

## Osteomyelitis



### Overview

If you have an infection in a bone, you have osteomyelitis. It's a serious condition that can cause part of your bone to die. And, the infection can spread to other parts of your body.

### Causes

A bone infection can be caused by a bacteria or a fungus. These germs can get into your body through a wound. They can get in during surgery. An infection can start in one place in your body and then move through your bloodstream into your bone. People who have diabetes or who are on dialysis have a higher risk for this type of infection. So do people who inject illegal drugs.

### Symptoms

Osteomyelitis can cause pain at the site of the infection. You may have a fever and chills. You may feel bad all over. The skin near the infection may be red, warm and swollen. And, your legs and feet may swell. With time, the infection may cause an open sore to form in your skin.

### Treatment

A doctor can treat your infection with surgery and with medications. Antibiotics may be given to you through an IV for several weeks. Usually, you need to be hospitalized. Your healthcare provider can create a care plan that is right for you.

