



In the presence of recent systemic infection with a known organism before the onset of pyogenic spinal infection, can biopsy be avoided?



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## Why is this topic Important

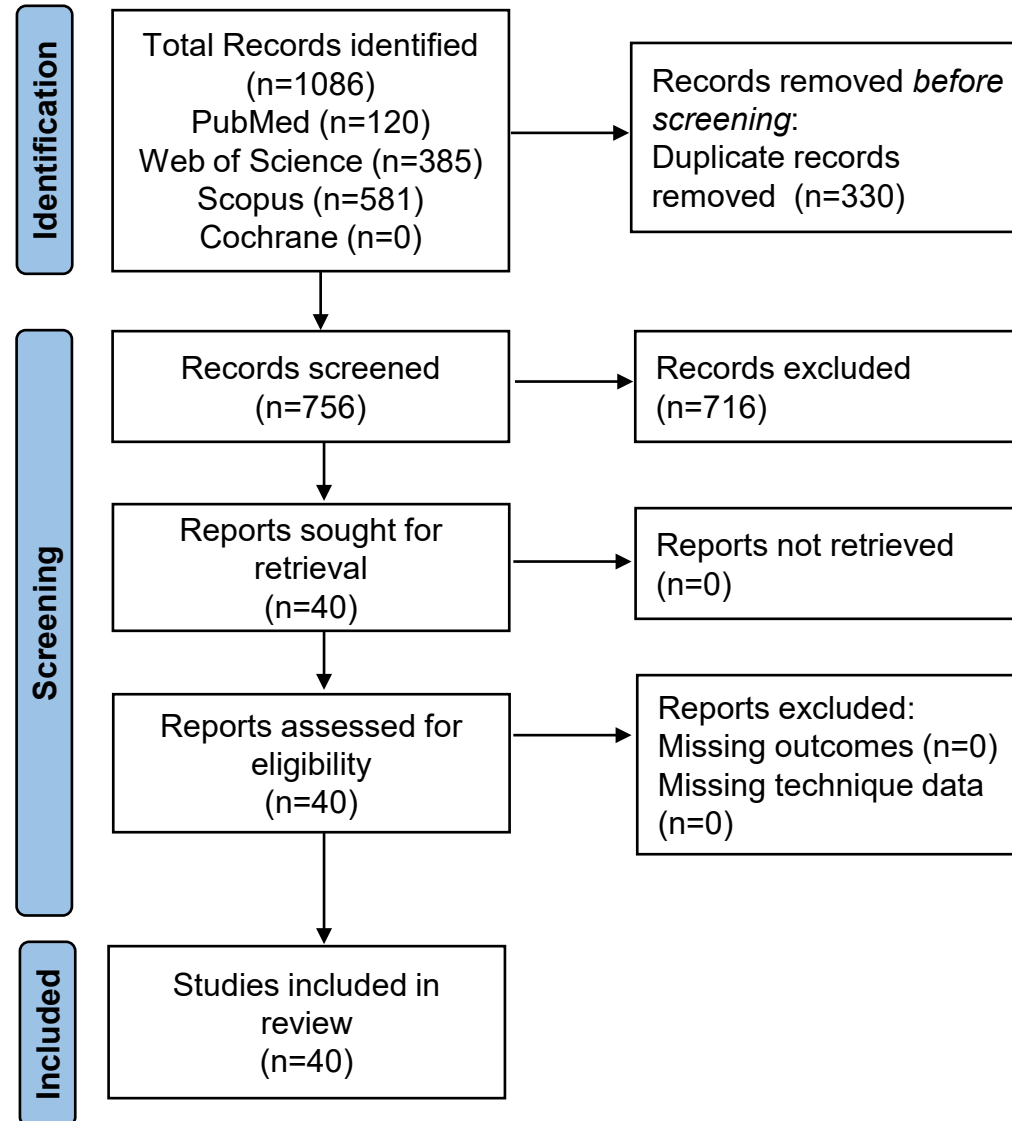
- ❖ Early and Accurate diagnosis of pyogenic infection crucial
- ❖ Biopsy has risk and takes time for results
- ❖ Biopsy can be negative.
- ❖ Know preceding infection increases the likelihood of same organism causing infection.
- ❖ Potential to use this information for empiric treatment



## Literature Review/ Process



Scopus





- ❖ There is no study that directly addresses this question
- ❖ Some assumptions can be made in studies that looked at concordance between blood cultures / urine cultures and intraoperative cultures.
- ❖ Concordance between blood cultures and spinal biopsy is variable
- ❖ Significant discordance between organisms found in systemic infections and those causing spinal infection.
- ❖ Elderly and immunocompromised special caution. Due to possibility of polymicrobial multiple infection and colonizations.
- ❖ If blood cultures and biopsy are negative, past recent infection can guide empiric treatment. However, potential for a different organism must be considered.



## **Question:**

**In the presence of recent systemic infection with a known organism before the onset of pyogenic spinal infection, can biopsy be avoided?**





## ❖ Response:

- In most patients with suspected pyogenic vertebral osteomyelitis, a spinal biopsy cannot be avoided even if they have had a recent systemic infection with a known organism.



## ❖ **Vote:**

**Agree – 100%, Disagree – 0%, Abstain – 0%**  
**(Unanimous Consensus)**