

Sepsis as an Indication for Surgery

Did you know?

Many of the patients admitted through your emergency department and taken to the operating room actually meet criteria for *sepsis*

Example:

- Patient comes to the ED complaining of severe LLQ pain and fever
- CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis reveals extensive, acute sigmoid diverticulitis with perforation as evidenced by free air in the peritoneum
- The patient is taken emergently to the O.R. for partial sigmoid colectomy with colostomy formation
- The patient's clinical condition at the time of admission calculated to a **SOFA** score of 3
- The first diagnosis written in the chart should be **sepsis**
 - Please do not forget to think about sepsis in patients presenting with cholecystitis, appendicitis, diverticulitis, intra-abdominal abscesses, enterocutaneous fistulas, etc.
 - Please also remember to document **peritonitis** in patients who display rebound and/or guarding on physical exam

**Your patients are probably sicker than you think.
GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE!**

Table 1. Sequential [Sepsis-Related] Organ Failure Assessment Score^a

System	Score				
	0	1	2	3	4
Respiration					
PaO ₂ /Fio ₂ , mm Hg (kPa)	≥400 (53.3)	<400 (53.3)	<300 (40)	<200 (26.7) with respiratory support	<100 (13.3) with respiratory support
Coagulation					
Platelets, ×10 ³ /μL	≥150	<150	<100	<50	<20
Liver					
Bilirubin, mg/dL (μmol/L)	<1.2 (20)	1.2-1.9 (20-32)	2.0-5.9 (33-101)	6.0-11.9 (102-204)	>12.0 (204)
Cardiovascular					
MAP ≥70 mm Hg	MAP <70 mm Hg	Dopamine <5 or dobutamine (any dose) ^b	Dopamine 5.1-15 or epinephrine ≤0.1 or norepinephrine ≤0.1 ^b	Dopamine >15 or epinephrine >0.1 or norepinephrine >0.1 ^b	
Central nervous system					
Glasgow Coma Scale score ^c	15	13-14	10-12	6-9	<6
Renal					
Creatinine, mg/dL (μmol/L)	<1.2 (110)	1.2-1.9 (110-170)	2.0-3.4 (171-299)	3.5-4.9 (300-440)	>5.0 (440)
Urine output, mL/d				<500	<200

Abbreviations: Fio₂, fraction of inspired oxygen; MAP, mean arterial pressure; PaO₂, partial pressure of oxygen.

^a Adapted from Vincent et al.²⁷

^b Catecholamine doses are given as μg/kg/min for at least 1 hour.

^c Glasgow Coma Scale scores range from 3-15; higher score indicates better neurological function.