

Soft Tissue Infections in Orthopaedic Surgery: A Descriptive Cohort of 12 Cases

Carlos Lozano*, Alfonso Lajara, Javier Suarez, Maria Cristina Gonzalez, Eva Vico, María Martín, Elena Esparcia, Jose Maria Vilorio, Lidia de la Cruz

Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León · León, Spain · *Presenting author

12 patients	68.7 mean age, years (44-91)	5M / 7F sex distribution	41.7% MSSA infections	66.7% treated with debridement	1 case with sepsis
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Background

Soft tissue infections in orthopaedic trauma and surgery are common complications that may negatively impact clinical outcomes and often require surgical management. This study describes the clinical, microbiological, and therapeutic characteristics of a cohort of patients with these infections.

Methods

Retrospective observational study of 12 patients with soft tissue infection. Demographic data, anatomical location, etiology, comorbidities, clinical and laboratory findings, microbiology, and treatment strategies were analysed.

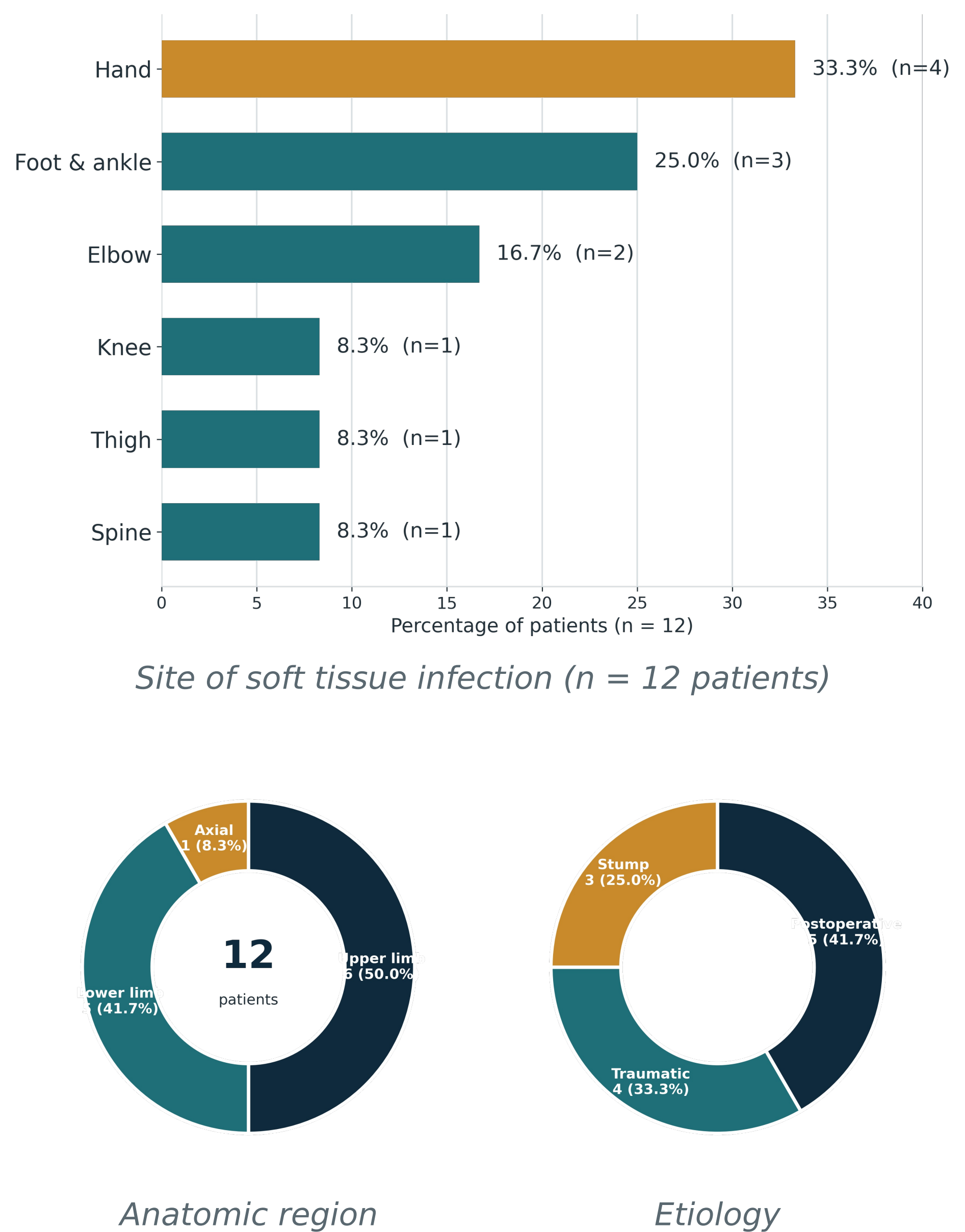
Study Population

Patients	12
Sex	5 M · 7 F
Mean age	68.7 y (44-91)
Active smokers	2 cases
Diabetes mellitus	0 cases

Clinical Presentation

- Only 1 patient presented with sepsis criteria.
- All patients showed local inflammatory signs.
- Wound dehiscence or fistula in 7 cases (58%).

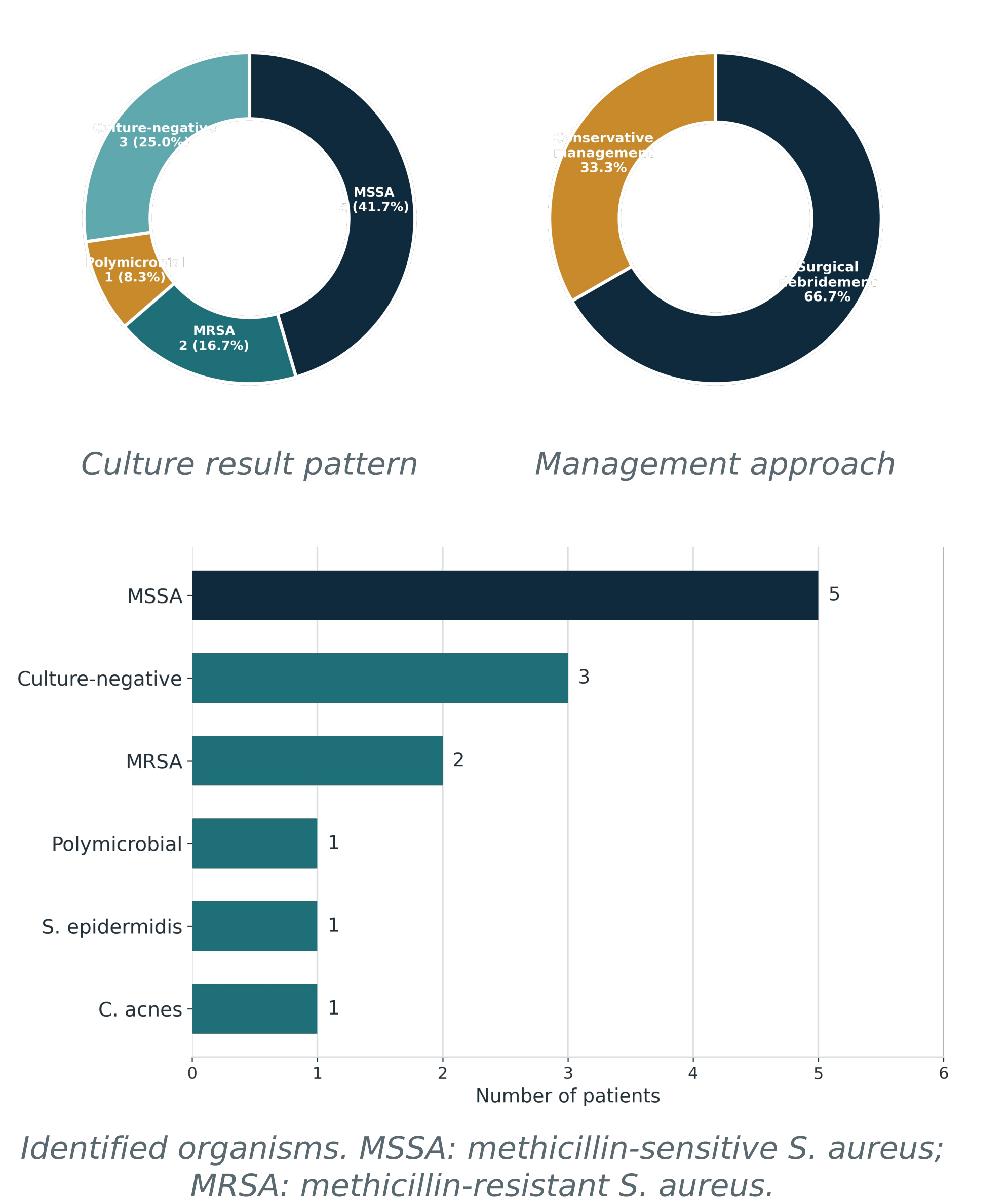
Anatomic Distribution



Laboratory Findings

Leukocytes, /μL	8,650 (SD 2,740)
Neutrophils, %	70.1 (SD 11.7)
CRP, mg/L	100.1 (range 4-380)
Glucose, mg/dL	102.7 (SD 22.2)

Microbiology



Treatment Strategy

Surgical debridement was performed in 66.7% of cases (n = 8), while the remaining patients (n = 4) were managed conservatively. Treatment choice was guided by wound severity, extent of tissue involvement, and patient comorbidities.

Limitations

- Retrospective, single-centre design with a small sample size (n = 12).
- Findings should be interpreted as descriptive and hypothesis-generating.

Conclusions

Soft tissue infections predominantly affect the extremities, most frequently the hand and foot/ankle.	Presentation is characterised by clear local signs with limited systemic involvement — only one patient developed sepsis.	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , mainly methicillin-sensitive, remains the leading pathogen.	Surgical debridement is the mainstay of treatment, used in two-thirds of cases.
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Take-home message

Soft tissue infection in orthopaedic surgery mainly affects the hand and foot/ankle, rarely causes sepsis, and is dominated by MSSA — surgical debridement remains the primary treatment strategy in most cases.