by the arteries from that muscle into the cavity created by the surgery. A skin graft is performed later.

The client with chronic osteomyelitis faces frequent and lengthy hospitalizations and/or treatment modalities. The prognosis is uncertain, and functional deficits and amputation are a constant concern. The ongoing expenses, loss of financial support, and role changes within the family are also nursing concerns.

Nursing Diagnoses and Interventions
Nursing diagnoses associated with acute osteomyelitis focus on preventing the transmission of infection and problems due to immobility. Providing comfort and client teaching are also very important.

Risk for Infection
Compromised immune status places the client with osteomyelitis at risk for superinfection. An inadequate kcal intake is an additional factor that contributes to the risk.

- Maintain strict handwashing practices. Meticulous handwashing helps prevent the spread of infection by minimizing the entry of organisms into susceptible clients.

- Administer antimicrobial therapy at specified time intervals. Optimal blood levels of antibiotic therapy are mandatory in clients with infectious processes.

- Maintain the client’s optimal dietary kcal and protein intake. High kcal and protein intake provide the client with sufficient nutritional support for the body’s needs during the stressful event of the inflammatory process.

Hyperthermia
The infection and associated inflammatory process can cause fever in the client with osteomyelitis.

- Monitor temperature every 4 hours and when client reports chills and/or fever. Blood cultures are frequently ordered when an acute elevation of temperature occurs. A sudden rise in temperature in clients with either acute or chronic osteomyelitis may indicate inadequate antimicrobial management.

- Maintain a cool environment and provide light clothing and bedding during temperature elevation. Proper environmental conditions and clothing enhance the evaporative process during acute temperature elevation and promote comfort.

- Ensure a daily fluid intake of 2000 to 3000 mL. Dehydration may result from evaporative fluid losses during acute temperature elevations. Furthermore, clients taking large doses of antibiotic therapy may experience fluid loss through excessive diarrhea, as a side effect of the therapy. Fluid replacement is necessary during this time to prevent further dehydration.

Impaired Physical Mobility
Pain, infection, inflammation, and the use of immobilizers can all impair the mobility of the client with osteomyelitis.

- Maintain the affected limb in functional position when immobilized. The client may hesitate to move the involved extremity because of continuous pain; therefore, the extremity must be maintained in functional position to avoid flexion contracture.