Acute Swollen Joint or painful hip

If Hip pain

See also Hip pain guidelines

TRAUMATIC
Uncommon in the very young child
Diagnose with caution if the acute event not painful enough to prevent activity immediately.
Ix’ Xrays

ACUTE JOINT BLEED (esp if young)
May be the first manifestation of haemophilia in the young child.
Presentation may be with pain and swelling following minor trauma
Ix’ Coagulation studies

SEPTIC ARTHRITIS
Ix’ FBE/ESR/Blood culture/ Joint aspiration-M/C/S. Consider X-ray

REACTIVE/POST INFECTIVE
Usually a monoarthritis of large joints
If polyarticular and migratory consider Rheumatic fever
Typical viruses Parvovirus/Rubella/EBV/Mumps
Typical gut agents Salmonella/Shigella/Campylobacter
Onset 7-14 days after acute illness
Associated conjunctivitis/sterile urethritis suggest Reiters syndrome
Fever may be absent
Ix’ FBE/ESR/Serum to Store (3-5ml)
Stool culture/Throat swab/Urinalysis (if appropriate history)

RESENT Diarrhoea?
Viral illness?
Tonsillitis?

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