

I HUMAN CYRUS HORTON CASE STUDY

**Internal Medicine 31: 40-year-old man with
knee pain FOR 2 DAYS LATEST CASE
STUDY REVIEWED BY EXPERT
FEEDBACK. ACTUAL CASE STUDY.**



RA vs Gout bone erosions

- In RA the erosions are margined by osteoporotic bone
- In gout they are margined by dense bone and even bony sclerosis.

Arthrocentesis for Evaluation of Suspected Septic Arthritis

- Diagnosis of septic arthritis requires joint fluid for analysis.
- Imaging is not indicated until medical causes of the effusion are ruled out.

Arthrocentesis should be performed when any of the following occur:

Which tests should be ordered on the joint fluid?

- CBC (WBC must be done in <1h of tap)
- Culture
- Gram stain

- Microscopy for crystals

Interpreting a Negative Synovial Fluid Gram Stain

- A negative Gram stain does not rule out septic joint.
- Gram stains of synovial fluid are positive for Gram-negative diplococci in <50% of cases, and fluid is culture positive in 20% to 75% of cases.
- Because of this, it's important to obtain gonococcal cultures from the genital tract in addition to the suspected joint.
- Absence of crystals, unlike the absence of organisms on Gram stain, may be taken as a true negative

Synovial Fluid Classification