

Figure S1. The distribution of bacterial-positive and bacterial bacterial-negative subjects by age.

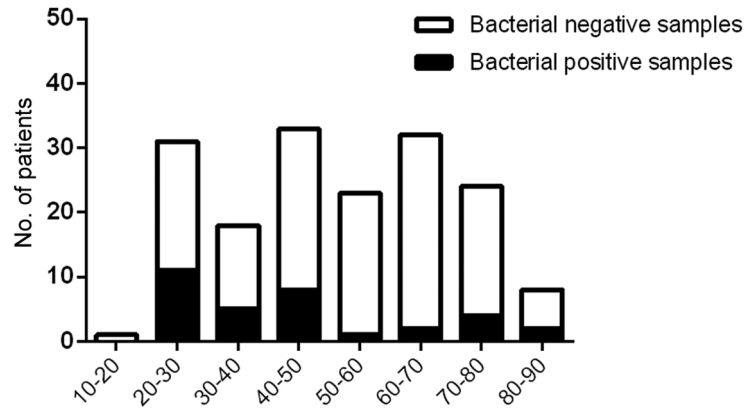


Table SI. Bacterial information in potential contaminated samples

Number	IVDs	Corresponding control samples
1	<i>P. acnes</i>	<i>P. acnes</i>
2	<i>P. acnes</i>	<i>P. acnes</i> + CNS
3	<i>P. acnes</i>	CNS
4	<i>P. acnes</i>	<i>P. acnes</i> + CNS
5	CNS	CNS
6	CNS	CNS

Control samples were ligaments and muscle specimens. CNS, coagulase negative *Staphylococcus*; *P. acnes*, *Propionibacterium acnes*; IVD, intervertebral disc.
