

# SEPSIS

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# SEPSIS



**TERRIBLE, WOULDN'T  
RECOMMEND IT!**

## OBJECTIVES

Definition

History

Management

Future directions



## HISTORIC SEPSIS DEFINITION

- 1991 Consensus
  - Infection plus 2 SIRS criteria:
    - $T > 38$  or  $< 36$
    - $Hr > 90$
    - $RR > 20$  or  $PaCO_2 < 32$
    - $WBC > 12K$  or  $< 4K$

Incidence and prognostic value of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome and organ dysfunctions in ward patients. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2015;192(8):958-964

Systemic inflammatory response syndrome criteria in defining severe sepsis. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;372(17):1629-1638.



## CHALLENGES TO DEFINITION

- Sepsis represents a clinical syndrome(s) rather than discrete illness
- 80 yo with heart failure and UTI, HR 90 and AMS vs 32yo with pneumonia, fever, HR 130
- Sepsis is the primary cause of death from infection
- Sepsis syndrome is shaped by pathogen and host factors
  - Dysregulated host response and organ dysfunction
- Sepsis-induced organ dysfunction may be occult
- Any organ dysfunction should raise the possibility of infection
- Local organ dysfunction may occur from infection



# SOFA SCORE

Table 1. Sequential [Se

System
Respiration
PaO <sub>2</sub> /Fio <sub>2</sub> , mm Hg (kPa)
Coagulation
Platelets, ×10 <sup>3</sup> /μL
Liver
Bilirubin, mg/dL (μmol/L)
Cardiovascular
Central nervous system
Glasgow Coma Scale score <sup>c</sup>
Renal
Creatinine, mg/dL (μmol/L)
Urine output, mL/d

Abbreviations: Fio<sub>2</sub>, frac  
PaO<sub>2</sub>, partial pressure of  
<sup>a</sup> Adapted from Vincent

Third Inte  
2016;315

Quick Sepsis-Related Organ Assessment (qSOFA)			
Points	Respiratory Rate	Altered Mental Status	Low Blood Pressure
	≥22 breaths per min	Glasgow coma scale <15	SBP ≤100 mmHG
Points	1	1	1

*qSOFA ≥2 suggests a poorer outcome and should alert clinicians of possible infection when previously not known.*

*Information adopted from:*

Singer M, Deutschman DS, Seymour CW, Shankar-Hari M, et al. The third international consensus definitions for sepsis and septic shock (Sepsis-3). *JAMA* 2016;315:801-810.

4
<100 (13.3) with respiratory support
<20
>12.0 (204)
Dopamine >15 or epinephrine >0.1 or norepinephrine >0.1 <sup>b</sup>
<6
>5.0 (440)
<200

r at least 1 hour.  
gher score indicates better

otic Shock. *JAMA*



## QSOFA VS CURB65

qSOFA	CURB65
<b>Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abnormal mental status</li><li>• RR <math>\geq 22</math></li><li>• SBP <math>\leq 100</math></li></ul>	<b>Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confusion</li><li>• RR <math>\geq 30</math></li><li>• SBP <math>&lt; 90</math> <i>or</i> diastolic Bp <math>\leq 60</math> mm</li><li>• BUN <math>&gt; 19</math> mg/dL</li><li>• Age <math>\geq 65</math> YO</li></ul>
<b>Interpretation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>&gt;1</math>: sepsis (mortality <math>\sim 10\%</math>)</li></ul>	<b>Interpretation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0: 0.6% mortality</li><li>• 1: 2.7% mortality</li><li>• 2: 6.8% mortality</li><li>• 3: 14% mortality</li><li>• 4-5: 28% mortality</li></ul>



## WHAT ABOUT PROCALCITONIN AND CRP?

- Procalcitonin rises within 4 hrs
    - Peak 12-48 hrs
  - Falsely low in immune suppression, chronic infections, atypical bacteria
  - False positive in renal failure, methamphetamine, pancreatitis, surgery, burns, ischemic bowel
- CRP rises within 6hrs
    - Peak 12-48hrs
  - Falsely low in liver failure
  - Elevated in viral infections, Lupus flare, pancreatitis, fat emboli, post-ROSC

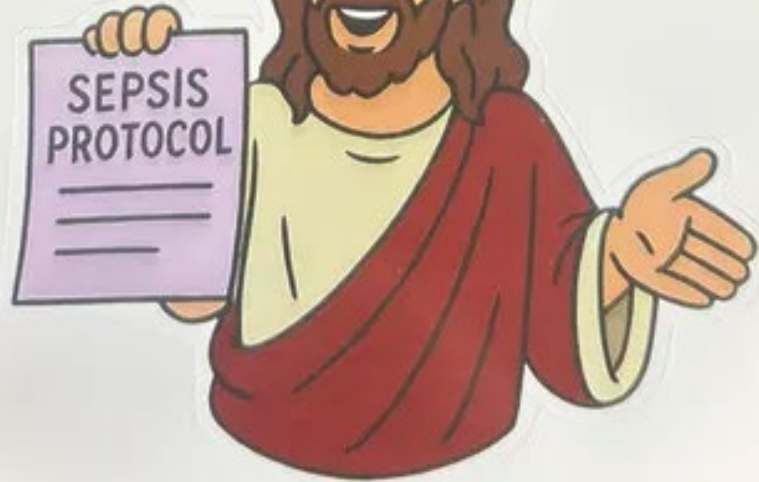
# SEPTIC SHOCK

Table 2. Terminology and *International Classification of Diseases* Coding

Current Guidelines and Terminology	Sepsis	Septic Shock
1991 and 2001 consensus terminology <sup>9,10</sup>	Severe sepsis Sepsis-induced hypoperfusion	Septic shock <sup>13</sup>
2015 Definition	Sepsis is life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection	Septic shock is a subset of sepsis in which underlying circulatory and cellular/metabolic abnormalities are profound enough to substantially increase mortality
2015 Clinical criteria	Suspected or documented infection and an acute increase of $\geq 2$ SOFA points (a proxy for organ dysfunction)	Sepsis <sup>a</sup> and vasopressor therapy needed to elevate MAP $\geq 65$ mm Hg and lactate $> 2$ mmol/L (18 mg/dL) despite adequate fluid resuscitation <sup>13</sup>



NOT TODAY SEPSIS



## TREATMENT

Fluids

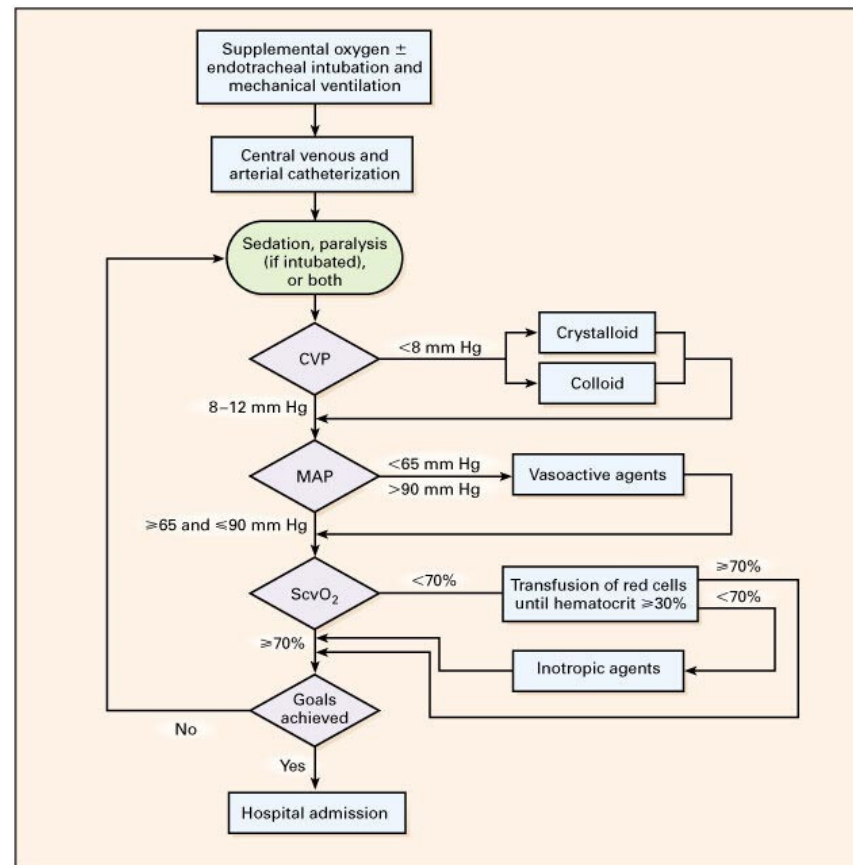
Vasopressors

Antibiotics

Source control

Steroids

# RIVERS TRIAL



Early Goal-Directed Therapy  
Collaborative Group. Early goal-  
directed therapy in the treatment of  
severe sepsis and septic shock. N  
Engl J Med. 2001 Nov  
8;345(19):1368-77



# SURVIVING SEPSIS CAMPAIGN

- IDSA did not endorse Guidelines
  - Difficulty identifying if infection is present
  - Difficulty determining if infection the cause of organ dysfunction
  - Up to 40% of ICU admissions for sepsis later determined to not have infection\*
  - Multiple definitions
  - One-size-fits-all recommendations
  - Timing of antibiotics
  - Multidrug and combination therapy recommendations

Likelihood of infection in patients with presumed sepsis at the time of intensive care unit admission: a cohort study. Crit Care 2015; 19:319.



## 2018 SSC

Bundle Element	Grade of Recommendation and Level of Evidence
Measure lactate level. Remeasure if initial lactate >2 mmol/L	Weak recommendation; low-quality evidence
Obtain blood cultures before administration of antibiotics	Best practice statement
Administer broad-spectrum antibiotics	Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence
Rapidly administer 30ml/kg crystalloid for hypotension or lactate $\geq$ 4 mmol/L	Strong recommendation, low quality of evidence
Apply vasopressors if patient is hypotensive	Strong recommendation, moderate quality of during or after fluid resuscitation to maintain evidence
Mean arterial pressure $\geq$ 65 mm Hg	

**Point: Should the Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines be retired? Yes**  
*Chest. 2019; 155:12-1*



# FLUID

- 30ml/kg LR
    - Blood volume 5-6liters
  - Primary dysfunction is vasodilatation
    - Component of cardiac dysfunction and microvascular effects
  - No high-quality evidence that large volume resuscitation is associated with improved outcome
  - Only ~1/2 critically ill patients fluid responsive
  - Benefits to cardiac output offset by hemodilution
  - Effects transient due to extravasation of fluid
  - Increased risk of intubation, renal failure, and mortality
- Comparison of fluid compartments and fluid responsiveness in septic and non-septic patients. *Anaesth Intensive Care*. 2011;39(6):1022-1029

## FLUID APPROACH

### initial resuscitation of *hypotensive* patients with *septic shock*

#### Assess volume status

- Clinical history (? Significant nausea/vomiting/diarrhea or reduced oral intake or diabetic ketoacidosis)
- Known cardiac dysfunction (e.g. cardiomyopathy, aortic stenosis, pulmonary hypertension)
- Bedside echocardiography
- Increased risk of harm from hypervolemia? (e.g. pneumonia with risk of evolving into ARDS)

#### History & exam indicates true hypovolemia

- nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- reduced PO intake for several days
- diabetic ketoacidosis or severe hypercalcemia
- over-diuresis

#### Average patient

#### Contraindications to fluid, e.g.:

- Evidence of systemic congestion
- Severity of lung failure > severity cardiac dysfunction
- Dialysis patients (use caution)

#### Large volume resus

- Consider larger volume fluid resuscitation (e.g. 2-4 liters)
- Give fluid slowly, follow hemodynamics.

#### Moderate volume resus

- Provide ~1-2 liters fluid (~30 cc/kg ideal body wt)
- Consider giving fluid slowly (over several hours)

#### Low volume resus

Provide little or no crystalloid resuscitation.

**You're done! Great job! Stop giving fluid.**

Key point: IV medications (especially those given via continuous infusion) will provide a substantial fluid volume on their own without any added crystalloid. To provide additional fluid beyond this, consider initiation of *enteral nutrition*. Persistent administration of fluid following initial resuscitation may cause harm.

Nobody actually knows how much fluid to use in septic shock. This seems like a reasonable approach in the absence of definitive evidence. Note that this approach only applies to patients who are hypotensive or on vasopressors.

-The Internet Book of Critical Care, [emcrit.org/ibcc/sepsis](https://emcrit.org/ibcc/sepsis)



# VASOPRESSORS

- Peripheral use acceptable
- Earlier use in hypotensive patients
- Sequential addition of vasopressors
  - Norepinephrine, vasopressin epinephrine
- VANISH trial suggested less use of renal replacement therapy may be lower with initial use of vasopressin vs norepinephrine
- A comparison of epinephrine to norepinephrine found similar results in achieving MAP goals,
  - No difference in mortality
  - 12.9% Epi group dropped due to metabolic side effects
- Avoid dopamine



# SOURCE CONTROL

- Nephrolithiasis
- Cholangitis
- Bowel perforation
- Necrotizing fasciitis
- Urologic
- Hardware

Association between time to source control in sepsis and 90-day mortality. *Jama Surgery*, 2022;157(9):817-826





# ANTIBIOTICS

- Given as soon as possible after sepsis or septic shock identified
- Directed to expected source of infection
- 33% of patients with suspected sepsis turn out to have non-infectious mimics
- Balancing timing and appropriateness

Cooperative antimicrobial therapy of septic shock database research group initiation of inappropriate antimicrobial therapy results in fivefold reduction of survival in human septic shock. Chest 2009;136:1237-48.

Duration of hypotension before initiation of effective antimicrobial therapy is the critical determinant of survival in human septic shock. Crit Care Med 2006;34:1589-96.

Etiology of illness in patients with severe sepsis admitted to the hospital from the emergency department. Clin Infect Dis 2010;50:814-20.



## ANTIBIOTICS

- Local antibiogram
- Patient factors
  - Prior culture results
  - Prior antibiotic exposure
  - Immune compromise
  - Indwelling or drainable sources
- Adequate tissue penetration for suspected source
- Antifungals and antivirals

# MULTIDRUG AND COMBINATION THERAPY

- Multidrug regimens recommended for septic shock
  - Broader spectrum coverage
  - High consequence
- More targeted regimen for hemodynamically stable patients
- Combination
  - More than one drug with activity against presumed pathogen
  - No clear evidence for improved survival or faster reversal of shock
  - May have role in septic shock patients with increases risk of multidrug resistant infections



## STEROIDS IN SHOCK

- Stress dose
  - 50mg hydrocortisone q6h
- Does not increase risk for superinfection or myopathy
  - Does increase blood glucose
- Lower duration of shock, mechanical ventilation and ICU stay

Intensive Care Med. 2018  
Jul;44(7):1003-1016.

Crit Care Med. 2015  
Nov;43(11):2292-302.

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Improved definitions

Prevention

AI

Biomarkers

Molecular testing

Genetic and immunotherapy

Novel antimicrobials

Adaptive platform trials testing multiple parameter

Enrollment adapts to ongoing results

