

3.1. TREATMENT: ANTIBIOTICS FOR UNEXPECTED POSITIVE CULTURES

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QUESTION 1: Is there a role for postoperative antibiotics after performing an irrigation and debridement (I&D) for hematoma complicating a primary or revision shoulder arthroplasty while awaiting culture results?

RECOMMENDATION: Antibiotics should be given after performing an I&D for hematoma after shoulder (primary or revision) arthroplasty while awaiting cultures.

LEVEL OF EVIDENCE: Consensus

DELEGATE VOTE: Agree: 91%, Disagree: 9%, Abstain: 0% (Super Majority, Strong Consensus)

RATIONALE

A literature search using the terms “shoulder” and “hematoma” resulted in 337 in citations. After review of the abstracts, 11 articles [1–11] that pertained to the topic of hematoma after shoulder arthroplasty were identified for full text review. Review of these 11 articles did not identify any specific studies addressing the use of antibiotics after performing I&D of a hematoma after shoulder arthroplasty. However, given the concern for the presence of infection at the time of I&D for hematoma following shoulder arthroplasty, as discussed in Section 2:5, Question 2 (“Is there a role for obtaining wound cultures when performing an I&D for hematoma after shoulder (primary or revision) arthroplasty?”), we believe it is reasonable to initiate empiric antibiotic treatment while awaiting the culture results. In our clinical practice, oral antibiotics (frequently doxycycline) are used pending final culture results, though there is no clinical outcomes data to justify a particular antibiotic selection, route or even the use of antibiotics at all in this setting.

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