**SDC 1.**Patient characteristics.

 Variable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Patients\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 AllTreatment group

Short-term Long-term N=131 (%) N=67 N=64

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Gender, Males/Females 82/49 40/27 42/22

Age, years (median) 9.2 9.00 9.30

First symptoms, days (median) 4 4.15 5.3

Localization, n (%)

 Femur 35 (27) 18 17

 Tibia 32 (24) 17 15

 Pelvis 19 (15) 11 8

 Calcaneum 14 (11) 7 7

 Fibula 13 (10) 6 7

 Humerus 7 (5) 3 4

 Spinal column 3 (2) 0 3

 Clavicula 2 (1) 2 0

 Othera 6 (5) 3 3

Involvement of adjacent joint, n (%) 24 (18)

 Spinal column 5 4 1

 Hip 5 3 2

 Knee 4 3 1

 Ankle 6 2 4

 Otherb 4 1 3

Causative agent, n (%)

 *Staphylococcus aureus* 117 (90) 59 58

 *Streptococcus pyogenes* 7 (5) 4 3

 *Haemophilus influenzae* type b 3 (2) 2 1

 Otherc 4 (3) 2 2

Agent cultured, n (%)

 Bone and blood 35 (27) 16 19

 Bone only 44 (34) 20 24

 Blood onlyd 52 (39) 31 21

Initial value (mean±SEM)

 CRP, mg/L 85 (6) 95 (11) 90 (10)

 ESR, mm/h 47 (2) 46 (3) 49 (4)

 Blood leukocyte count, per mm² 11.000 (500) 11,000 (1,000) 11,000 (1,000)

Duration of antimicrobial therapy

 Median, days 22 20 30

 90% range 15-33 10-21 30-43

Recrudescence or relapse 0 0 0

Full recovery, n (%)

 At last attendance 129/131 (98) 66/67 (99) 63/64 (98)

 When ≥12 months elapsed 124/126 (98) 63/64 (98) 61/62 (98)

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**NOTE** a Scapula, sternum, and naviculare in the short-term, and 1st metatarsal, radius, and naviculare in the

 long-term treatment group

 b Acromioclavicular joint in the short, and shoulder and in 2 cases elbow in the long treatment group

 c Microaerophilic streptococcus, *S. pneumoniae* in the short-term group, and microaerophilic

 streptococcus, diphtheroid in the long-term group

 d All patient with compatible symptoms of acute osteomyelitis