

Synovial Fluid Interpretation

	Normal	Non-inflammatory arthritis	Inflammatory arthritis	Septic arthritis
Appearance	Clear	Clear/yellow	Clear/cloudy yellow	Opaque
White Cells <small>(x10⁶/L or /cumm or /μL)</small>	Normal <200	Moderate <2,000	High >2,000	Extremely high >50,000
Neutrophils	Low <25%	Low <25%	Moderate <50%	High >75%

Additional Tests

- Culture: grow bacteria
- Crystals:
 - Negatively birefringent needles = gout
 - Positively birefringent rhomboids = pseudogout