Antibiotic Cement Spacers for Infected Total Knee Arthroplasties

Periprosthetic infection remains a frequent complication following total knee arthroplasty.

Treatment of periprosthetic infection:
- Debridement: removing of all implants and cement
- Insertion of antibiotic spacer
- Second implantation

Knee spacers may be static or mobile spacers:

**Static spacers**
- For severe bone loss
- Multiple antibiotics
- No range of motion
- Difficult reimplantation

**Mobile spacers**
- Preformed Molds
  - Metal or polyethylene
  - Convenient
  - Only one antibiotic and fixed dose
  - Multiple antibiotics and varying dosage
  - Decreased mechanical strength
  - Second stage surgery can be avoided
  - Expensive and limited amount of antibiotics

Orthopaedic surgeons should be aware of different options for knee spacers and their properties to better deal with post-surgical complications.