

### SAQ 6

A 35 year old male presents with swelling and pain in his right ankle. There is no history of recent trauma.

- a) What are 4 major differential diagnoses
- b) What are 4 important features you would enquire about on history
- c) List and justify 4 investigations you would you order
- d) Following full assessment you are confident your patient has an STI. What are your 4 management priorities

### **Answer**

- a) Septic arthritis, Gout, reactive arthritis (Reiter's), RA, other sero-negative arthritis, drug induced
- b) Known rheumatologic disorder, prev Gout, recent STI, diarrhoeal or viral illness. Family history, IBD, Systemic symptoms (fever/chills, sweats, lethargy)
- c) FBC; ? anaemia of chronic disease  
ESR and CRP; confirm inflammatory process  
HLA B27; ?AS  
Rheumatoid factor and ANA rule out other  
Joint aspirate can diagnose septic arthritis, gout and pseudogout  
STI tests  
Stool tests confirm recent GI infection  
NB; x-rays of little value
- d) For arthritis analgesia (typically NSAID's), Inform patient, medical certificate as required.  
For STI's, AB's doxycycline 100mg 7 days, azithromycin 1G or similar.  
Contact tracing, Advice re unprotected sex, Follow up and retesting.