DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Knee aspiration

Aspiration of synovial fluid from the knee to diagnose septic or crystal arthritis and to relieve a tense effusion or haemarthrosis.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 4 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
Confirm there is no prosthetic joint and no infection of the overlying skin.

- [ ] BEFORE
Aspirate before antibiotics where possible, but do not delay antibiotics in a septic or unwell patient.

- [ ] DURING
Do not inject corticosteroid into the joint if septic arthritis has not been excluded.

- [ ] DURING
Remember that crystals do not exclude co-existing septic arthritis.

The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.
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