Table 4

Microbial aetiology of peri-prosthetic joint infections

	Organism	Comment
Most common		
	coagulase-negative *staphylococcus* spp.	● Accounts for around half of all PJIs ● Typically multi-drug resistant ● Secretes an exopolysaccharide biofilm that impairs antibiotic and PMN action
	Staphylococcus aureus	● Commonly implicated in early wound infections ● Virulent and associated with systemic upset ● MRSA variants
	streptococcus spp.	● Most commonly infects TKR ● Can be haematogenously spread from concurrent cellulitis or pneumonia
	propionibacteria and *cornynebacterium*	● Gram-positive, anaerobic skin commensals ● Typically cause late-onset infections
	polymicrobial	● There is mixed growth of organisms in about 15 per cent of cases
Less common		
	Gram-negative bacilli *enterococcus*	● *Pseudomonas* and *klebsiella* from the urinary tract ● Troublesome multi-drug-resistant strains