Sepsis – recognition & management
AIMS

- Facts & figures
- Sepsis 3 definitions.
- At risk groups
- Screening tools to aid recognition
- Red / Amber flag criteria
- Sepsis six pathway.
Facts

- Uk mortality rate for patients admitted with sepsis is 30%-5 times higher than ST elevation, MI, stroke.
- Sepsis is a life-threatening condition arising when the body's abnormal, or 'dysregulated', immune response to an infection causes organs to begin to fail. Sepsis can be triggered by any infection, but most commonly occurs in response to bacterial infections of the lungs, urinary tract, abdominal organs or skin and soft tissues.
- Approximately 44,000 deaths in the UK – 150,000 admissions
- Sepsis is currently the leading cause of direct maternal death in the United Kingdom.
- Sepsis is time critical. In severe cases / septic shock for every hour antibiotic administration delayed 8% mortality increase.
- The key immediate interventions that increase survival are described in a bundle termed the Sepsis Six. This bundle has been shown to be associated with significant mortality reductions when applied within the first hour.
Sepsis 3 definition -2016

- **INFECTION** – a pathological process caused by invasion of a normally sterile tissue or body cavity by pathogenic or potentially pathogenic micro organisms

- **SEPSIS** – is life threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection.

- Organ dysfunction signs:
  - Systolic Bp < 90 mmHg or mean BP<70mmHg
  - New or increased oxygen requirements to maintain SP02> 90%
  - Creatinine > 177 ummols or urine output < 0.5mls/kg for 2hrs despite adequate fluid resuscitation
  - Coagulopathy with INR > 1.5 (and not on anticoagulants)
  - Bilirubin > 34umol/l
  - Platelets < 100,000/mm
  - Lactate > 2mmols
• **SEPTIC SHOCK** – is a sub-set of sepsis in which underlying circulatory and cellular metabolic abnormalities are profound enough to substantially increase mortality

• Identifying septic shock:
  • use the clinical criteria of hypotension requiring the use of vassopressors to maintain a mean BP of 65mmHg or more and having a lactate level of > 2mmols/l persisting after adequate fluid resuscitation.
Risk groups

- Women who are pregnant or who have recently been pregnant (including where the pregnancy did not result in delivery of a live baby) approximately 50% higher risk than non-pregnant individuals of similar age.
- Any woman who is pregnant, has miscarried or aborted, or who has delivered a child is at risk of developing maternal or postpartum sepsis. However, some women do have a higher risk than do others. This includes women who have a history of congestive heart failure, liver disease, or lupus, Women who may be more prone to getting an infection, which can lead to sepsis, are those:
  - With diabetes
  - Who undergo invasive procedures to help them get pregnant
  - Who undergo invasive tests during pregnancy
THINK SEPSIS

• **Miscarriages (spontaneous abortions) or induced abortions:** Infections are a risk after any miscarriage or abortion. Non-sterile abortions, those that may be done outside of a healthcare facility, are a particular risk. Women who have had one should watch for signs and symptoms of an infection (lasting or increasing pain, discoloured or odorous (smelly) discharge, abdominal tenderness, high temperature, fatigue, feeling unwell).

• **Caesarean sections:** Sepsis can develop after any type of surgery. Caesarean sections are major abdominal surgeries with all the associated risks. **Prolonged or obstructed labour:** An unusually long time of labour or labour that stops progressing.

• **Ruptured membranes:** The longer the period between the “water breaking” and the baby’s birth, the higher the chance of an infection.
• **Infection following vaginal delivery**: Although not common in the developed world among women who give birth in healthcare facilities, infections are very common in the developing world.

• **Mastitis**: Infection in the breasts can trigger sepsis.

• **Viral or Bacterial Illnesses**: Any illness that raises the risk of sepsis in the general population will do so in pregnant women as well.

• **ASK YOURSELF “COULD THIS BE SEPSIS”**
Screening tools to aid recognition-SIRS out

- **SIRS**
  - Temp below 36.0°C or above 38.3°C
  - Heart rate over 90 beats per minute
  - Respiratory rate over 20 breaths per minute
  - Acute confusion, delirium, reduced consciousness
  - White cell count below 4.0 or over 12.0
  - Glucose over 7.7 (in non-diabetic patients)

- **Red(High) & Amber(moderate) flags.**
Obstetric EWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physiological parameter</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respiration rate (per minute)</td>
<td>≤8</td>
<td>9–11</td>
<td>12–20</td>
<td></td>
<td>21–24</td>
<td>≥25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpO₂ Scale 1 (%)</td>
<td>≤91</td>
<td>92–93</td>
<td>94–95</td>
<td>≥96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SpO₂ Scale 2 (%)</td>
<td>≤83</td>
<td>84–85</td>
<td>86–87</td>
<td>88–92</td>
<td>≥93 on air</td>
<td>93–94 on oxygen</td>
<td>95–96 on oxygen</td>
<td>≥97 on oxygen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air or oxygen?</td>
<td>Oxygen</td>
<td>Air</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)</td>
<td>≤90</td>
<td>91–100</td>
<td>101–110</td>
<td>111–219</td>
<td></td>
<td>≥220</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse (per minute)</td>
<td>≤40</td>
<td>41–50</td>
<td>51–90</td>
<td>91–110</td>
<td>111–130</td>
<td>≥131</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consciousness</td>
<td>Alert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature (°C)</td>
<td>≤35.0</td>
<td>35.1–36.0</td>
<td>36.1–38.0</td>
<td>38.1–39.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>≥39.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Is **ONE** maternal Red Flag present?

- Responds only to voice or pain/ unresponsive
- Systolic B.P \(\leq 90\) mmHg (or drop \(>40\) from normal)
- Heart rate \(>130\) per minute
- Respiratory rate \(\geq 25\) per minute
- Needs oxygen to keep \(\text{SpO}_2\) \(\geq 92\%\)
- Non-blanching rash, mottled/ ashen/ cyanotic
- Not passed urine in last 18 hours
- Urine output less than 0.5 ml/kg/hr
- Lactate \(\geq 2\) mmol/l

*(note: lactate may be raised in & immediately after normal labour & delivery)*
4. Any Maternal Amber Flag criteria?

- Relatives concerned about mental status
- Acute deterioration in functional ability
- Respiratory rate 21-24 OR breathing hard
- Heart rate 100-130 OR new arrhythmia
- Systolic B.P 91-100 mmHg
- Not passed urine in last 12-18 hours
- Temperature < 36°C
- Immunosuppressed/ diabetes/ gestational diabetes
- Has had invasive procedure in last 6 weeks (e.g. CS, forceps delivery, ERPC, cerclage, CVs, miscarriage, termination)
- Prolonged rupture of membranes
- Close contact with GAS
- Bleeding/ wound infection/ vaginal discharge
- Non-reassuring CTG/ fetal tachycardia >160
## Sepsis Six

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action (complete ALL within 1 hour)</th>
<th>Reason not done/variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Administer oxygen</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aim to keep saturations &gt; 94%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Take blood cultures</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least a peripheral set. Consider e.g. urine, sputum, vaginal swabs, breast milk culture, throat swab. Think source control &amp; timing of delivery of baby start OCT?</td>
<td>Time complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Give IV antibiotics</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>According to Trust protocol. Consider allergies prior to administration</td>
<td>Time complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4. Give IV fluids</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>If hypotensive/lactate &gt;2mmol/l 500ml stat (can repeat up to 30ml/kg). Ask doctor regarding fluids if not hypotensive and lactate normal. Ask Anaesthetist regarding fluids if patient has pre-eclampsia</td>
<td>Time complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Check serial lactates</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corroborate high VBG lactate with arterial sample. If lactate &gt;4mmol/l, call Critical Care and redose after each 10ml/kg challenge</td>
<td>Time complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
<td>Not applicable - initial lactate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Measure urine output</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May require urinary catheter. Ensure fluid balance chart commenced &amp; completed hourly</td>
<td>Time complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

• Think sepsis
• Suspect anyone with history of infection
• High risk groups of patients
• Use screening tools
• Red flag sepsis – sepsis 6 within 1 hr
• Amber flags – clinical decision made within 3 hrs

NICE GUIDELINES NG51  https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng51
UK sepsis trust -resources education clinical toolkits. https://sepsistrust.org