

Orthopedics/Infectious Diseases Clinic

The Orthopedics/Infectious Diseases (ID) clinic provides a team approach involving infectious disease physicians and orthopedic surgeons to diagnose and treat children with bone, joint and muscle infections. Treating infections as quickly as possible is important to prevent any damage to bones, growth plates and muscles, as well as to get your child healthy and active again.

Children referred to the clinic are evaluated by specialists to determine the best course of treatment for the infection. Treatments may include medication, surgical intervention or other measures. Patients will continue to be seen in the Orthopedics/ID clinic until the infection has completely healed.



Types of infections treated at the Orthopedics/ID clinic

Children with a suspected infection of the bone, joint or muscle may be a candidate for the Orthopedics/ID clinic. We treat:

- Osteomyelitis, an acute or chronic bone infection, usually caused by bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Septic arthritis, a bacterial infection of the joint
- Infections related to hardware implanted to help heal fractures

Children who are acutely ill, including those with fever, should first be evaluated in an urgent care setting.

What to expect when you visit the Orthopedics/ID clinic

Your child's first appointment at the Orthopedics/ID clinic will include a consultation with an infectious disease specialist and an orthopedic surgeon. Physicians will perform a comprehensive review of your child's medical history including any recent x-rays or imaging results. During this visit, your child will also undergo a complete physical exam and staff will ask questions about your child's overall health, including eating and sleeping patterns, current medications and any pre-existing conditions.

After this initial evaluation, physicians will establish a treatment plan. This may include follow-up imaging, medication, surgical intervention, home IV therapy, and/or physical therapy. Treatment may last a few weeks or several months depending upon the complexity and severity of your child's infection. The clinic will provide progress reports to your child's primary care physician throughout their care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be with my child during visits?

Yes. Parents are valuable members of a child's medical team and are encouraged to share concerns and observations.

Will my child experience any pain?

Consultations are pain-free. Physicians and other clinic staff seek to minimize any discomfort or anxiety and make your child feel safe.

Are there any special preparations for the visit?

Typically, no. If there is a procedure or medication scheduled that requires no eating or drinking before the visit, parents will be informed when the appointment is made.

If your child has had laboratory tests, radiographs, MRIs or other imaging studies prior to your clinic visit, please bring the results with you. We prefer that you *hand carry the actual images*, not just the radiologist's report, to ensure that we have the information necessary at your child's clinic appointment and to minimize the need to repeat imaging studies or tests.

What are the advantages of going to the Orthopedics/ID clinic?

Better coordinated care. Instead of having multiple appointments, your child will be seen by two specialists at once who will work together with parents to formulate a comprehensive treatment plan. Orthopedics/ID clinic care means fewer trips to the doctor and a quicker, more direct process.

Where is the Orthopedics/ID clinic?

We are conveniently located on the first floor of St. Louis Children's Hospital in Suite 1B.

Scheduling an Appointment

A physician referral is needed for an appointment.

Your pediatrician, primary care physician, specialist or emergency room physician may call **800.678.HELP** (4357) to schedule an appointment or to speak with an Orthopedics/ID clinic staff member.

Parents may visit our Web site at StLouisChildrens.org or call **314.454.KIDS** (5437) for more information.

Your Appointment is:

Date:

Time:



St. Louis Children's Hospital
Orthopedics/Infectious Diseases Clinic
One Children's Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

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