

Not Every Pus Is Purulent

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A 65-year-old male with a medical history of diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney failure, and ulcerative colitis arrived at our facility with knee monoarthritis. The knee was tapped with 40 cc pus-like discharge [Figure 1A]. He was referred for a knee lavage with a working diagnosis of septic arthritis. The patient was afebrile, denied trauma, and was without neutrophilia on blood count.

On polarized microscope, the field was full of needle-shaped crystals. Almost no white blood cells were seen [Figure 1B].

The patient was diagnosed and treated for a gout flare and swiftly recovered.

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Figure 1. Knee tap of patient

[A] 40 cc pus-like discharge



[B] Polarized microscope, almost no white blood cells are shown

