

# Procalcitonin kinetics guided antibiotic management of the critically ill patient

András LOVAS MD, PhD, EDIC, EDAIC

University of Szeged, Hungary  
Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy

19/11/2016, XXXVII Turkish Congress of Microbiology

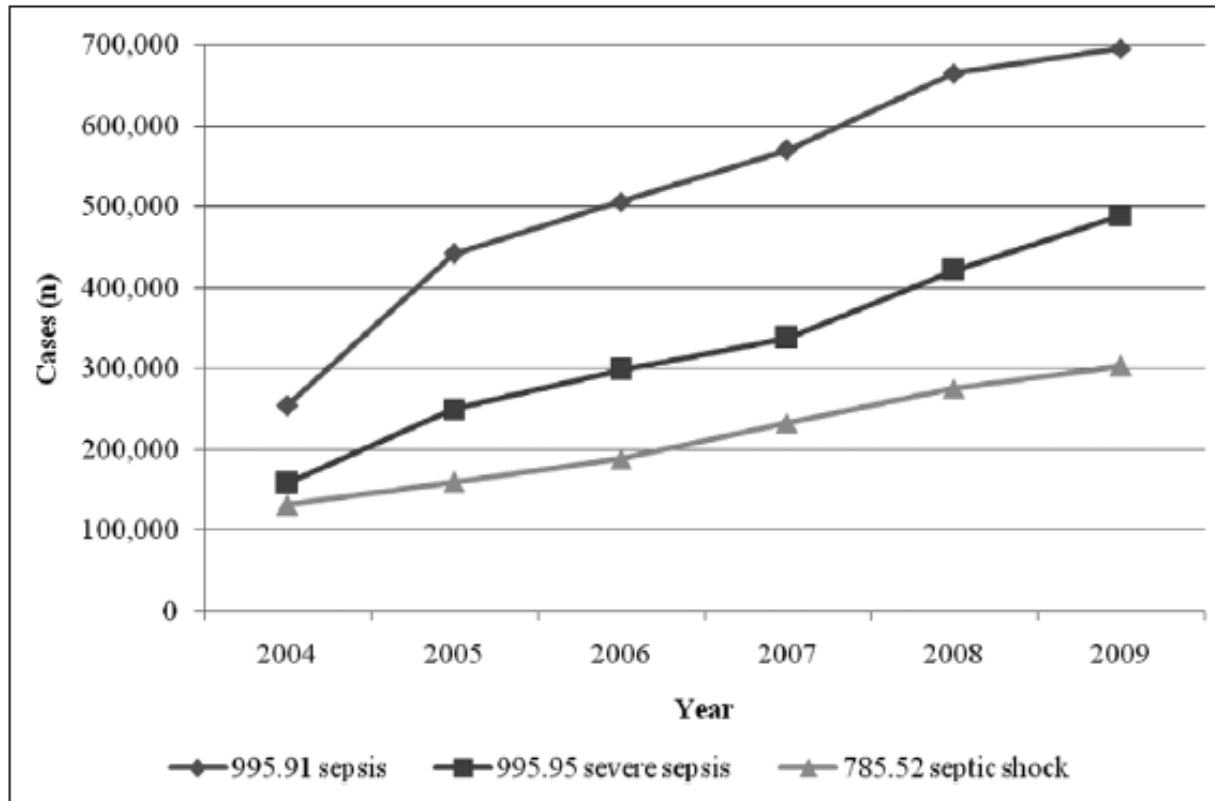


**Thermo**  
S C I E N T I F I C



# Epidemiology of sepsis

- Sepsis has severe impact on all health care
- Rates increased in USA between 2004-2009:



Gaieski DF et al. *Crit Care Med*, 2013

**Figure 4.** Use of *International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 9th Edition*, codes for sepsis (995.91), severe sepsis (995.92), and septic shock (785.52).



# Improvement in sepsis

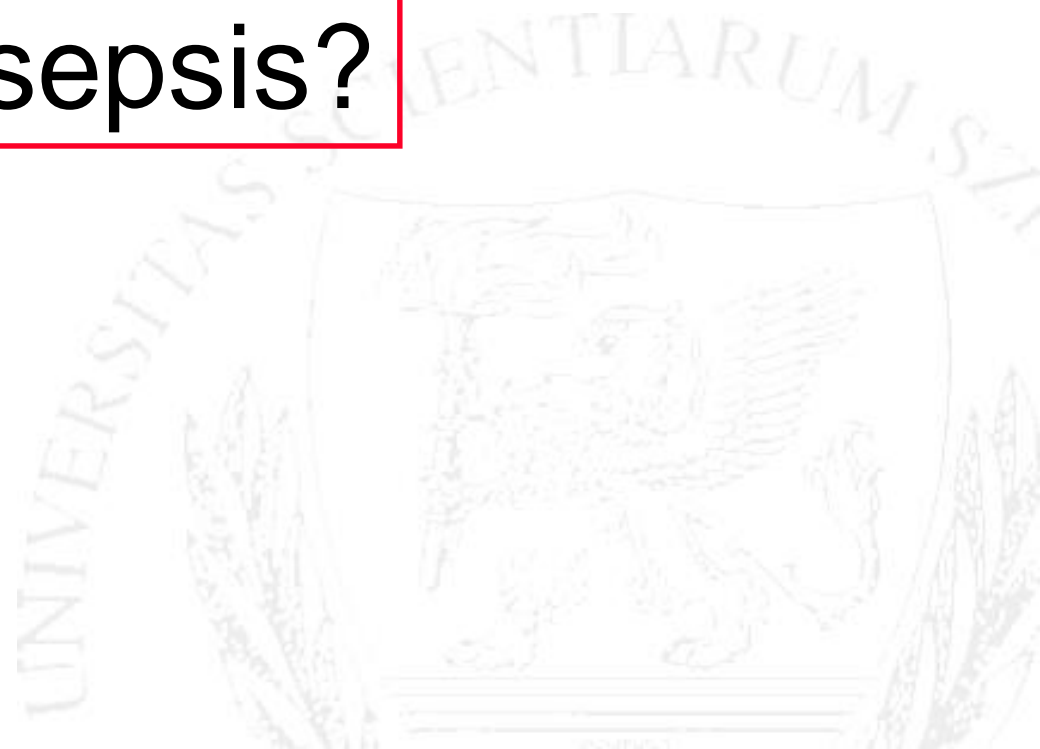
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- Mortality results are decreasing
- Recognition of sepsis is increasing
- Novel interventions
- New pharmacotherapeutical strategies
- Surviving Sepsis Campaign





**What is sepsis?**





# Sepsis is not a definitive diagnosis

- „Sepsis-syndrome” and Las Vegas - 1980:
  - Fever or hypothermia ( $> 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $< 35.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - Tachycardia ( $>90/\text{min}$ )
  - Leukocytosis or leukopenia ( $> 12\,000\text{cells}/\text{mm}^3$ ,  $< 4000\text{cells}/\text{mm}^3$ , or  $> 10\%$  immature forms)
  - Hypotension ( $<90\text{mmHg}$ )

## The New England Journal of Medicine

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Volume 317

SEPTEMBER 10, 1987

Number 11

### **A CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL OF HIGH-DOSE METHYLPREDNISOLONE IN THE TREATMENT OF SEVERE SEPSIS AND SEPTIC SHOCK**

ROGER C. BONE, M.D., CHARLES J. FISHER, JR., M.D., TERRY P. CLEMMER, M.D.,  
GUS J. SLOTMAN, M.D., CRAIG A. METZ, M.S., ROBERT A. BALK, M.D.,  
AND THE METHYLPREDNISOLONE SEVERE SEPSIS STUDY GROUP



# Sepsis is not a definitive diagnosis

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0090-3493/89/1705-0389\$02.00/0  
CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE  
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Vol. 17, No. 5  
Printed in U.S.A.

## **Sepsis syndrome: A valid clinical entity**

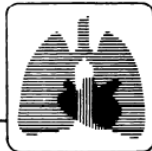
ROGER C. BONE, MD; CHARLES J. FISHER, JR, MD; TERRY P. CLEMMER, MD; GUS J. SLOTMAN, MD;  
CRAIG A. METZ, MS; ROBERT A. BALK, MD; THE METHYLPREDNISOLONE SEVERE SEPSIS STUDY  
GROUP\*



# Sepsis is not a definitive diagnosis

- Consensus conference ACCP/SCCM:
  - Infection
  - Bacteraemia
  - Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS)
  - Sepsis = SIRS + Infection
  - Severe sepsis (Sepsis + one organ dysfunction)
  - Septic shock (hypoperfusion despite adequate fluid load)
  - Multiple System Organ Failure (MSOF)

*ACCP/SCCM. Crit Care Med 1992; 20: 864*



## **accp/sccm consensus conference**

### **Definitions for Sepsis and Organ Failure and Guidelines for the Use of Innovative Therapies in Sepsis**

**THE ACCP/SCCM CONSENSUS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:**

*Roger C. Bone, M.D., F.C.C.P., Chairman*

*Robert A. Balk, M.D., F.C.C.P.*

*Frank B. Cerra, M.D.*

*R. Phillip Dellinger, M.D., F.C.C.P.*

*Alan M. Fein, M.D., F.C.C.P.*

*William A. Knaus, M.D.*

*Roland M. H. Schein, M.D.*

*William J. Sibbald, M.D., F.C.C.P.*



# Sepsis definition – SSC 2012

## Infection, documented or suspected, and some of the following:

### General variables

- Fever ( $> 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Hypothermia (core temperature  $< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Heart rate  $> 90/\text{min}^{-1}$  or more than two sd above the normal value for age
- Tachypnea

## Sepsis definitions: time for change

*Jean-Louis Vincent, Steven M Opal, John C Marshall, Kevin J Tracey*

*Lancet 2013; 381: 774-75*

Plasma C-reactive protein more than two sd above the normal value

Plasma procalcitonin more than two sd above the normal value

### Hemodynamic variables

Adrenal hypotension (SDB  $< 60 \text{ mmHg}$ , MAP  $< 70 \text{ mmHg}$  or  $\text{SDB decrease} > 40 \text{ mmHg}$  in adults and the same

Sepsis is not a „disease” but a „consensus”

Thrombocytopenia (platelet count  $< 100,000 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ )

Hyperbilirubinemia (plasma total bilirubin  $> 4 \text{ mg/dL}$  or  $70 \mu\text{mol/L}$ )

### Tissue perfusion variables

Hyperlactatemia ( $> 1 \text{ mmol/L}$ )

Decreased capillary refill or mottling





# The most recent sepsis definition

**JAMA** The Journal of the  
American Medical Association

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February 23, 2016, Vol 315, No. 8 >

[< Previous Article](#) [Next Article >](#)

Special Communication | February 23, 2016  
CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

## The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3) FREE

Mervyn Singer, MD, FRCP<sup>1</sup>; Clifford S. Deutschman, MD, MS<sup>2</sup>; Christopher Warren Seymour, MD, MSc<sup>3</sup>; Manu Shankar-Hari, MSc, MD, FFICM<sup>4</sup>; Djillali Annane, MD, PhD<sup>5</sup>; Michael Bauer, MD<sup>6</sup>; Rinaldo Bellomo, MD<sup>7</sup>; Gordon R. Bernard, MD<sup>8</sup>; Jean-Daniel Chiche, MD, PhD<sup>9</sup>; Craig M. Coopersmith, MD<sup>10</sup>; Richard S. Hotchkiss, MD<sup>11</sup>; Mitchell M. Levy, MD<sup>12</sup>; John C. Marshall, MD<sup>13</sup>; Greg S. Martin, MD, MSc<sup>14</sup>; Steven M. Opal, MD<sup>12</sup>; Gordon D. Rubenfeld, MD, MS<sup>15,16</sup>; Tom van der Poll, MD, PhD<sup>17</sup>; Jean-Louis Vincent, MD, PhD<sup>18</sup>; Derek C. Angus, MD, MPH<sup>19,20</sup>

### Box 3. New Terms and Definitions

- Sepsis is defined as life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection.
- Organ dysfunction can be identified as an acute change in total SOFA score  $\geq 2$  points consequent to the infection.
  - The baseline SOFA score can be assumed to be zero in patients not known to have preexisting organ dysfunction.
  - A SOFA score  $\geq 2$  reflects an overall mortality risk of approximately 10% in a general hospital population with suspected infection. Even patients presenting with modest dysfunction can deteriorate further, emphasizing the seriousness of this condition and the need for prompt and appropriate intervention, if not already being instituted.
- In lay terms, sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs.
- Patients with suspected infection who are likely to have a prolonged ICU stay or to die in the hospital can be promptly identified at the bedside with qSOFA, ie, alteration in mental status, systolic blood pressure  $\leq 100$  mm Hg, or respiratory rate  $\geq 22$ /min.
- Septic shock is a subset of sepsis in which underlying circulatory and cellular/metabolic abnormalities are profound enough to substantially increase mortality.
  - Patients with septic shock can be identified with a clinical construct of sepsis with persisting hypotension requiring vasopressors to maintain MAP  $\geq 65$  mm Hg and having a serum lactate level  $> 2$  mmol/L (18 mg/dL) despite adequate volume resuscitation. With these criteria, hospital mortality is in excess of 40%.



# Pathomechanism





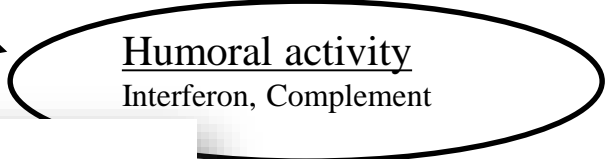
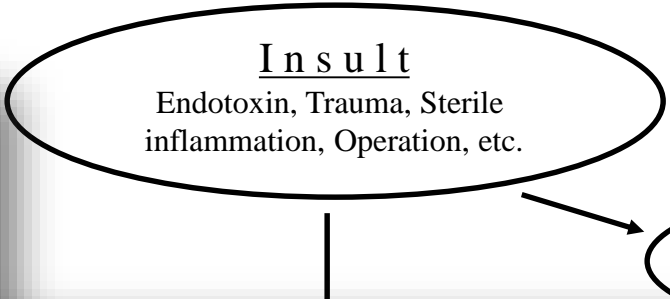
# Pathomechanism

## Veno-venous haemofiltration in the treatment of sepsis and the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome

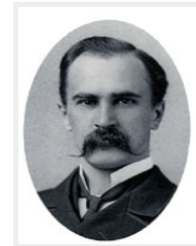
**Z Molnar MD, DEAA, E Shearer FRCA, Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool**

The incidence of sepsis has increased by 137% over the past decade.<sup>1</sup> Despite advances in antimicrobial therapy, the mortality associated with sepsis and its end result, the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS), has been reported at levels from 85-100% once three or more organs have failed.<sup>2-4</sup> There is growing concern that the high mortality rate is not related

used by several intensive care units (ICUs) since Gotlib and colleagues published their positive results on outcome in septic adult respiratory distress suggests benefit might illness



*„Except on few occasions, the patients seems to die from the body's response to infection rather than from it.“*



*Sir William Osler; The Evolution of Modern Medicine 1904*





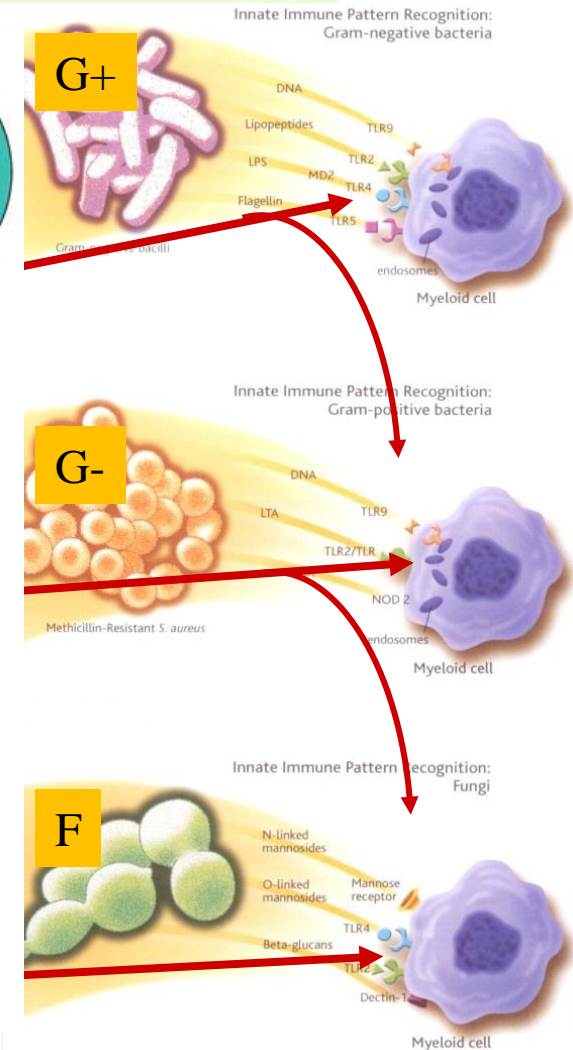
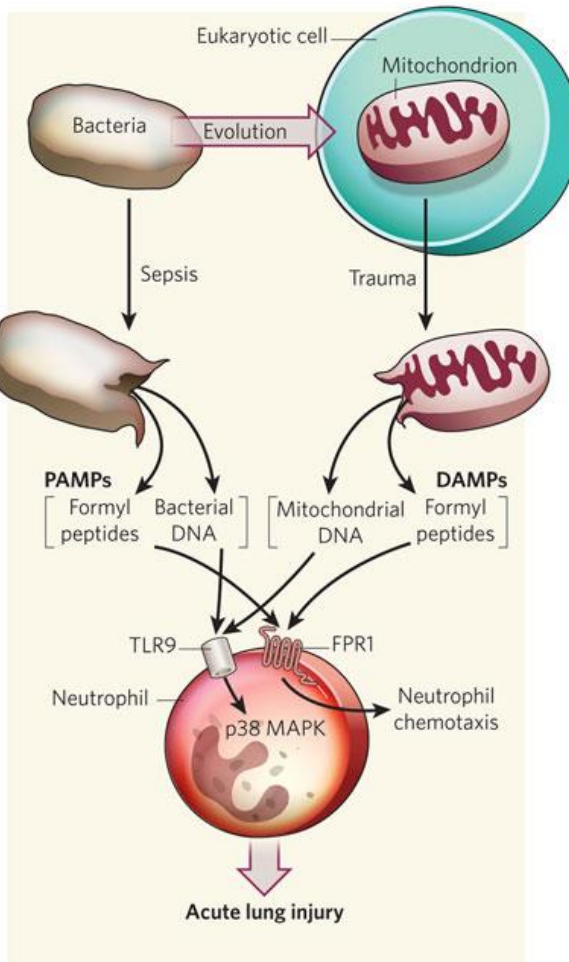
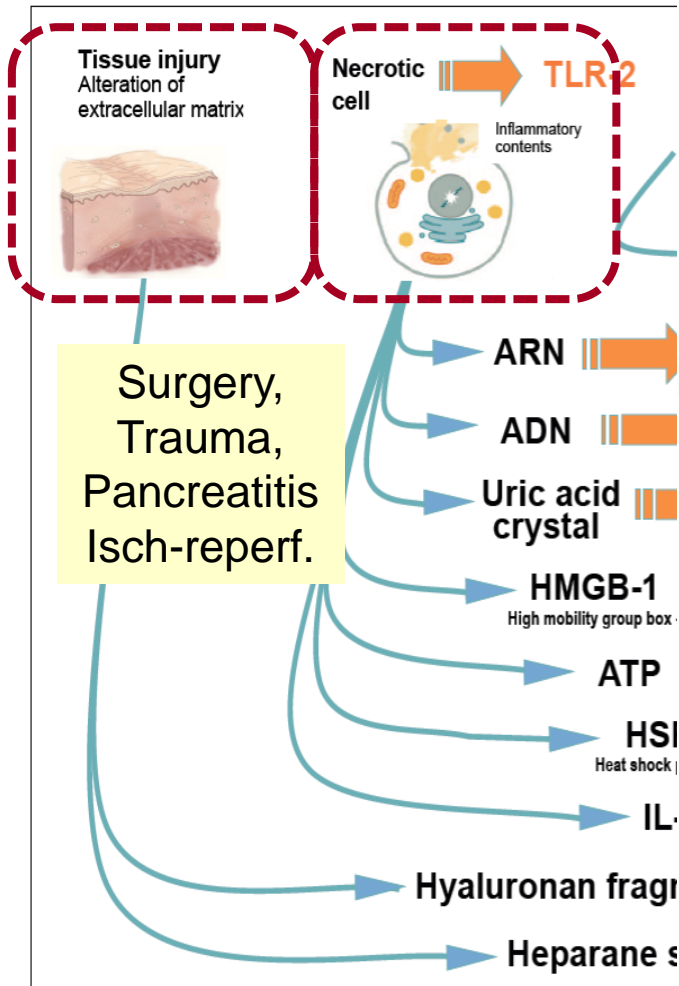
# DAMP = Damage Associated Molecular Pattern

## PAMP = Pathogen Associated Molecular Pattern

„DAMP → SIRS”

versus

„PAMP → SIRS”



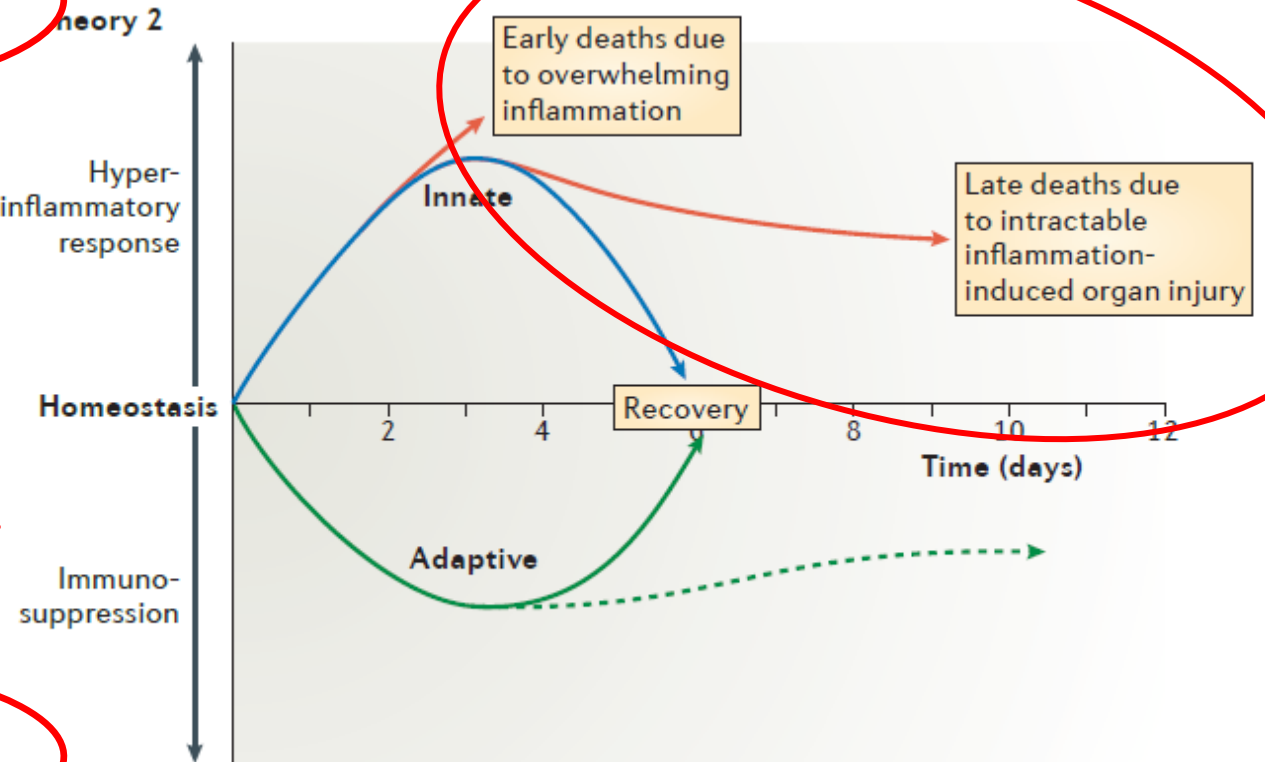


# Sepsis-induced immunosuppression: from cellular dysfunctions to immunotherapy

Richard S. Hotchkiss<sup>1</sup>, Guillaume Monneret<sup>2</sup> and Didier Payen<sup>3</sup>

Nature Reviews | Immunology Volume 13 | December 2013 | 862-874

Pro-inflammation



Anti-inflammation



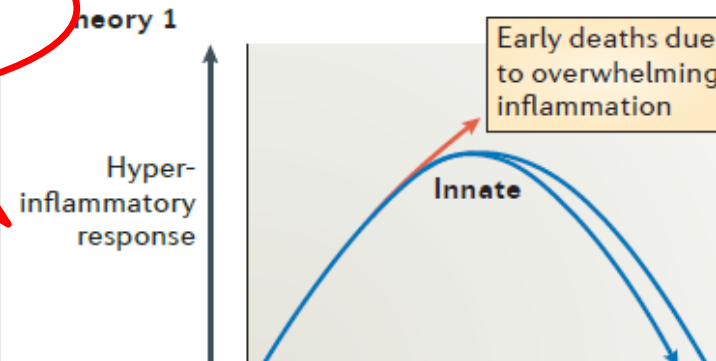


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Pro-inflammation



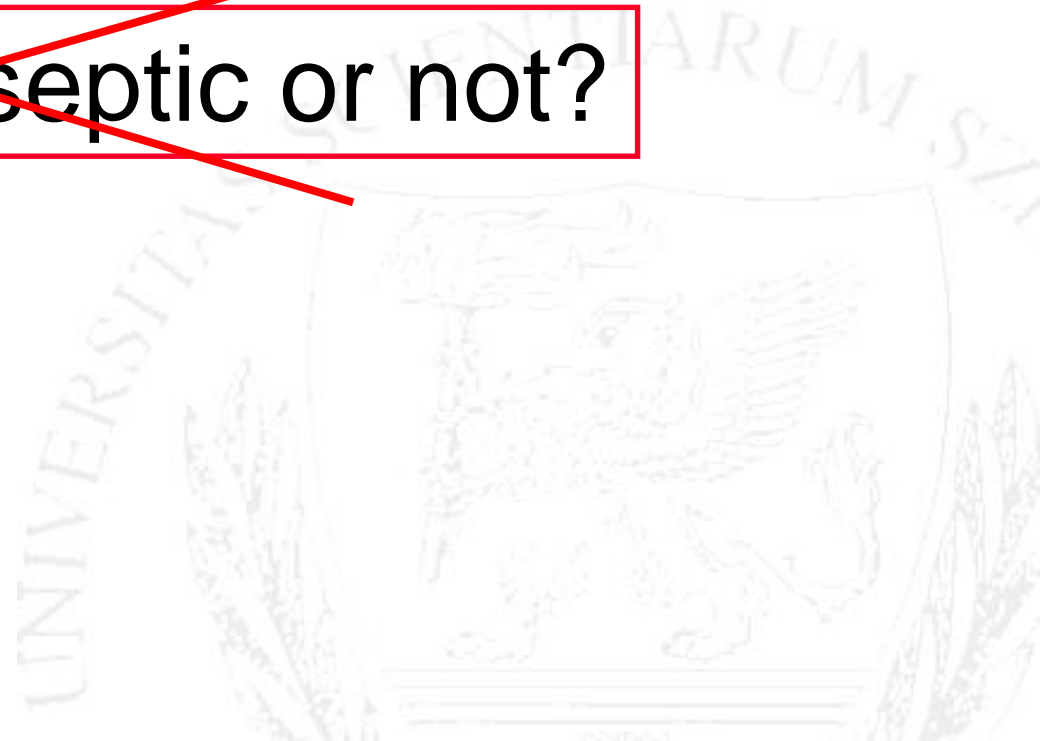
Overwhelming inflammation vs. prolonged immunosuppression: Both can be deadly!

Anti-inflammation

immunosuppression and recurrent infections



~~Is this patient septic or not?~~





**I have never treated „SEPSIS” in my life!  
But...**







Does the patient have **infection** or not?

**Infection = ABs**

**No infection = No ABs**



# Signs of infection

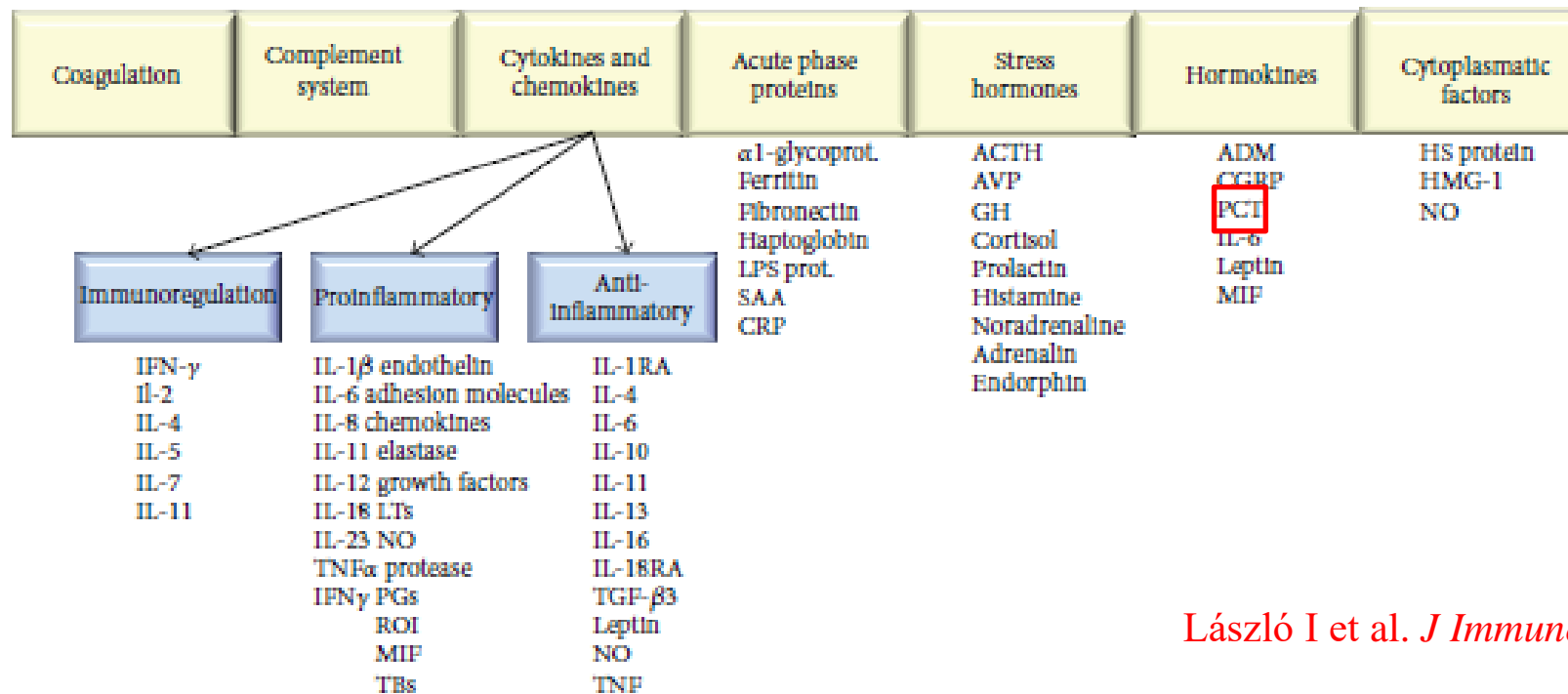
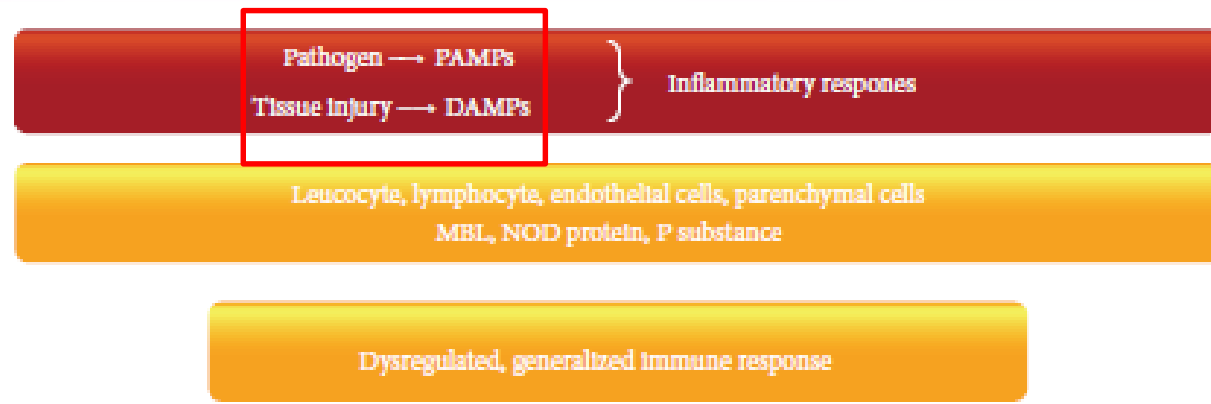
- Clinical signs:
  - Most important
- Fever ( $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), WBC ( $>12\ 000$ ):
  - Low sensitivity ( $\sim 50\%$ )
- Microbiology:
  - Results: 24 hours or more

Not good enough

Pooooor!

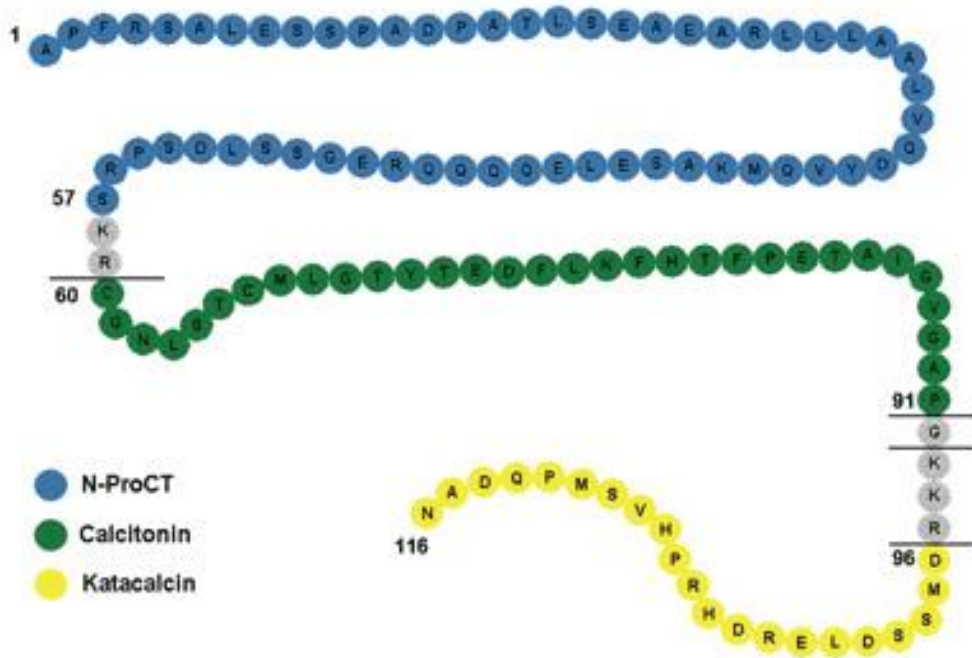
Very late!

Galicier L and Richet H. *Infect Control Hosp*





# Procalcitonin (PCT)



- CD16, CD14 expression
- increases leucocyte-derived cytokins
- effects leucocyte migration
- augments nitric-oxid secretion



# PCT versus CRP

László I et al. *J Immun*

*Research; 2015*

TABLE 1: Comparison of CRP versus PCT (advantages and disadvantages).

	CRP	PCT
Differentiating bacterial infection from SIRS	– [27]	Specific for bacteria [28, 29]
Response to infection	Slower (days) [27]	2–6 hours [30]
Peak response after infection	2-3 days [27]	12–48 hours [27]
Half-life	Several days [27]	20–35 hours [31]
Plasma kinetic	Slow [27]	Rapid [27]
Price	+	++++
Correlating disease severity and progression	Slightly [27]	+++ [32]
Correlating effective therapy	+	+++ [33, 34]
Prognostic factor for mortality	Weak or nonexistent [27]	Good predictor [31, 32]
Differentiating G+ from G–	– [35]	++ [35]
Response to other factors	Virus, autoimmune diseases, local infections, surgery, trauma [27]	Surgery, trauma, burn, cardiogenic shock, liver cirrhosis [36–38]
Fungal infection	same as bacterial [35]	Slightly elevated [35]
Immunosuppression	Formation can be changed [27]	The induction is reduced [27]
Biological effect	Opsonin for phagocytosis [27]	Chemokine [27]
Sensitivity/specificity	Sensitive but nonspecific [27]	Sensitive and specific [27, 39]
General use	Outpatient care [27]	In intensive care [27]



# Differential diagnostic value of procalcitonin in surgical and medical patients with septic shock

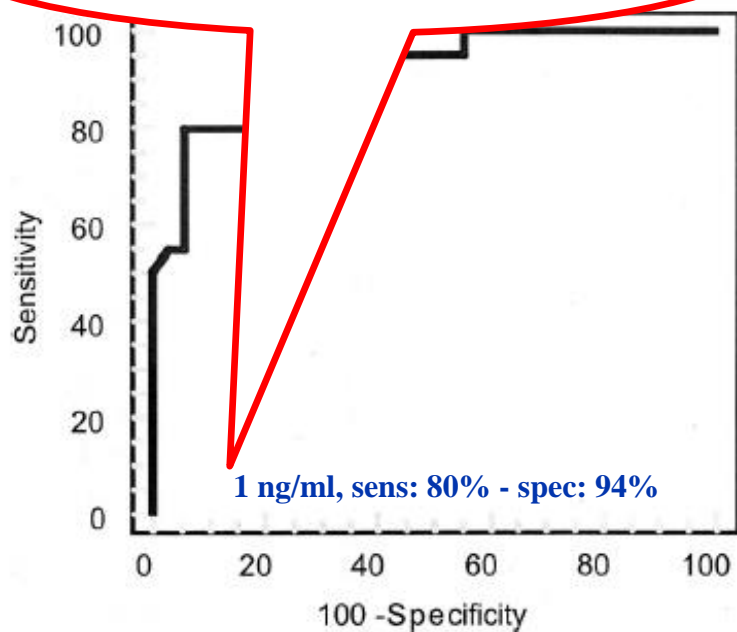
Clec'h et al. *Crit Care Med* 2006; 34:102-107

## Medical patients:

SIRS: PCT = 0.3 (0.1-1.0) ng/ml

Septic shock: PCT = 26.6 (9.6-76.0) ng/ml

PAMP

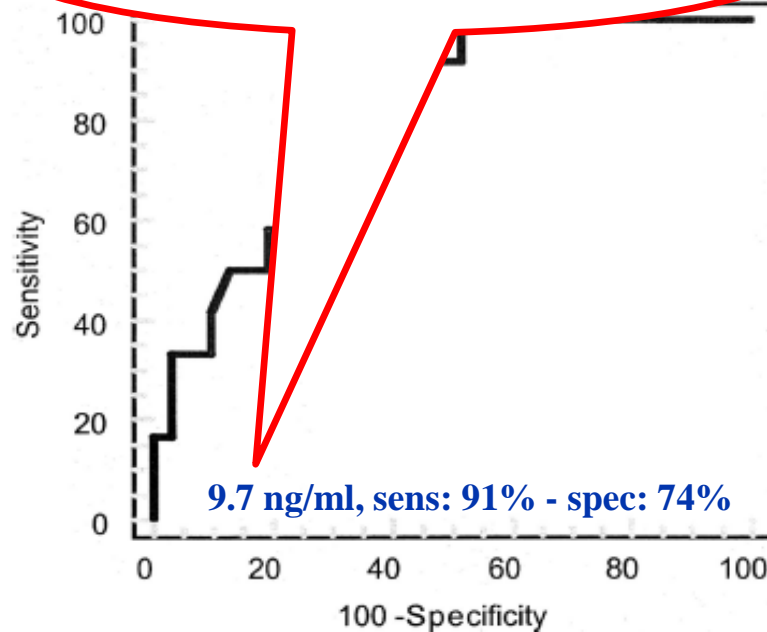


## Surgical patients:

SIRS: PCT = 5.7 (2.6-8.4) ng/ml

Septic shock: PCT = 77.7 (27-76) ng/ml

DAMP+PAMP





# In clinical practice

---

## 61 years old male

- past medical history: unwell for 2 days, cough, yellowish sputum
- fever
- leucocytosis: 4520
- organ dysfunction: respi
- PCT: 1.2 ng/ml

## 47 years old female

- past medical history: breast reconstruction surgery with feeling
- WCC
- PCT: 3.7 ng/ml

Sepsis ≠ homogenous group of patients

*ie*

One size does not fit all



# The diagnostic challenge

- **COLORFUL** manifestation

## RECOGNISING THE SEPTIC PATIENT

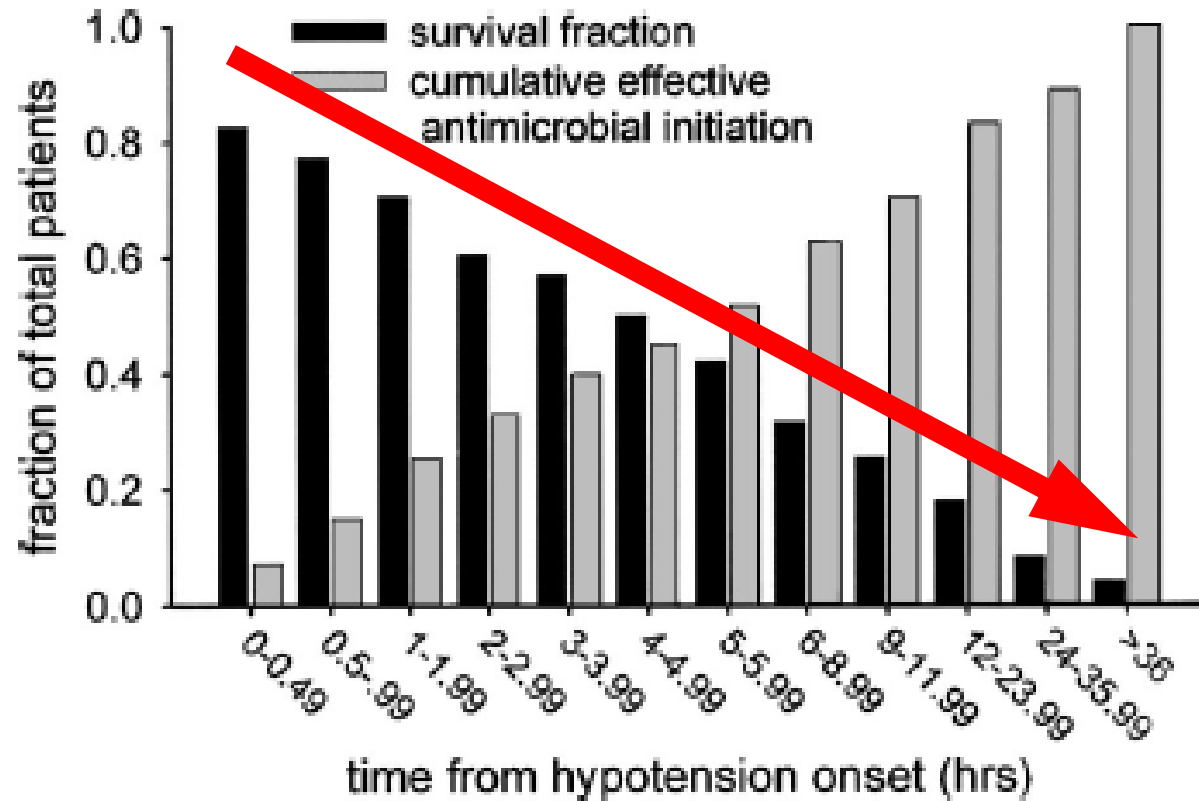


- initiating supportive therapy
- decision making:
  - SIRS or sepsis?
- initiating proper antibiotics





# Delay in antibiotic therapy



Kumar A et al. *Crit Care Med*, 2006



# Optimal antibiotic treatment

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- 30-60 % of antibiotics prescribed on ICUs are:
  - unnecessary
  - inappropriate
  - suboptimal

Luyt CE et al. *Crit Care*, 2014



- dissemination of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms



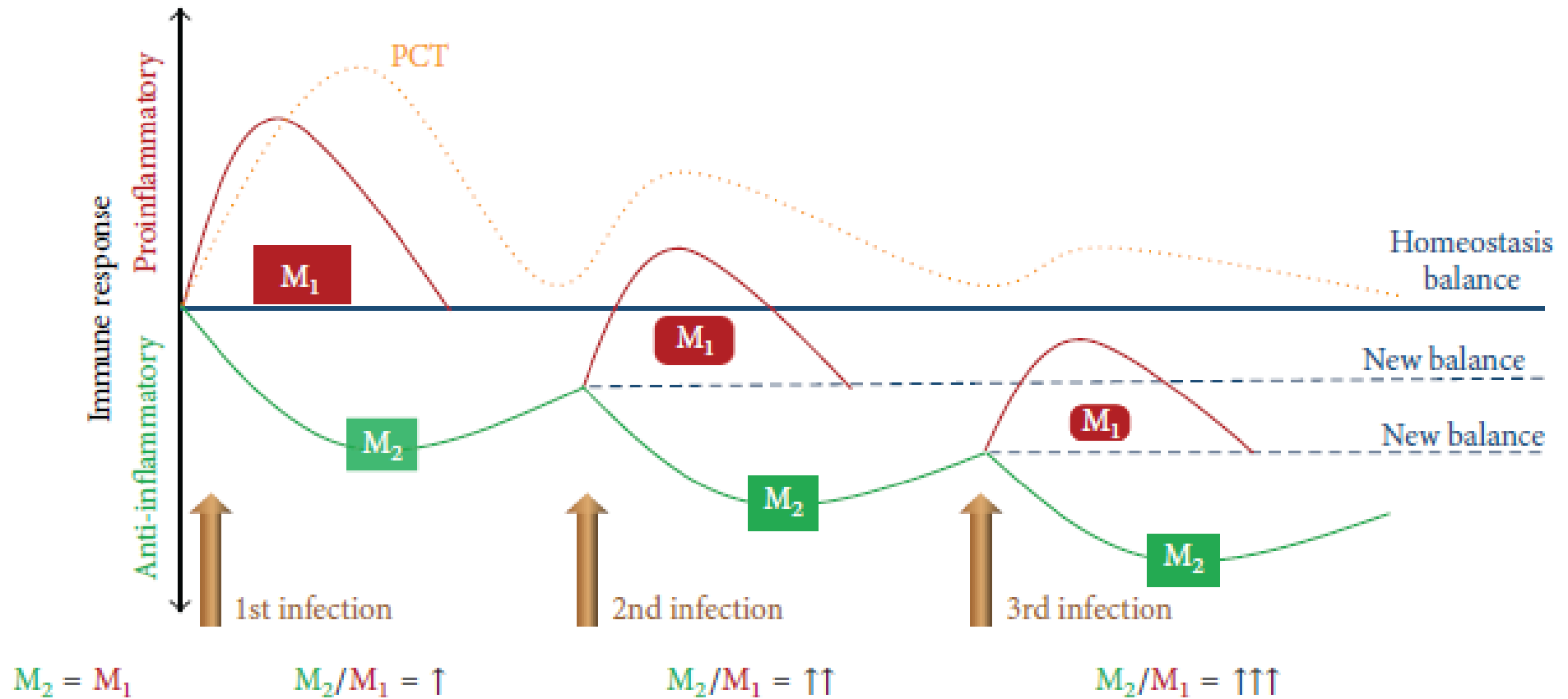
# Questions are

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- Should we initiate antibiotic treatment?
- Is it an appropriate antibiotic?
- For how long should I administer the antibiotic?



# PCT response to consequent infectious insults



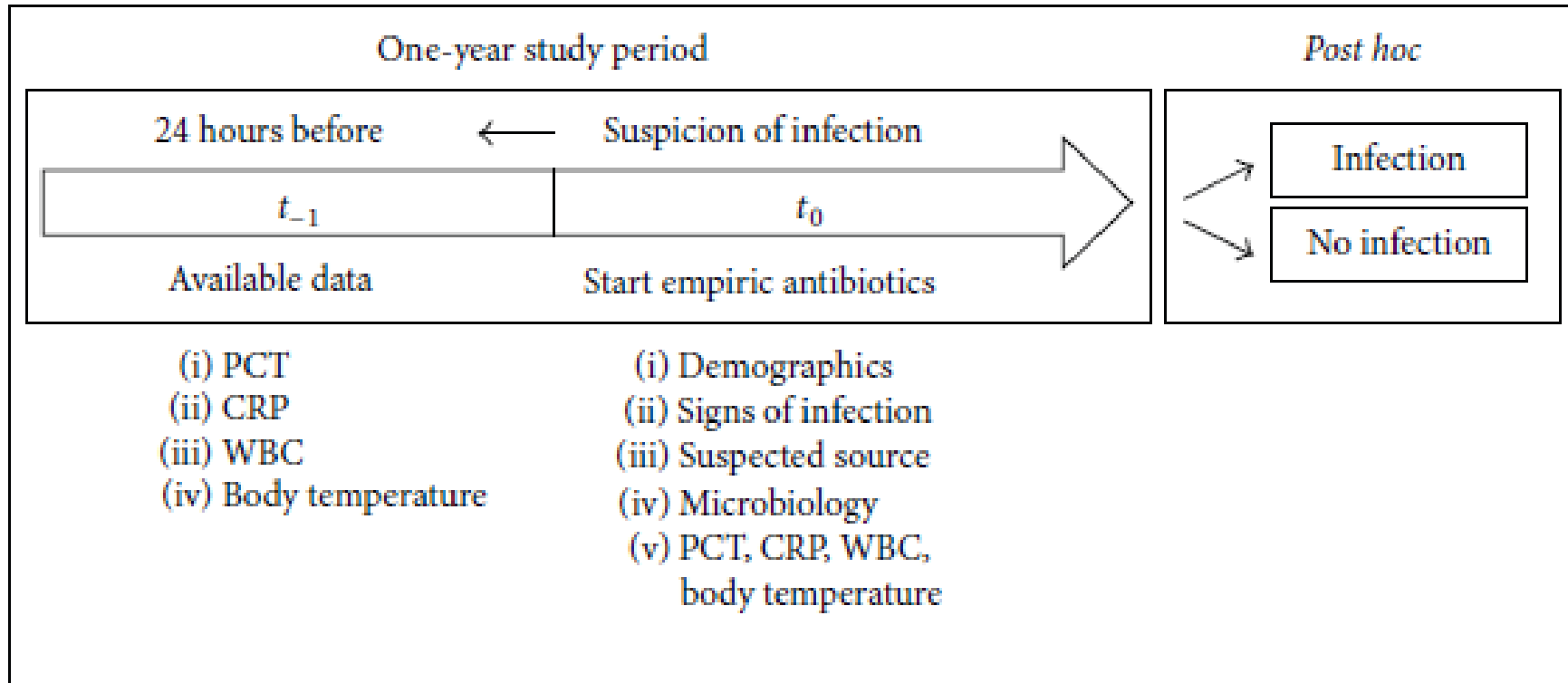
*Research Article*

# **Delta Procalcitonin Is a Better Indicator of Infection Than Absolute Procalcitonin Values in Critically Ill Patients: A Prospective Observational Study**

**Domonkos Trásy,<sup>1</sup> Krisztián Tánczos,<sup>1</sup> Márton Németh,<sup>1</sup>  
Péter Hankovszky,<sup>1</sup> András Lovas,<sup>1</sup> András Mikor,<sup>1</sup> Edit Hajdú,<sup>2</sup>  
Angelika Osztroluczki,<sup>1</sup> János Fazakas,<sup>3</sup> and Zsolt Molnár<sup>1</sup>**



# $\Delta$ PCT as an indicator of infection

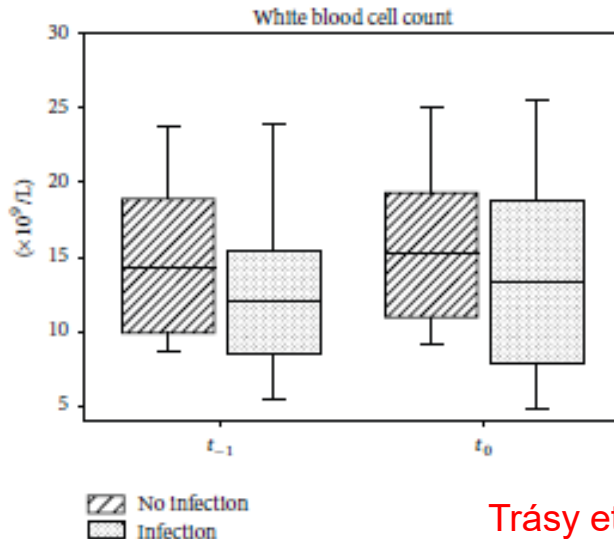
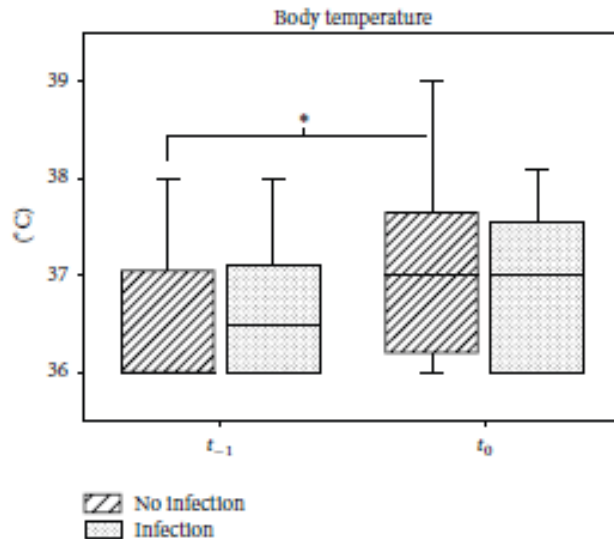
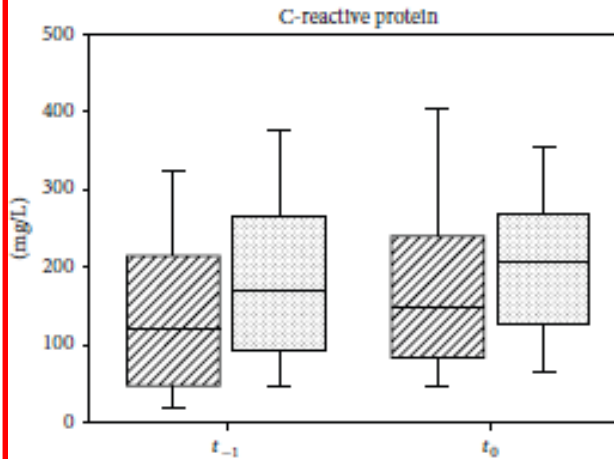
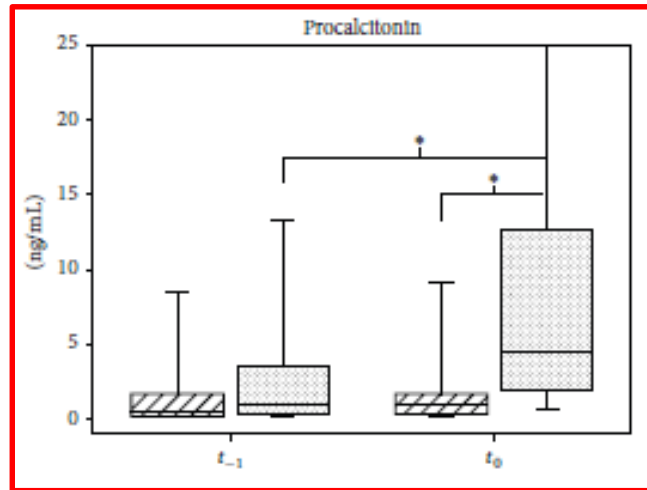


# Demographics of the investigation

	Total <i>n</i> = 114	NI-group <i>n</i> = 29	I-group <i>n</i> = 85	<i>p</i> value
Fever (<36°C; >38°C)	55 (48.2%)	13 (44.8%)	42 (49.4%)	0.670
WBC (>12 or <4 × 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	82 (71.9%)	22 (75.9%)	60 (70.6%)	0.585
Impaired gas exchange	82 (71.9%)	18 (62.1%)	64 (75.3%)	0.171
Impaired consciousness	59 (51.8%)	9 (31.0%)	50 (58.8%)	0.010
Hemodynamic instability	74 (64.9%)	13 (44.8%)	61 (71.8%)	0.009
PCT (ng/mL)	3.37 (9.22)	1.12 (1.36)	4.62 (10.72)	0.018
CRP (mg/L)	182.75 (158.5)	147.60 (156.50)	208.80 (140.60)	0.301

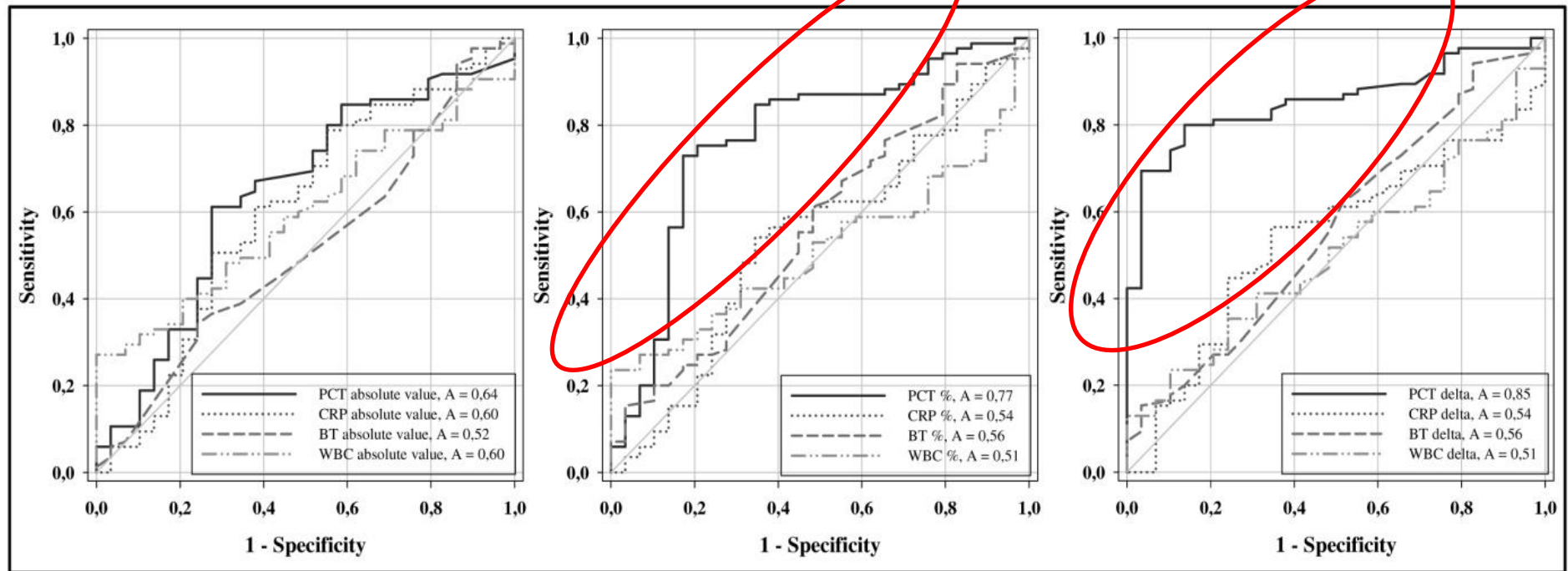


# Absolute values of PCT, CRP, temperature and WCC





# $\Delta$ PCT as an indicator of infection





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Journal of Critical Care

journal homepage: [www.jccjournal.org](http://www.jccjournal.org)



Sepsis/Infection

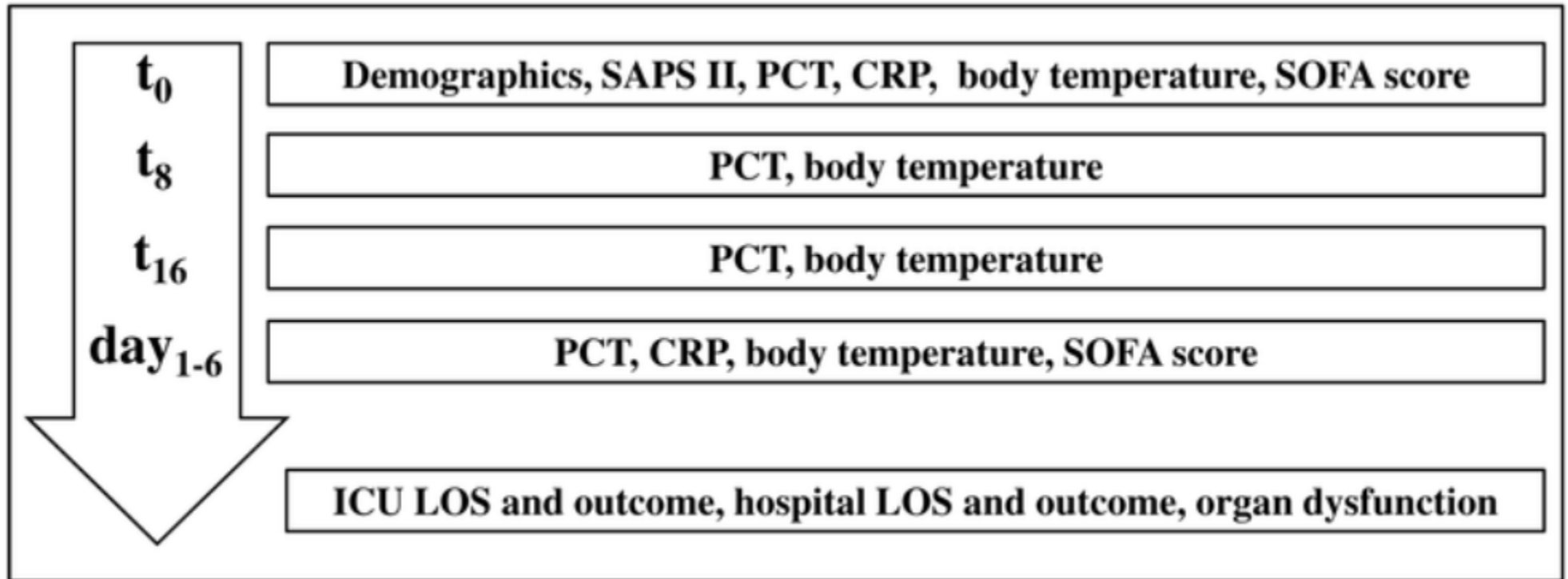
## Early procalcitonin kinetics and appropriateness of empirical antimicrobial therapy in critically ill patients<sup>☆</sup>

### A prospective observational study

Domonkos Trásy, MD<sup>a,\*</sup>, Krisztián Tánzos, MD<sup>a</sup>, Márton Németh, MD<sup>a</sup>, Péter Hankovszky, MD<sup>a</sup>, András Lovas, MD<sup>a</sup>, András Mikor, MD<sup>a</sup>, Ildikó László, MD<sup>a</sup>, Edit Hajdú, MD<sup>b</sup>, Angelika Osztroluczki<sup>a</sup>, János Fazakas, MD<sup>c</sup>, Zsolt Molnár, MD<sup>a</sup> The EProK study group



# Early PCT kinetics may indicate effective empirical antibiotic therapy



# Early PCT kinetics may indicate effective empirical antibiotic therapy

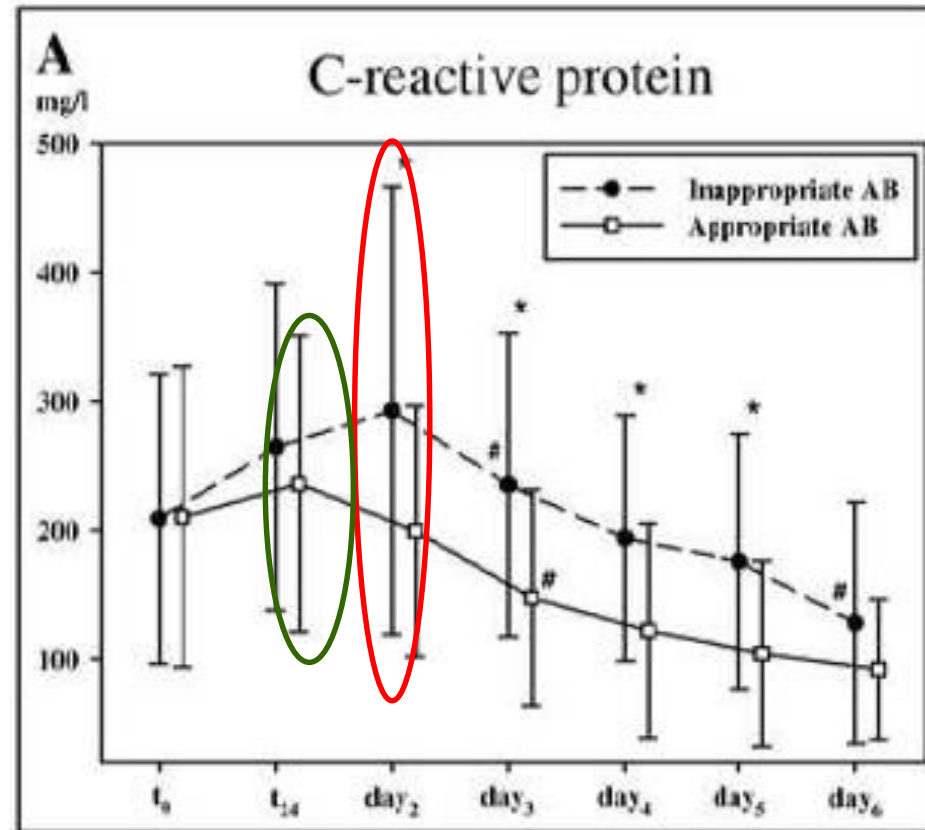
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Best cut-off values to indicate inappropriate antibiotic treatment:

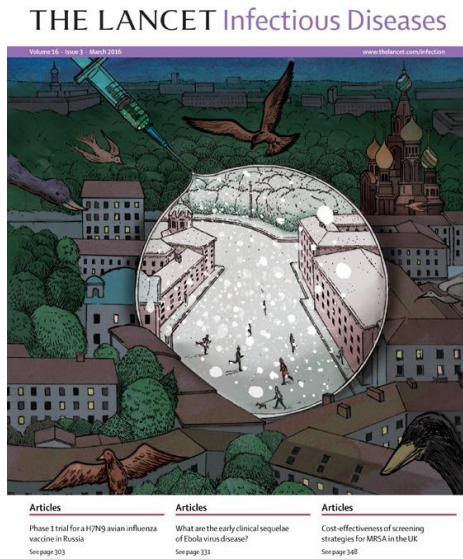
- PCT increase of  $> 55\%$  during the first 16 hours
- PCT increase of  $> 70\%$  during the first 24 hours



# CRP kinetics in the same study

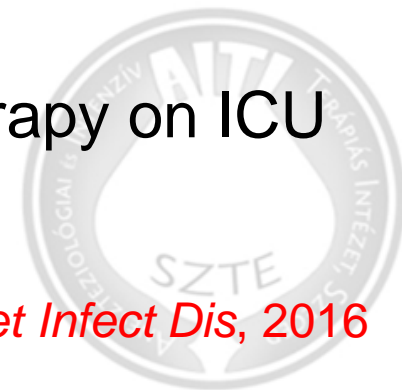


# Efficacy and safety of procalcitonin guidance in reducing the duration of antibiotic treatment in critically ill patients: a randomised, controlled, open-label trial



## Background of the investigation:

- duration of AB treatment is associated with growing resistance
- safety of PCT guided therapy is scarce
- assessment of efficiency and safety of PCT guided AB therapy on ICU



# Efficacy and safety of PCT guiding

---

- satisfactory drop in PCT might help to discontinue AB
- is it a safe practice?
- **Stop Antibiotics on Procalcitonin Guidance Study**
- Study design:
  - 1546 patients
  - stop antibiotics if:
    - PCT decreased by 80%
    - absolute value  $< 0.5 \mu\text{g/L}$



# Results of SAPS I.

	Procalcitonin-guided group (n=761)	Standard-of-care group (n=785)	Between-group absolute difference in means (95% CI)	p value
<b>Antibiotic consumption (days)</b>				
Daily defined doses in first 28 days	7.5 (4.0 to 12.8)	9.3 (5.0 to 16.5)	2.69 (1.26 to 4.12)	<0.0001
Duration of treatment	5.0 (3.0 to 9.0)	7.0 (4.0 to 11.0)	1.22 (0.65 to 1.78)	<0.0001
Antibiotic-free days in first 28 days	7.0 (0.0 to 14.5)	5.0 (0 to 13.0)	1.31 (0.52 to 2.09)	0.0016
<b>Mortality (%)</b>				
28-day mortality	149 (19.6%)	196 (25.0%)	5.4% (1.2 to 9.5)	0.0122
1-year mortality	265 (34.8%)	321 (40.9%)	6.1% (1.2 to 10.9)	0.0158
<b>Adverse events</b>				
Reinfection	38 (5.0)	23 (2.9)	-2.1% (-4.1 to -0.1)	0.0492
Repeated course of antibiotics	175 (23.0)	173 (22.0)	-1.0% (-5.1 to 3.2)	0.67
Time (days) between stop and reinstitution of antibiotics	4.0 (2.0 to 8.0)	4.0 (2.0 to 8.0)	-0.22 (-1.31 to 0.88)	0.96
<b>Costs</b>				
Total cumulative costs of antibiotics	€150 082	€181 263	NA	NA
Median cumulative costs antibiotics per patient	€107 (51 to 229)	€129 (66 to 273)	€33.6 (2.5 to 64.8)	0.0006
<b>Length of stay (days)</b>				
On the intensive care unit	8.5 (5.0 to 17.0)	9.0 (4.0 to 17.0)	-0.21 (-0.92 to 1.60)	0.56
In hospital	22.0 (13.0 to 39.3)	22.0 (12.0 to 40.0)	0.39 (-2.69 to 3.46)	0.77
Data are median (IQR), n (%), or mean (95% CI). Between-group absolute differences were calculated using the mean values, percentage differences, and 95% CIs. NA=not applicable.				
<b>Table 2: Primary and secondary outcome measures</b>				



# Results of SAPS II.

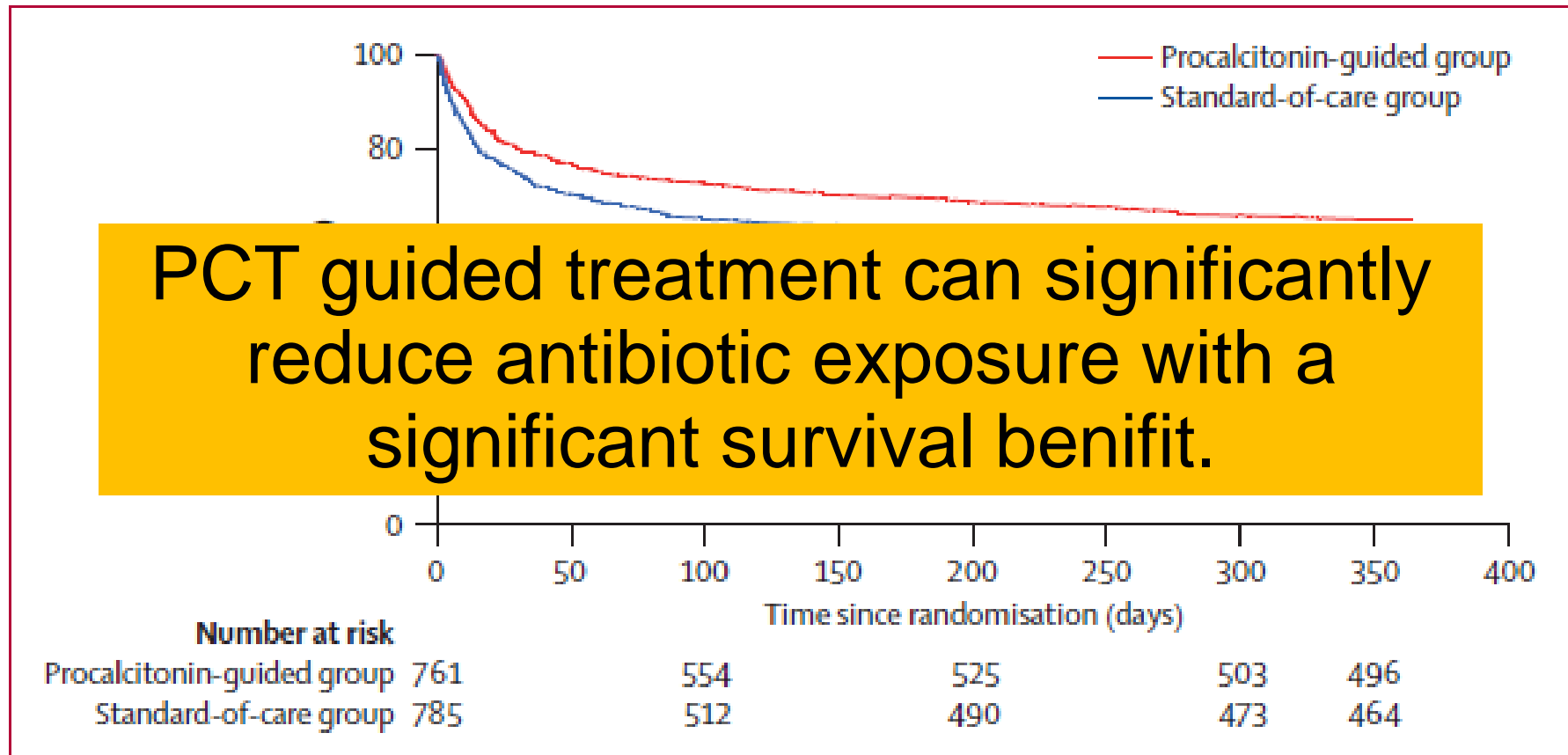


Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier plot for probability of survival from random assignment to day 365, in the modified intention-to-treat population



## Case Report

# Extreme Procalcitonin Elevation without Proven Bacterial Infection Related to Amphetamine Abuse

András Lovas,<sup>1</sup> Zsuzsanna Ágoston,<sup>1</sup> Klára Késmárky,<sup>1,2</sup>  
Péter Hankovszky,<sup>1</sup> and Zsolt Molnár<sup>1</sup>

TABLE 1: Blood chemistry results and their kinetics during stay in intensive care unit.

	Reference range	Day 1	Day 2	Day 4	Day 6	Day 10
PCT (ng/mL)	<0.5	1432	1640	1007	170.6	15.18
CRP (mg/L)	<5	8.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
WCC (cells/ $\mu$ L)	3700–9500	22690	18160	13960	11250	15950
PLT (cells/ $\mu$ L)	143000–332000	340000	204000	120000	115000	405000
INR		1.33	1.61	1.22	n.a.	n/a
LDH (U/L)	<530	2010	4754	7240	5150	n/a
GOT (U/L)	<37	651	2016	4207	1442	n/a
GPT (U/L)	<40	144	384	2016	463	n/a
CK (U/L)	<195	42960	125500	92700	20580	1325
Trop-T ( $\mu$ g/mL)	<0.04	0.117	0.192	n/a	n/a	n/a

PCT: procalcitonin; CRP: C-reactive protein; WCC: white cell count; PLT: platelet count; INR: international normalised ratio; LDH: lactate dehydrogenase; GOT: glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase; GPT: glutamic pyruvic transaminase; CK: creatine kinase; Trop-T: troponin-T.



# Conclusions I

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- Sepsis is NOT a definitive diagnosis
- New definitions of sepsis approximates us to the underlying pathophysiology
- Rather the response of the body than the infection on its own causes the harm
- There is grave overlap between response to infection and sterile cell injury



# Conclusions II

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- Biomarkers can help us in decision making
- PCT has high sensitivity and specificity

**Nothing will ever replace the well trained, experienced, thinking human**

# Conclusions III.

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- Defining and diagnosing sepsis are challenges
- Overlapping pathomechanism in sepsis and SIRS (DAMP, PAMP)
- Initiating adequate empiric antibiotic treatment in time is crucial



# Conclusions IV.

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- PCT can help the decision making
- Early PCT kinetics may indicate effective empirical antibiotic therapy
- PCT kinetics can be useful in the cessation of antibiotic treatment



# Thank you for your attention

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