

Osteomyelitis Classification Table

Osteomyelitis is a serious bone infection caused by bacteria or fungi, leading to inflammation and destruction of healthy bone. It can appear as acute osteomyelitis, which develops quickly with severe symptoms, or chronic osteomyelitis, which persists longer and is harder to treat. This condition can affect any bone but is common in the long bones of the legs and arms, and in the spine as vertebral osteomyelitis.

This template includes information about the Waldvogel classification system and Cierny-Mader classification, helping to understand the severity of the infection and guide treatment options.

Waldvogel classification system
Hematogenous osteomyelitis
Osteomyelitis secondary to contiguous focus of infection
No generalized vascular disease
Generalized vascular disease
Chronic osteomyelitis (necrotic bone)
Cierny-Mader classification
Anatomic type
Stage 1: medullary osteomyelitis
Stage 2: superficial osteomyelitis
Stage 3: localized osteomyelitis
Stage 4: diffuse osteomyelitis
Physiologic class
A host: healthy
B host:
Bs: systemic compromise
Bl: local compromise
Bls: local and systemic compromise
C host: treatment worse than the disease
Factors affecting immune surveillance, metabolism and local vascularity
Systemic factors (Bs): malnutrition, renal or hepatic failure, diabetes mellitus, chronic hypoxia, immune disease, extremes of age, immunosuppression or immune deficiency
Local factors (Bl): chronic lymphedema, venous stasis, major vessel compromise, arteritis, extensive scarring, radiation fibrosis, small-vessel disease, neuropathy, tobacco abuse

References

Cierny G, Mader JT, Pennick JJ. A clinical staging system for adult osteomyelitis. *Contemp Orthop* 1985; 10:17–37.

Waldvogel FA, Medoff G, Swartz MN. Osteomyelitis: a review of clinical features, therapeutic considerations and unusual aspects (first of three parts). *N Engl J Med* 1970;282:198–206.