

Propionibacterium acnes Postoperative Shoulder Arthritis: An Emerging Clinical Entity

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The purpose of this study, which involved 276 patients, was to report the importance of *Propionibacterium acnes* in shoulder infections. The proportion of patients with shoulder infection who had infection due to *P. acnes* was significantly greater than the proportion of patients with lower limb infection who had infection due to *P. acnes* (9 of 16 patients vs. 1 of 233 patients; $P = .001$). This bacterium requires a prolonged incubation period and should not be considered to be a contaminant. *Key words:* *Propionibacterium acnes*, shoulder arthritis, postoperative infection.