariani, Dan Lebowitz et al  
*Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2019;21:244–251

- Determine the most appropriate duration of antibiotic therapy for diabetic foot infections
- 1018 DFI episodes in 482 patients
  - 392 episodes of osteomyelitis,
  - 626 soft tissue infections
  - 313 cases involved revascularization
- Patients underwent surgical debridement for 824 episodes (81%), of which 596 (59%) required amputation
- The median total duration of antibiotic therapy was 20 days.
- Neither duration of antibiotic therapy nor parenteral treatment affected risk of recurrence
- Neither >3 weeks versus <3 weeks of therapy, nor >1 week versus <1 week of intravenous treatment affected recurrence

Conclusions: "Our analysis found no threshold for the optimal duration or route of administration of antibiotic therapy to prevent recurrences of DFI. These limited data might support possibly shorter treatment duration for patients with DFI."

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**Three versus six weeks of antibiotic therapy for diabetic foot osteomyelitis: A prospective, randomized, non-inferiority pilot trial**  
 Karim Gariani, Truong-Thanh Pham, et al  
*Infectious Diseases Society of America*

- Patients with diabetic foot osteomyelitis (DFO) who underwent surgical debridement,
- Investigated a short (3 weeks), compared with a long (6 weeks) duration of systemic antibiotic treatment is associated with non-inferior results for clinical remission and adverse events (AE)
- Prospective, randomized, non-inferiority, pilot trial
- Patients with DFO after surgical debridement to either a 3-week or a 6-week course of antibiotic therapy. The minimal duration of follow-up after end of therapy was two months
- 44 were randomized to the 3-week arm and 49 to the 6-week arm
- The median number of surgical debridement was 1 (range, 0-2 intervention)
- Remission occurred in 37 (84%) of the patients in the 3-week arm compared to 36 (73%) in the 6-week arm
- AE was similar in the two study arms (17/44 vs. 16/49)
- Conclusions. "In this randomized, controlled pilot trial, a post-debridement systemic antibiotic therapy course for DFO of 3-weeks gave similar (and statistically non-inferior) incidences of remission and AE to a course of 6 weeks."

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Take Home Points

- Multi-Specialty Team
- Differentiate Between Soft Tissue and Osseous Infection
- Accurate Diagnosis

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Thank You!

Shorter Course??

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