



Faculty of  
Health Sciences

Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe  
Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo



WFICC  
WORLD FEDERATION OF  
INTENSIVE AND CRITICAL CARE

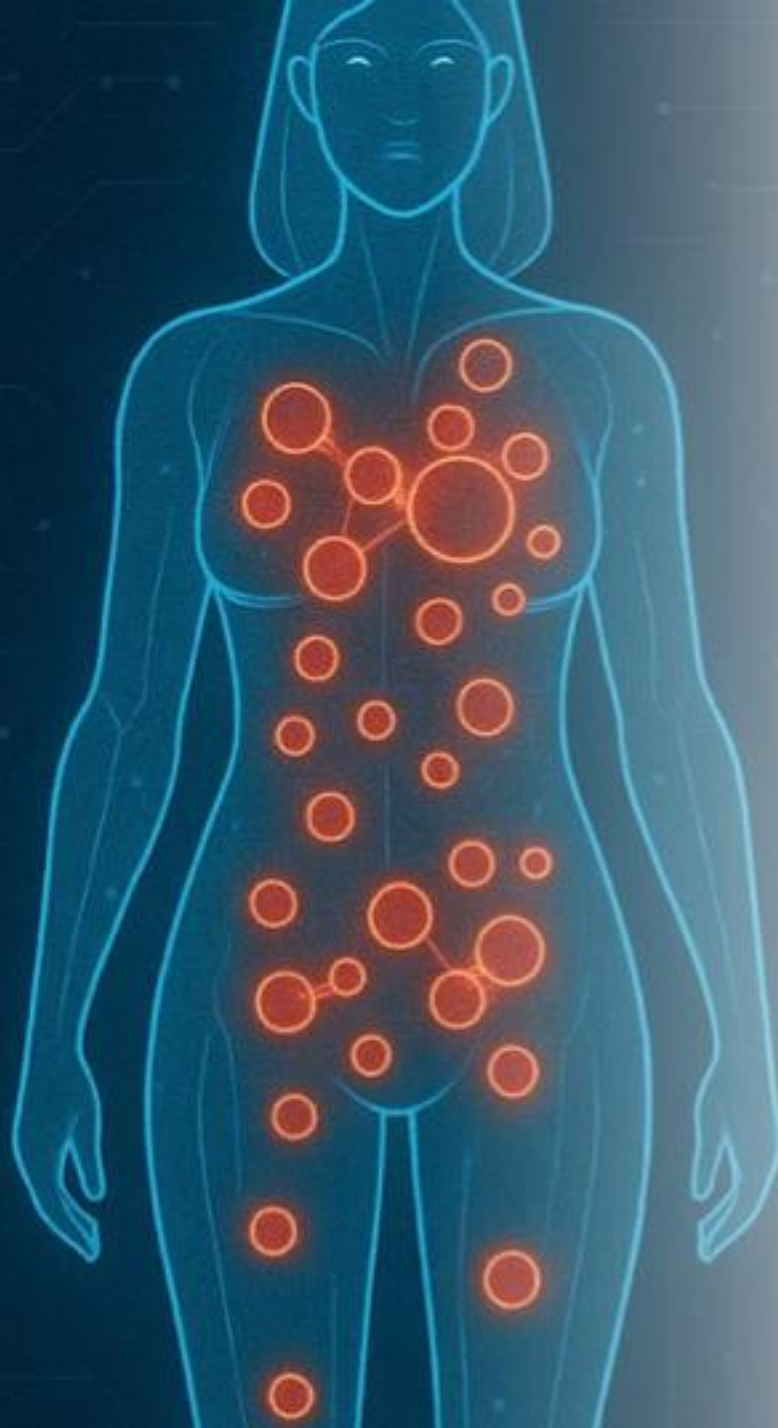


## PCT Informing Antimicrobial Stewardship

Fathima Paruk, PhD, Head of Dept: Critical Care and Emergency Medicine ,University of Pretoria

# Sepsis

(Severe Infection  
resulting in  
organ  
dysfunction)



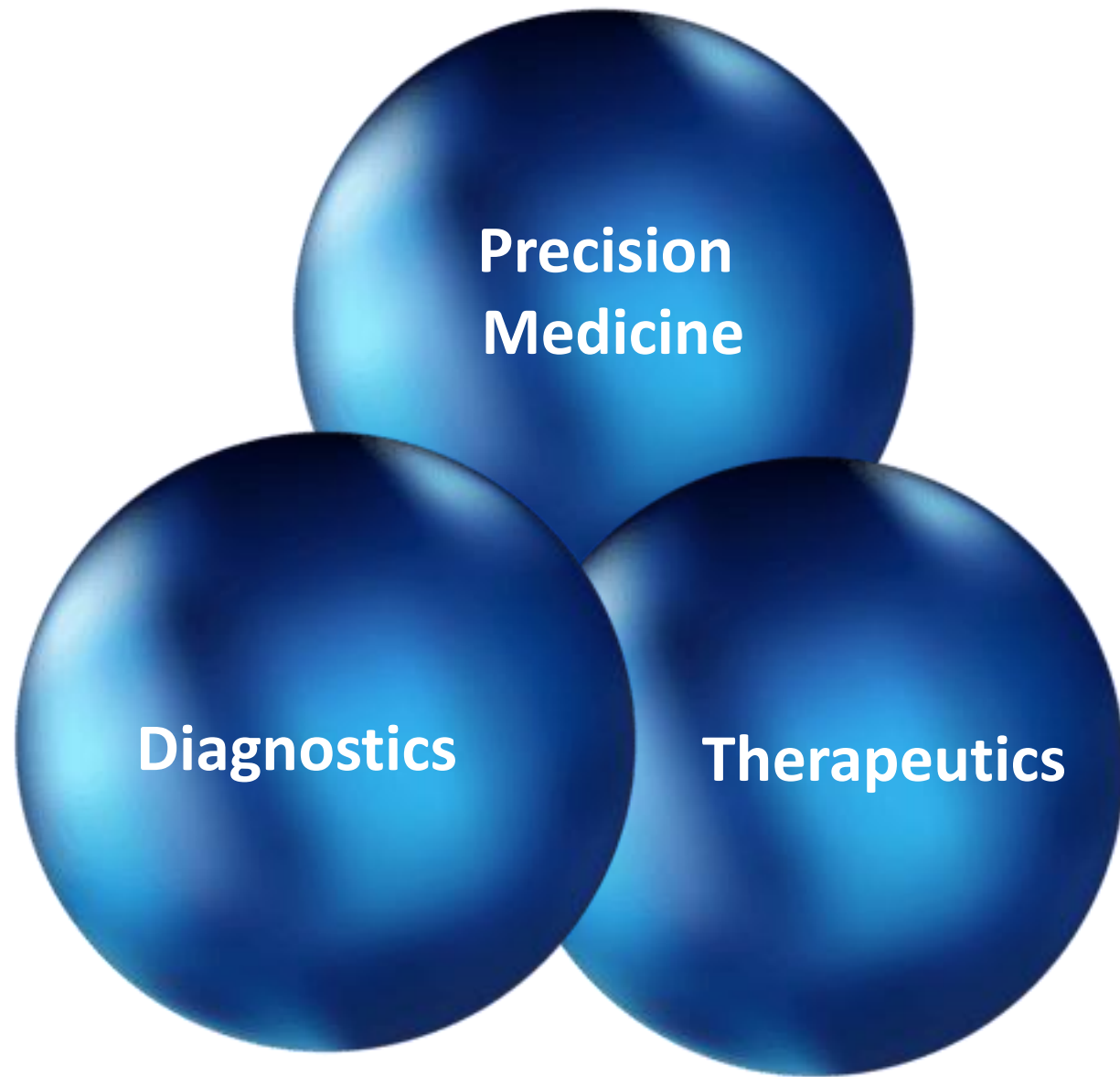
47 million cases a year

Mortality: 20-40%

11 million deaths globally

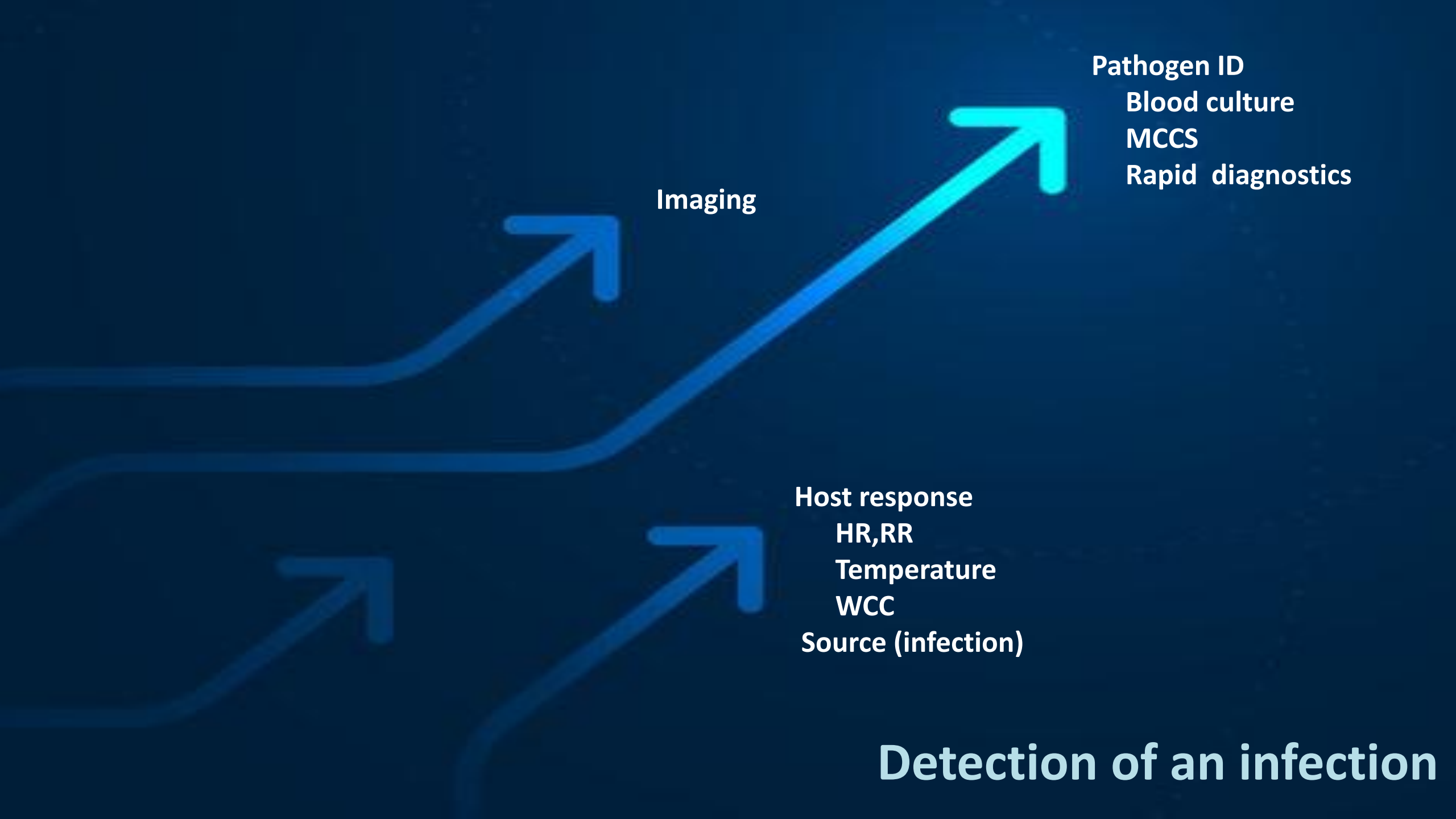
90% of deaths in  
developing countries

Antimicrobial resistance  
Diagnostic uncertainty  
Antimicrobial overuse



## Diagnostics

- Right time (Initiate)
- Right duration (discontinue)
- Monitor (response)

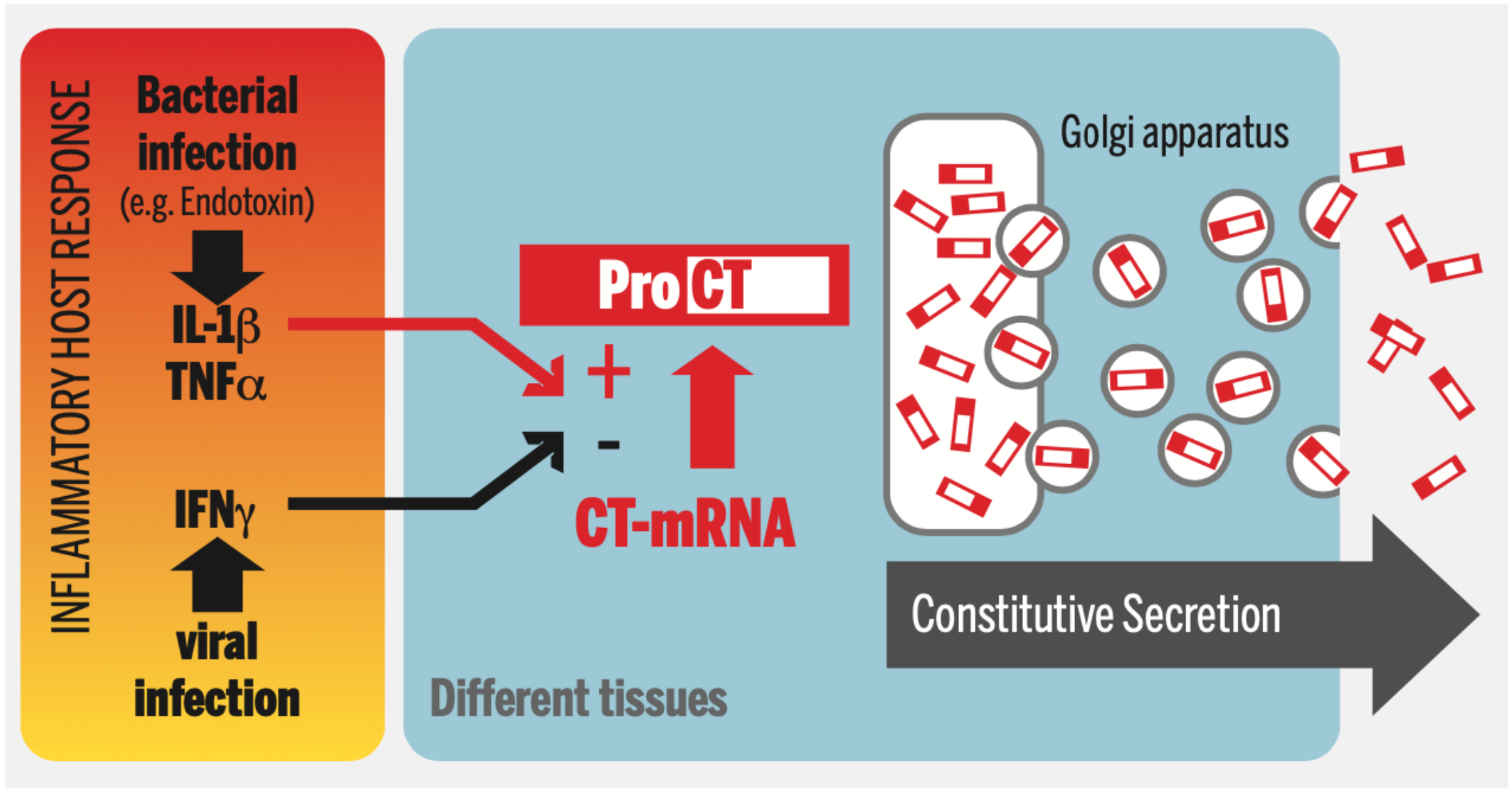




**Biomarkers**

C reactive protein (CRP)  
Procalcitonin (PCT)

**Detection of an infection**



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

JAMA. 2016;315(8):801-810. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.0287

Monyn Singar, MD, FRCP; Clifford S. Deutschman, MD, MS; Christopher Warren Seymour, MD, MSc; Manu Shankar-Hari, MSc, MD, FFICM;

Sepsis

**INFECTION**



**SOFA Score**  
↑ by ≥ 2 points

Sepsis - Septic shock  
Mortality 20 - 40%

Sequential [Sepsis-Related] Organ Failure Assessment Score

System	Score	0	1	2	3	4
<b>RESPIRATION</b>						
PaO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> , mm Hg		>40 (53.3)	<40 (53.3)	<30 (40)	<20 (26.7) with respiratory support	<10 (13.3) with respiratory support
SpO <sub>2</sub>		>92	<92	<88	<85 with respiratory support	<80 with respiratory support
<b>COAGULATION</b>						
Prothrombin, s/PT/aPTT		<150	<150	<100	<80	<70
<b>LABOR</b>						
Bilirubin, mg/dL (μmol/L)		<1.2 (20)	1.2-1.9 (20-32)	2.0-2.9 (33-101)	3.0-11.0 (50-180)	>12 (206)
Cardiovascular		MAP ≥75 mm Hg	MAP ≥75 mm Hg	Discontinue ≤1 or dobutamine (any dose)	Discontinue ≤1-15 or epinephrine ≤1 or norepinephrine ≤0.1	Discontinue ≤1 or norepinephrine ≤0.1
<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM</b>						
Glasgow Coma Scale score		15	13-14	10-12	6-9	<6
<b>RENAL</b>						
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/h		>0.5	>0.5	>0.5	<0.5	<0.5

Septic Shock

**INFECTION**

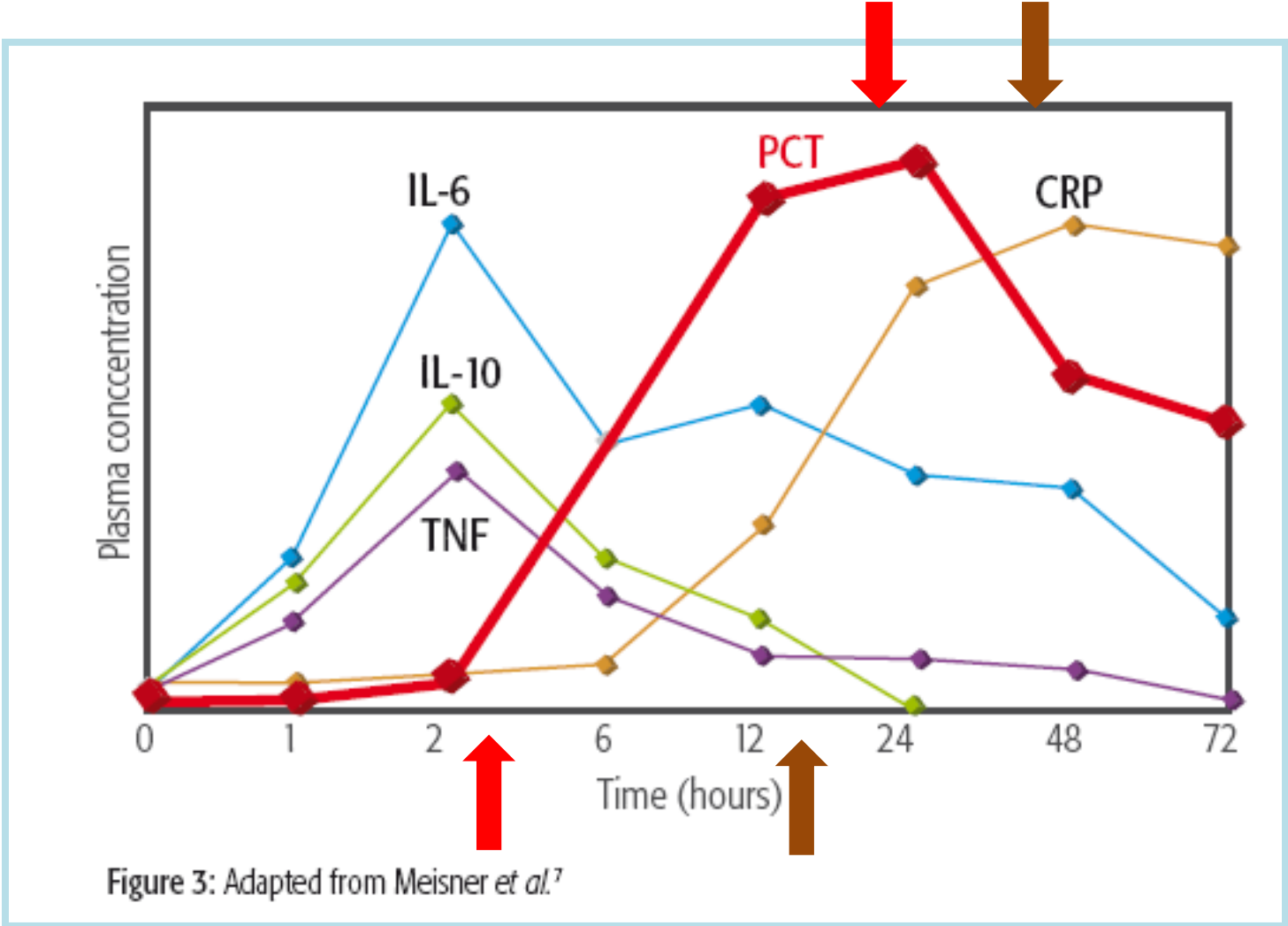


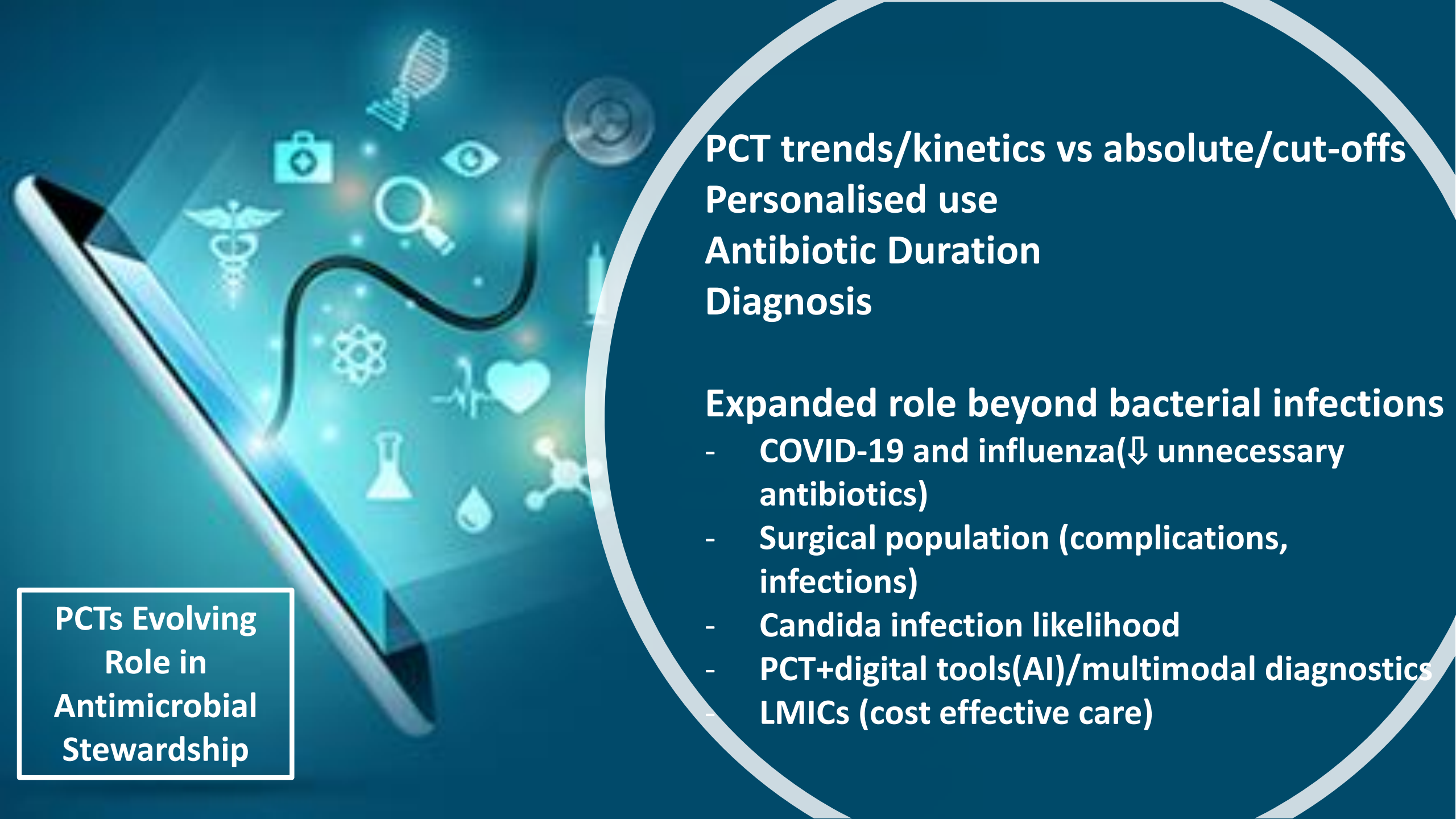
**SOFA Score**  
↑ by ≥ 2 points

with

- Hypotension requiring vasopressors to keep MAP > 65mmHg
- Lactate >2mmol/L with adequate volume resuscitation

# Biomarker response to an infection



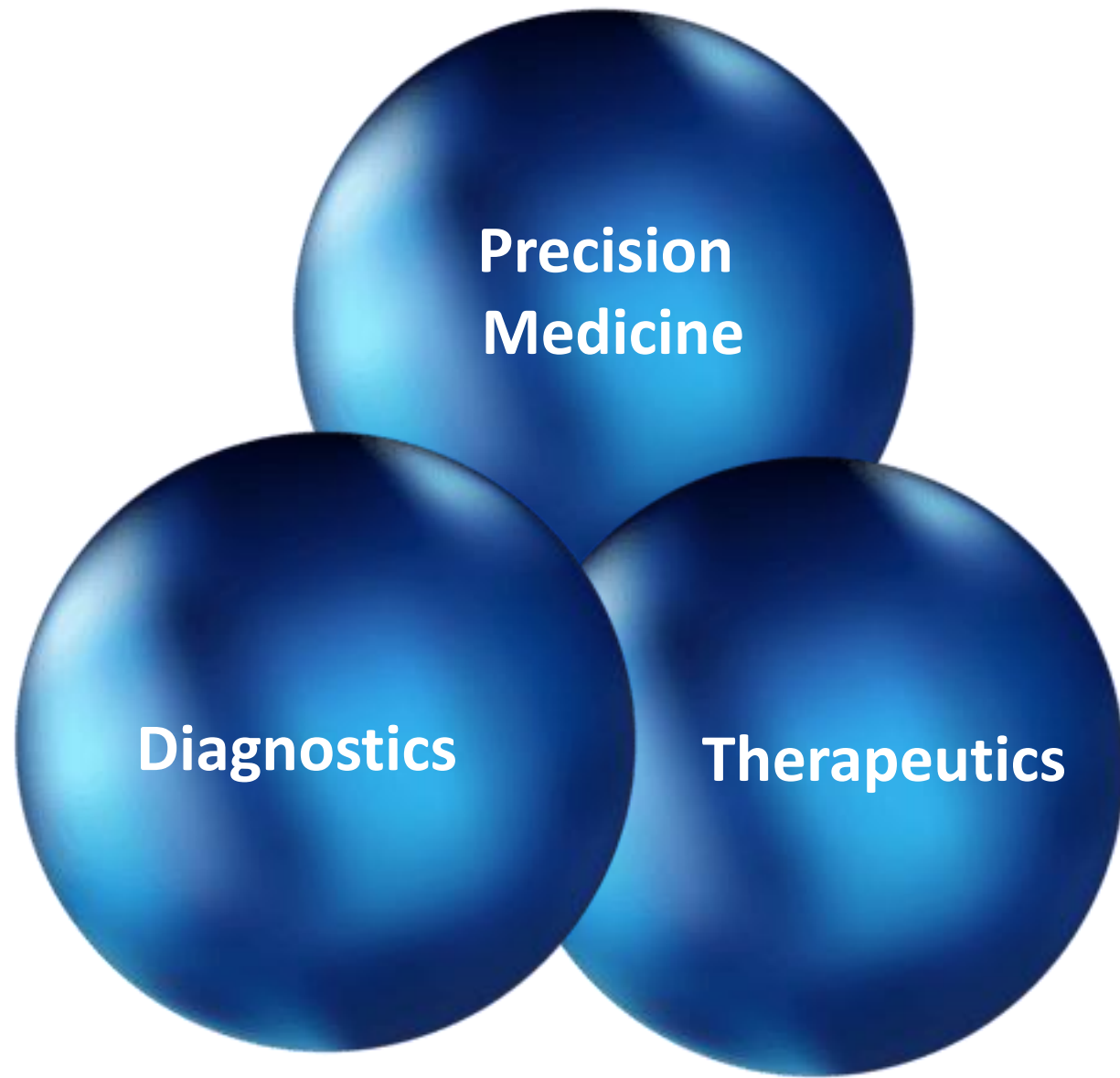


**PCTs Evolving  
Role in  
Antimicrobial  
Stewardship**

**PCT trends/kinetics vs absolute/cut-offs**  
**Personalised use**  
**Antibiotic Duration**  
**Diagnosis**

**Expanded role beyond bacterial infections**

- **COVID-19 and influenza(↓ unnecessary antibiotics)**
- **Surgical population (complications, infections)**
- **Candida infection likelihood**
- **PCT+digital tools(AI)/multimodal diagnostics**
- **LMICs (cost effective care)**

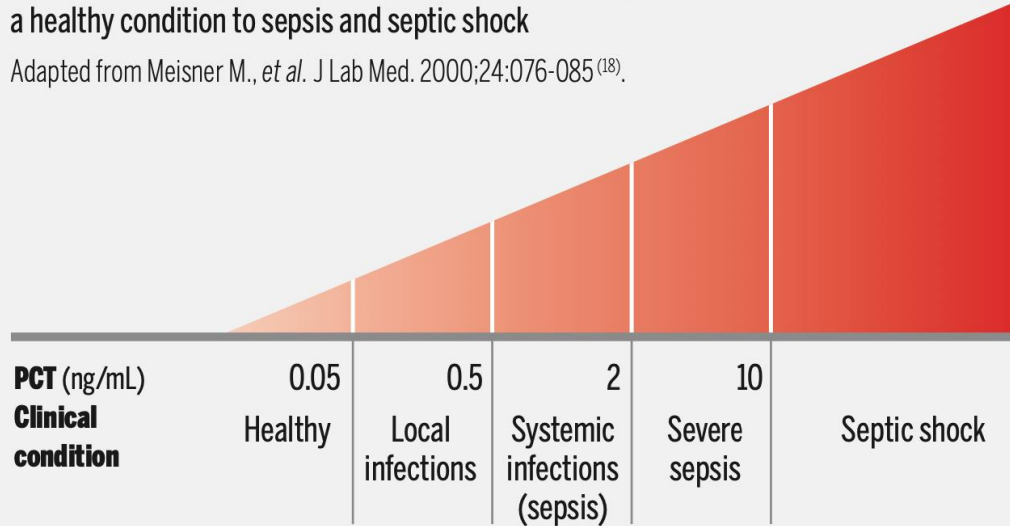


**Clinical Context  
+  
Procalcitonin**

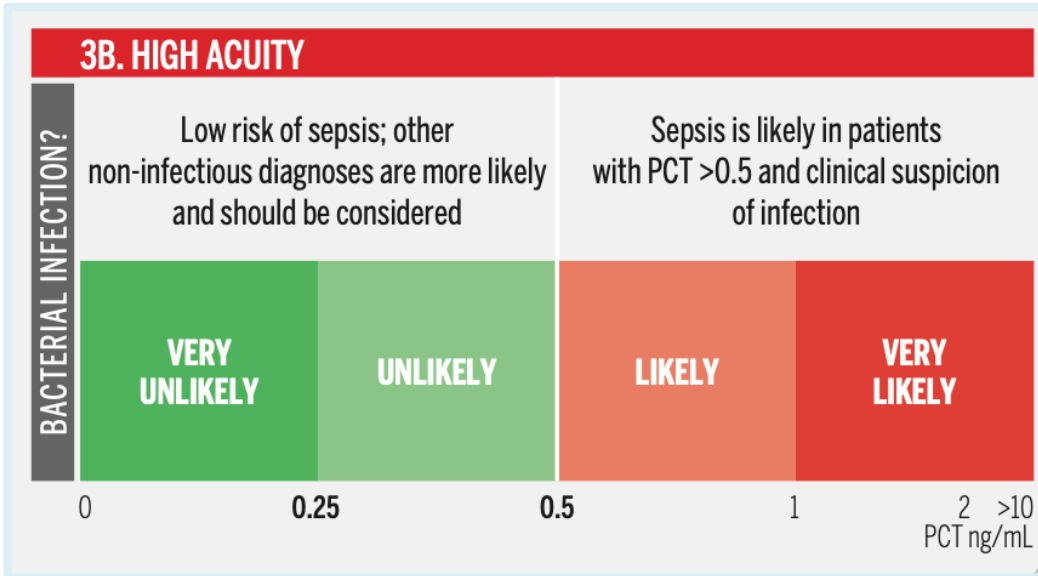
- Diagnostics**
- **Right time**
  - **Right duration**
  - **Real time monitoring**

Figure 4: Increasing PCT levels reflect continuous progression from a healthy condition to sepsis and septic shock

Adapted from Meisner M., et al. J Lab Med. 2000;24:076-085<sup>(18)</sup>.

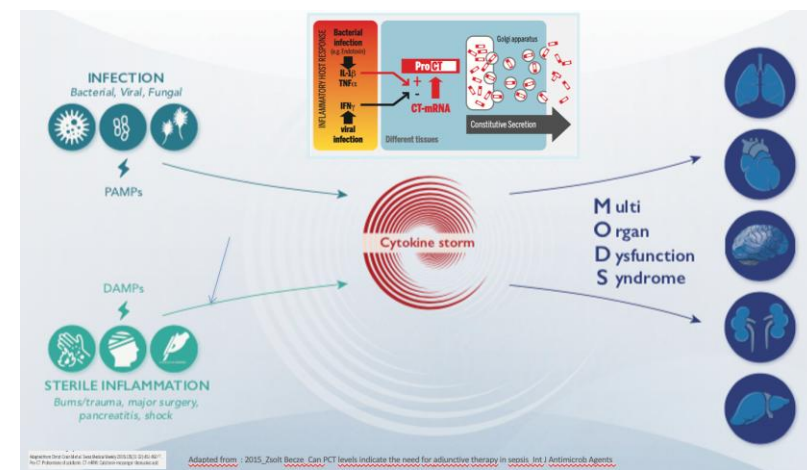
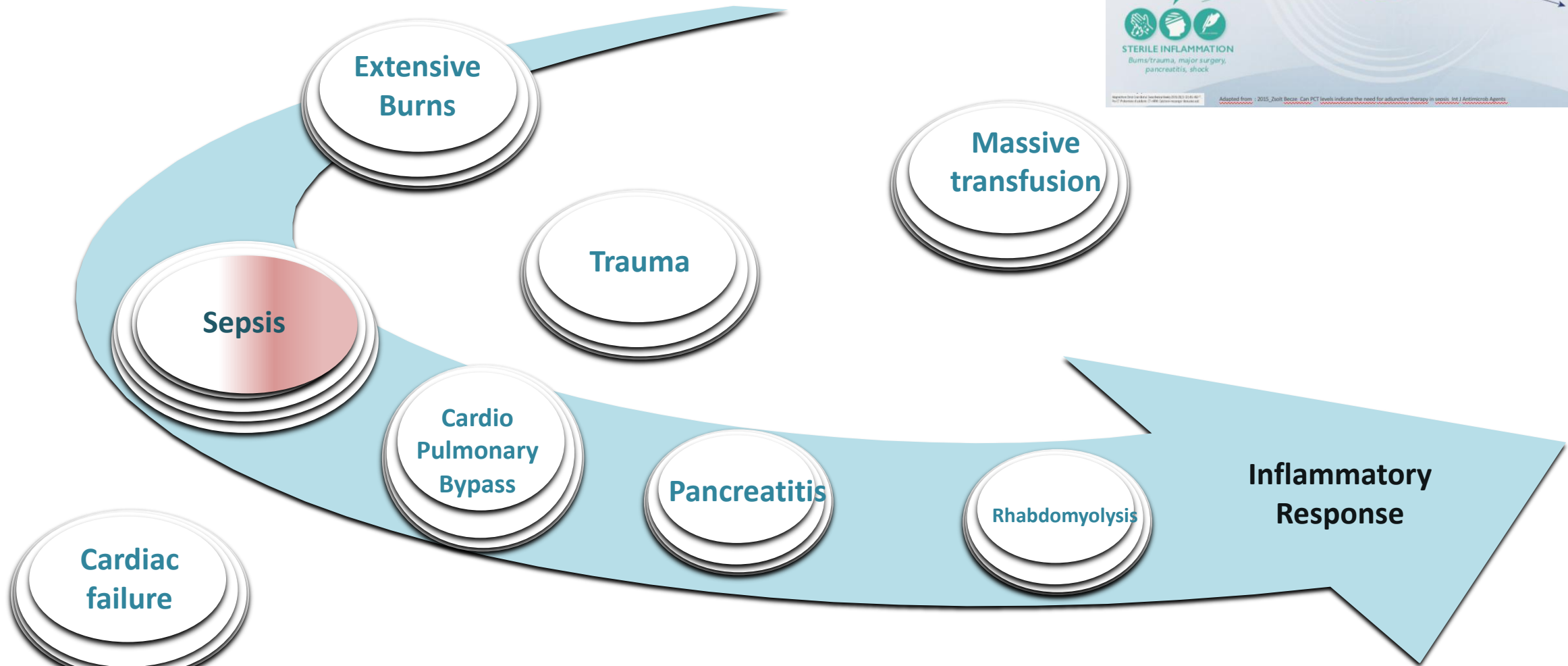


<0.25 µg/L – low probability of bacterial infection  
 >0.5 µg/L – bacterial infection likely



**Clinically**

**Is there a Significant range?**



<b>↑ PCT</b>	<b>Bacterial Infection Inflammatory response (Trauma, Burns, Surgery)</b>
<b>↓ PCT</b>	<b>Resolution of bacterial infection (source control)  Resolution of Inflammatory Response (trauma, surgery, burns)</b>
<b>Magnitude of PCT response</b>	<b>Reflects the magnitude of cytokines (infection or IR)</b>
<b>Viral and Fungal infections</b>	<b>PCT will ↓ (γ IFN suppresses IL6 and IL-1 production) [sick patient with normal or ↓ PCT]</b>
<b>80% ↓ PCT and a well patient</b>	<b>Stop antibiotics</b>

## Patient AB

45 years old

Obese

Diabetic

Day 4 Hospital admission

For elective repair large  
incisional hernia (delay)

Respiratory distress

Supplemental O2

Confusion

MAP 60 mmHg



PE

Cardiac

Sepsis



## Patient AX

45 years old

Obese

Diabetic

Day 4 Hospital admission  
For elective repair large  
incisional hernia (delay)

Pyrexial

Resp distress

Pneumonia most likely

ICU admission

MV

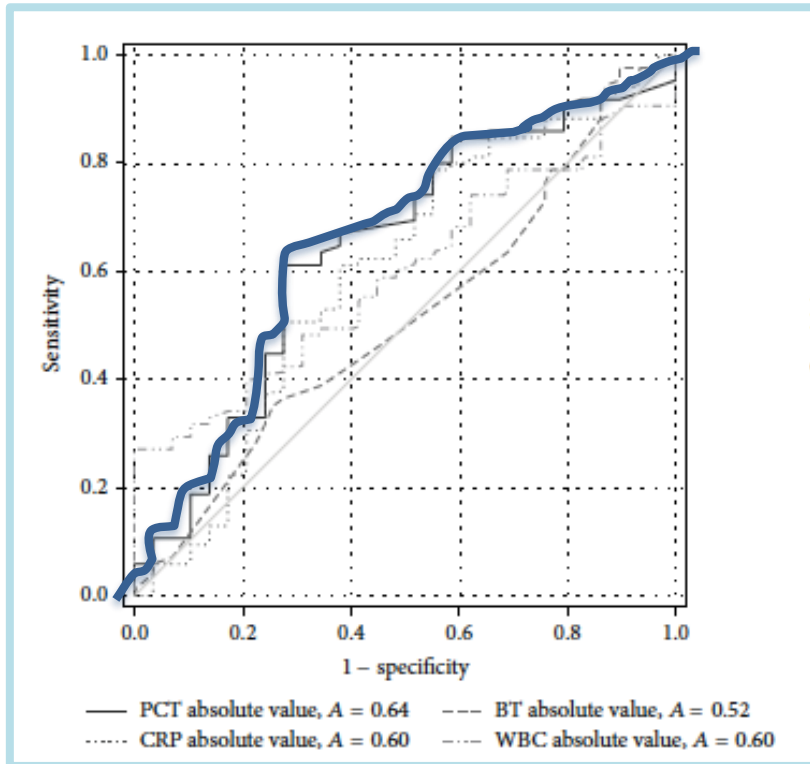
Ertapenem and Pip-Tazobactam

	Previous Day	Today
TEMP	37.2°C	39°C
HR	85	95-110
MAP	80	60
FiO2	RA	0.60
WCC	12	19
PLATELETS	155	150
BGL	7-9mmol/L	
CRP	45	150
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour	
SCVO2		71
AVCO2		5
Fluid balance		1050

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

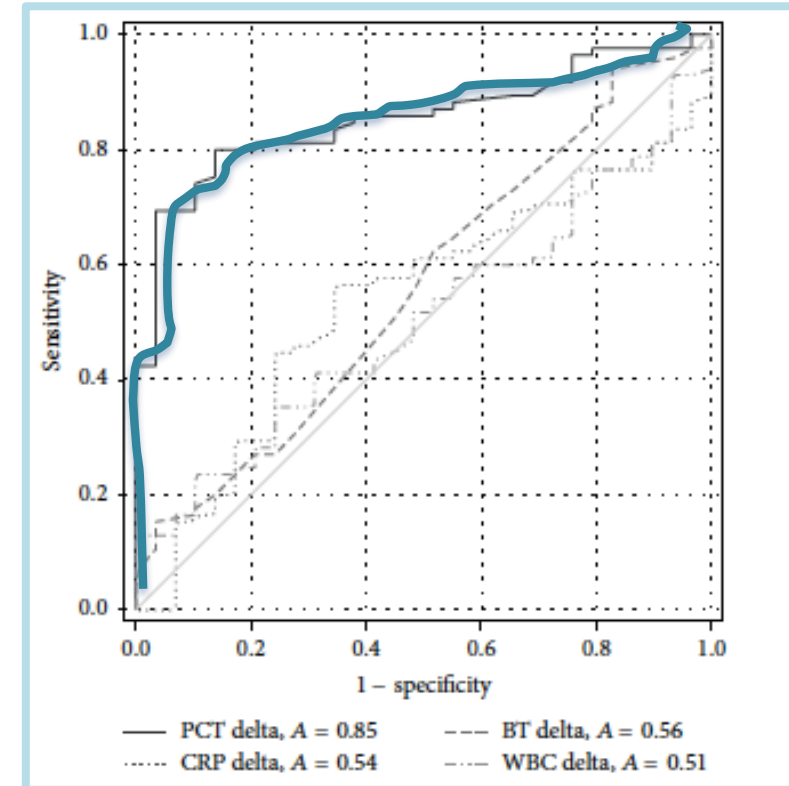
Domonkos Trásy,<sup>1</sup> Krisztián Tánzos,<sup>1</sup> Márton Németh,<sup>1</sup>

Journal of Immunology Research  
Volume 2016, Article ID 3530752, 9 pages



**Absolute PCT**

Eprok



**88% Change in PCT in 24 hours**

Previous studies PCT: Usually Better Sensitivity and Specificity than with IL-6 or CRP

## Patient X

45 years old

Obese

Diabetic

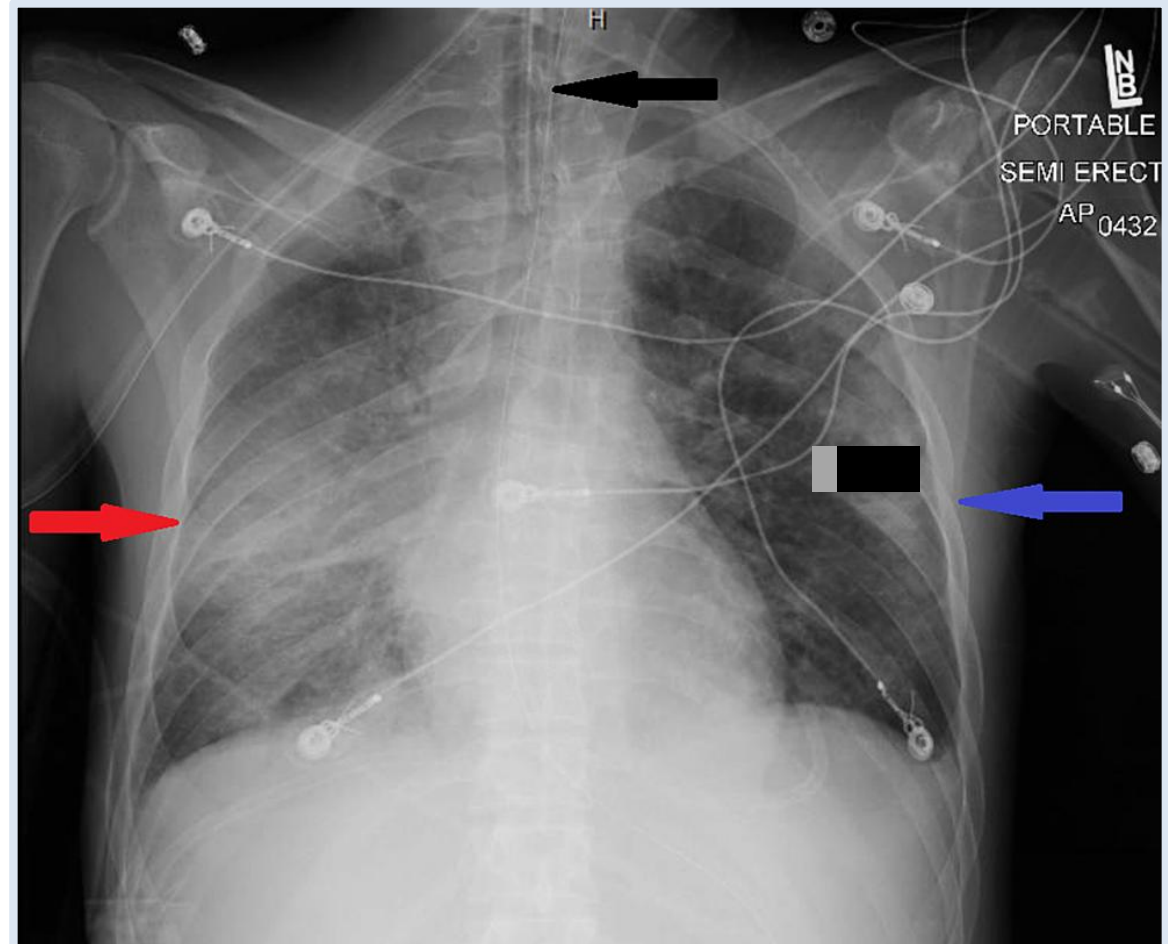
Day 4 Hospital admission  
For elective repair large  
incisional hernia (delay)

HAP

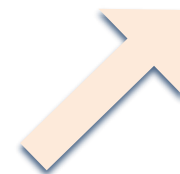
TF to ICU

Ventilation

Organ dysfunction



	Previous Day	Today Day 1	Day 2
TEMP	37.2°C	39°C	38.1°C
HR	85	95-110	90-95
MAP	80	60	66
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40
WCC	12	19	13.6
PLATELETS	155	150	160
BGL	7-9mmol/L		
CRP	45	150	155
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour		
SCVO2		71	70
AVCO2		5	4
Fluid balance		1050	400



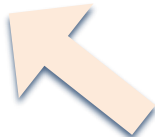
***Hour 48***  
***K. Pneumonia ESBL***

**De-escalate**

	Previous Day	Today Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
TEMP	37.2°C	39°C	38.1°C	37.2°C	37.6°C
HR	85	95-110	90-95		
MAP	80	60	66	65	
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7
PLATELETS	155	150	160	155	161
BGL	7-9mmol/L				
CRP	45	150	155	130	99
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour				
SCVO2		71	70	70	70
AVCO2		5	4		
Fluid balance		1050	400	-450	-400

	Previous Day	Today Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
TEMP	37.2°C	39°C	38.1°C	37.2°C	37.6°C
HR	85	95-110	90-95		
MAP	80	60	66	65	
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	
PLATELETS	155	150	160		161
BGL					
CRP	45	150	155	130	99
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour				
SCVO2		71	70	70	70
AVCO2		5	4		
Fluid balance		1050	400	-450	-400

**Antibiotic duration?**



# How long would you treat with Ertapenem?

---

1. Continue until Day 5 at least
2. Stop when the PCT is below 0.5 ng/mL
3. Stop when the PCT and CRP are both normal
4. Stop now as patient is clinically improved and PCT has declined significantly (80%).

**If the pathogen was a MDR  
*Pseudomonas* the duration of  
therapy needs to be a  
minimum of 14 days ?**

---

1. True
2. False

## PCT guidance to stop antibiotics?

Limit antibiotic duration in an infection which is deemed to be adequately treated

### Clinically improving and

- PCT threshold (<0.5ng/mL) OR
- **80% ↓ in PCT (kinetics)**

Efficacy and safety of procalcitonin guidance in reducing the duration of antibiotic treatment in critically ill patients: a randomised, controlled, open-label trial *Lancet Infect Dis* 2016

Evelien de Jong, Jos A van Oers, Albertus Boshuizen, Piet Vos, Wytse J Vermeulen, Lenneke E Haas, Bert G Loef, Tom Dommers

- Netherlands ICUs
- Antibiotic stewardship
- 15 Centers
- n=1546

### Clinically improving AND

- PCT threshold ( $\leq 0.5\mu\text{g/L}$ ) OR
- **80% ↓ in PCT (kinetics)**

De Jong et al, Lancet Infect Dis, 2016

	Procalcitonin-guided group (n=761)	Standard-of-care group (n=785)	Between-group absolute difference in means (95% CI)	p value
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
<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>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

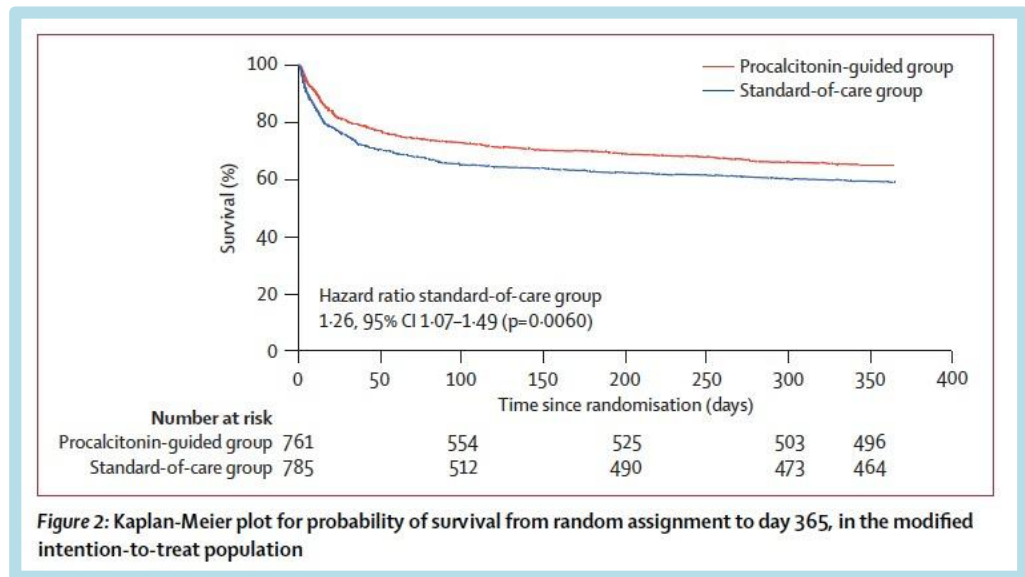


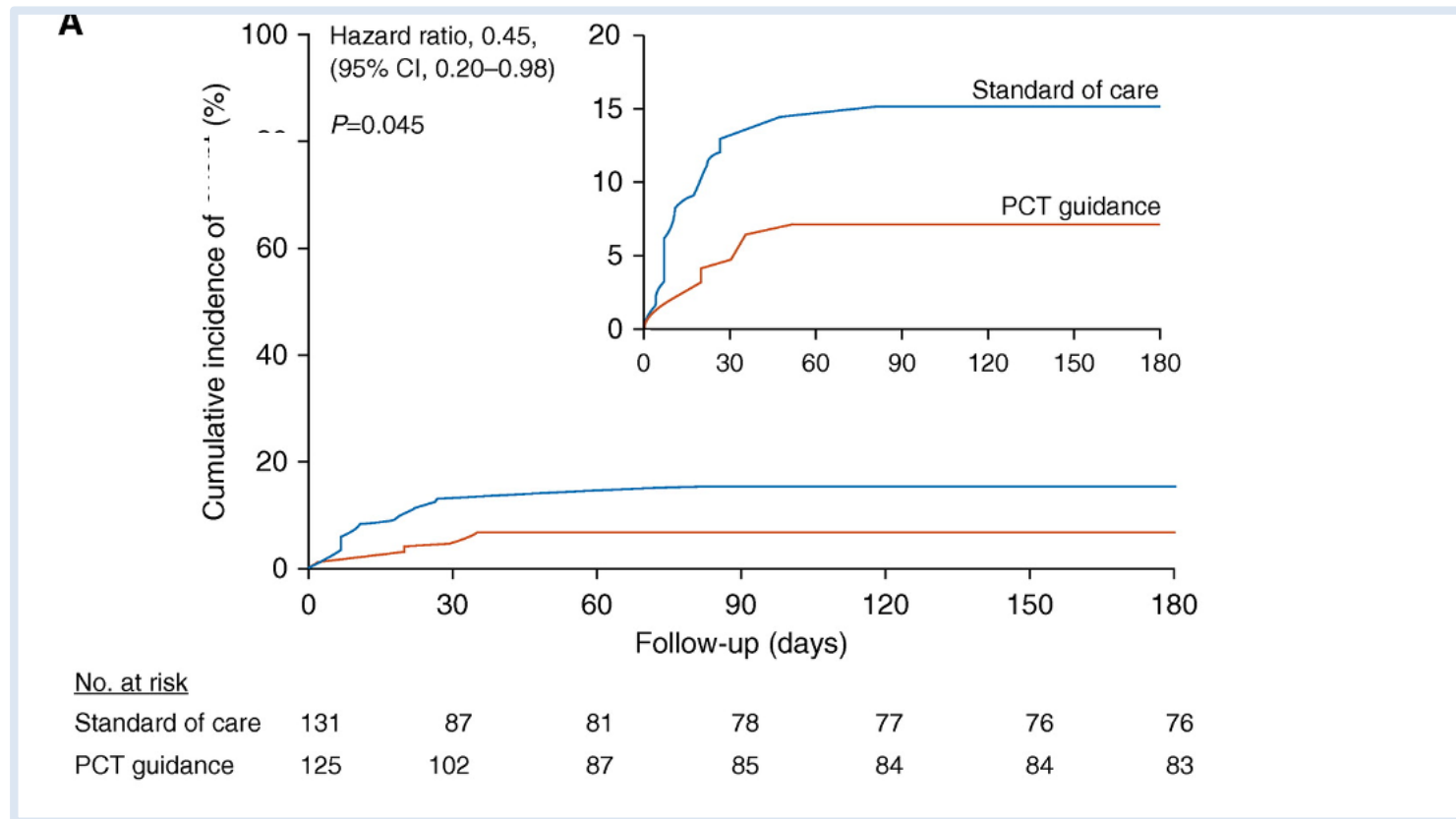
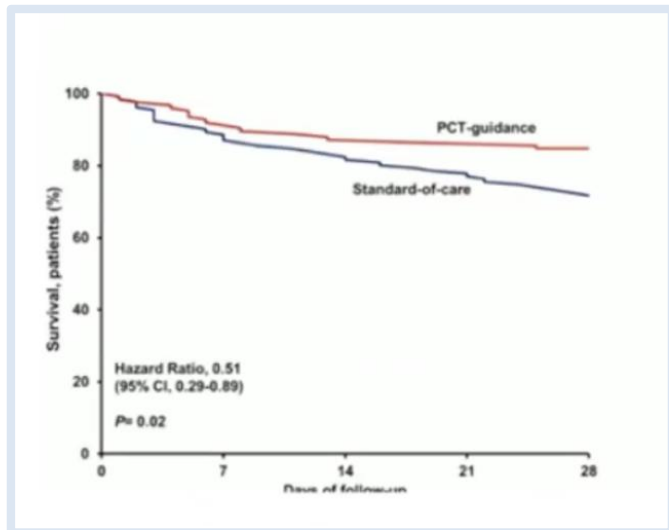
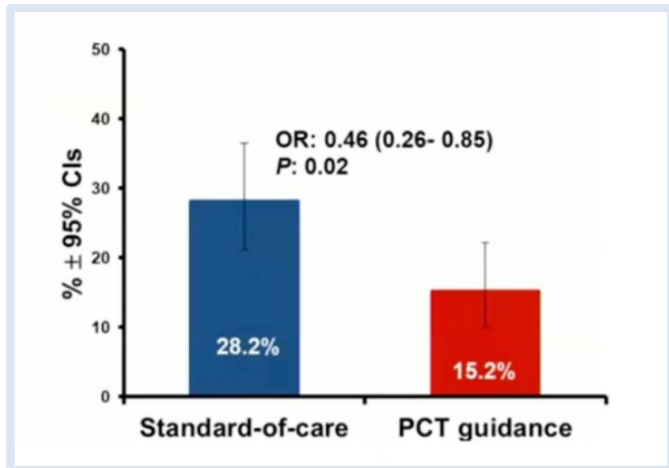
Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier plot for probability of survival from random assignment to day 365, in the modified intention-to-treat population

Less antibiotics  
Mortality reduced  
Safe

# 🔒 Procalcitonin to Reduce Long-Term Infection-associated Adverse Events in Sepsis. A Randomized Trial

AJRCC,2021

Evdoxia Kyriazopoulou<sup>1</sup>, Lydia Liaskou-Antoniou<sup>1</sup>, George Adamis<sup>2</sup>, Antonia Panagaki<sup>1</sup>, Nikolaos



**Procalcitonin-guided antibiotic therapy may shorten length of treatment and may improve survival—a systematic review and meta-analysis**

[Márton Papp](#), [Nikolett Kiss](#), [Máté Baka](#), [Domonkos Trásy](#), [László Zubek](#), [Péter Fehérvári](#), [Andrea Harnos](#), [Caner Turan](#), [Péter Hegyi](#) & [Zsolt Molnár](#) ✉

*Critical Care* 27, Article number: 394 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

**26 RCTs  
(up to mid Nov 2022)**

**PCT guided  
vs  
Standard care**

**↓ Antibiotic duration (↓ 1.79 day)**

**↓ Antibiotic use**

**↓ D28 mortality(↓ 16%)**

**Similar ICU and Hosp LOS**

**Recurrent infection**

# Biomarker-Guided Antibiotic Duration for Hospitalized Patients With Suspected Sepsis: The ADAPT-Sepsis Randomized Clinical Trial

Paul Dark <sup>1</sup>, Anower Hossain <sup>2</sup>, Daniel F McAuley <sup>3 4</sup>, David Brealey <sup>5</sup>, Gordon Carlson <sup>6</sup>,

JAMA. 2025 Feb 25;333(8):682-693.

**2761 patients**

**PCT guided  
protocol  
918 patients**

vs

**CRP guided  
protocol  
924 patients**

vs

**Standard care  
918 patients**

**2761 patients  
Multicentre**

**PCT guided  
protocol  
918 patients**

vs

**CRP guided  
protocol  
924 patients**

vs

**Standard care  
(SC)  
918 patients**

**PCT group vs SC: Antibiotic duration ↓ 0.88 days p=0.01 (9.8 vs 10.6 days)**

**CRP group vs SC: Antibiotic duration no different p=0.79 (10.7 vs 10.6 days)**

**All cause mortality: PCT strategy noninferior (20.9% vs 21.1%; NI margin 5.4%)**

	Previous Day	Today Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
TEMP	37.2°C	39°C	38.1°C	37.2°C	37.6°C
HR	85	95-110	90-95		
MAP	80	60	66	65	
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7
PLATELETS	155	150	160	155	161
BGL	7-9mmol/L				
CRP	45	150	155	130	99
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour				
SCVO2		71	70	70	70
AVCO2		5	4		
Fluid balance		1050	400	-450	-400

# How long would you treat with Ertapenem?

---

1. Continue until Day 5 at least
2. Stop when the PCT is below 0.5 ng/mL
3. Stop when the PCT and CRP are both normal
4. Stop now as patient is clinically improved and PCT has declined significantly (80%).

If the pathogen was a MDR *Pseudomonas* the duration of therapy needs to be a minimum of 14 days ?

---

1. True
2. False

	Ward	Today Day 1	Day 2 ICU	Day 3 ICU	Day 4 ICU	Day 5 High care	Day 6 High care
TEMP	37.2°C	39°C	38.1°C	37.2°C	37.6°C	37.2°C	37.8°C
HR	85	95-110	90-95			90	90
MAP	80	60	66	65	70	70	70
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35	0.35	0.3
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7	11	12
PLATELETS	155	150	160	155	161	161	180
BGL	7-9mmol/L						
CRP	45	150	155	130	99	55	40
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.55	0.50
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour						

**Discharged  
to HC  
Day 5**

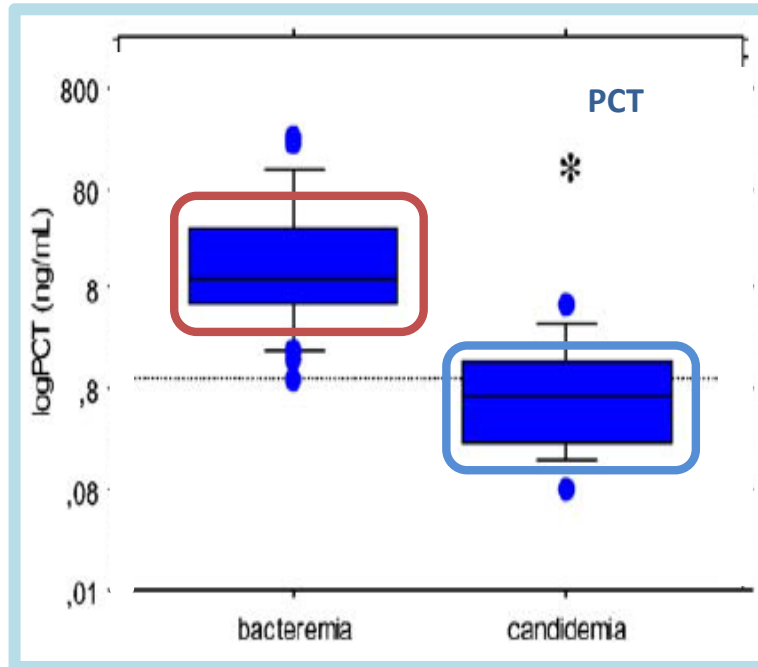
	Pre	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
TEMP °C	37.2	39	38.1	37.2	37.6	37.2	37.8	39.8
HR	85	95-110	90-95			90	90	140
MAP	80	60	66	65	70	70	70	59
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35	0.35	0.3	Intubation
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7	11	12	13.1
PLATELETS	155	150	160	155	161	161	180	145
BGL	7-9mmol/L							
CRP	45	150	155	130	99	55	40	180
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.55	0.50	0.25
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour							

## Is there an infection?

1. This is not an infection
2. Most likely a bacterial infection.
3. Need to consider *Candida* infection

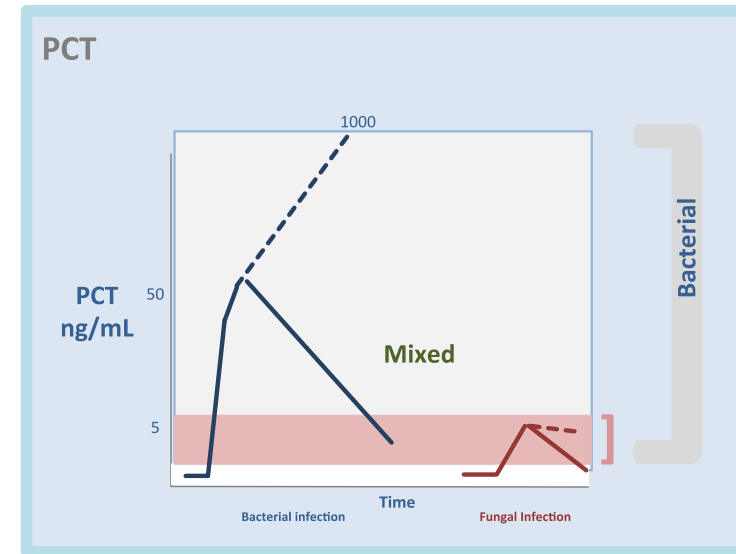


# PCT: Candidaemia



9.75 [1-259 ng/mL]

0.65 [0.08-5.46 ng/mL]



n=50 blood cultures  
MICU  
Non-neutropenic

$p < 0.001$

**Serum procalcitonin measurement  
contribution to the early diagnosis  
of candidemia in critically ill patients**

	Pre	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
TEMP °C	37.2	39	38.1	37.2	37.6	37.2	37.8	39.8
HR	85	95-110	90-95			90	90	140
MAP	80	60	66	65	70	70	70	59
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35	0.35	0.3	Intubation
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7	11	12	13.1
PLATELET S	155	150	160	155	161	161	180	145
BGL	7-9mmol/L							
CRP	45	150	155	130	99	55	40	180
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.55	0.50	0.25
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour							



## Is there an infection?

1. This is not an infection
2. Most likely a bacterial infection.
3. **Need to consider *Candida* infection**

	Pre	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23
TEMP °C	37.2	39	38.1	37.2	37.6	37.2	37.8	39.8	37.8	37.5	37.2	37.8
HR	85	95-110	90-95			90	90	140	85	85	85	97
MAP	80	60	66	65	70	70	70	59	75	75	75	75
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35	0.35	0.3	Intubation	RA	RA	RA	RA
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7	11	12	13.1	8	7	6	8
PLATELETS	155	150	160	155	161	161	180	145	180	185	167	177
BGL	7-9mmol/L											
CRP	45	150	155	130	99	55	40	180	25	22	29	57
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.55	0.50	0.25	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.35
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour											

**Day 7-20  
Micafungin  
C albicans**

**Day 15  
Extubated**

**Day 17  
High Care**

**Day 21  
Ward**

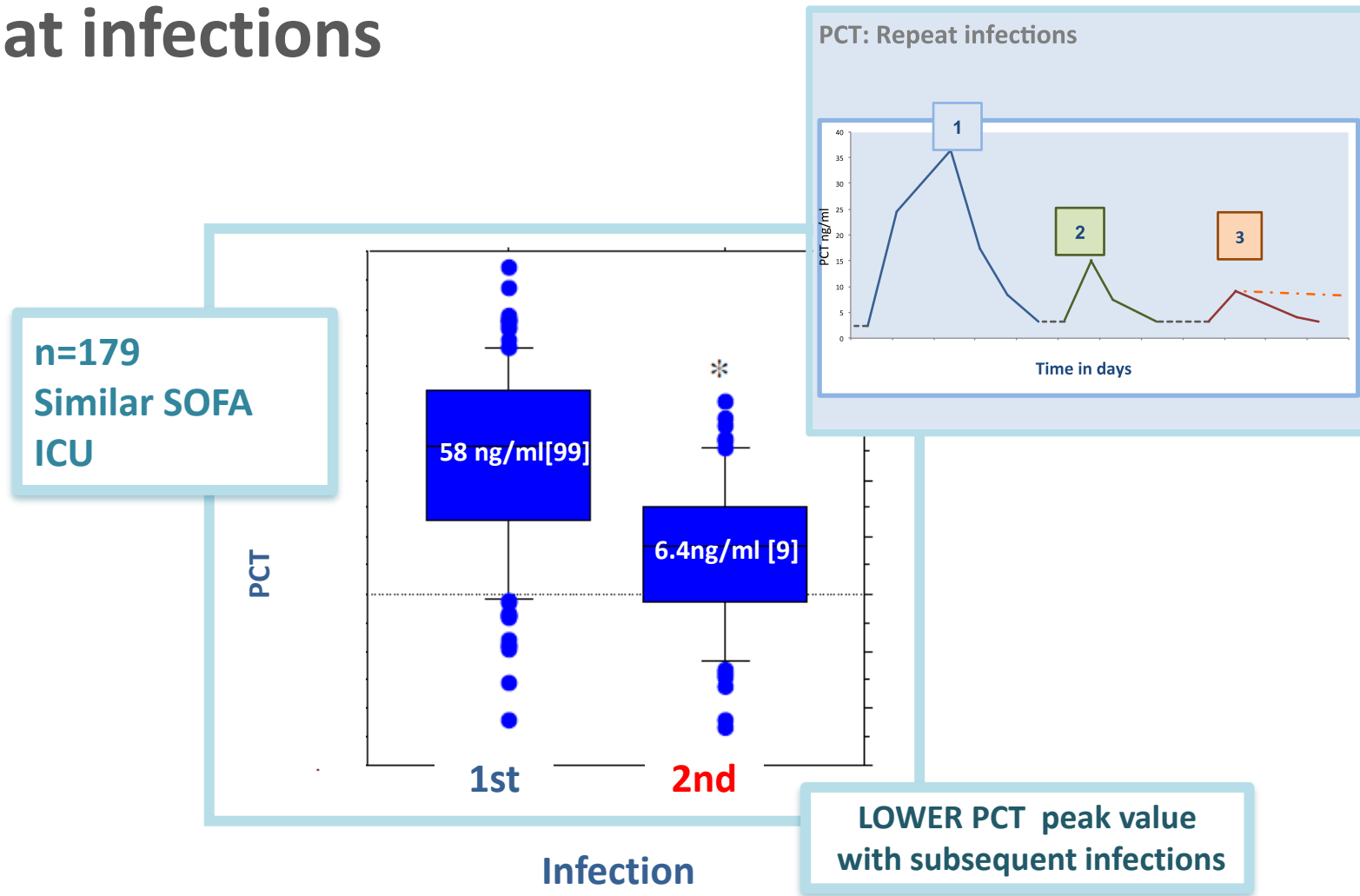


**Would you be concerned that the patient might be developing a repeat bacterial infection?**

1. Yes

2. No

# Peak PCT: Repeat infections



Research article

Open Access

**Impact of previous sepsis on the accuracy of procalcitonin for the early diagnosis of blood stream infection in critically ill patients**

	Pre	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 19	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23
TEMP °C	37.2	39	38.1	37.2	37.6	37.2	37.8	39.8	37.8	37.5	37.2	37.8
HR	85	95-110	90-95			90	90	140	85	85	85	97
MAP	80	60	66	65	70	70	70	59	75	75	75	75
FiO2	RA	0.60	0.40	0.4	0.35	0.35	0.3	Intubation	RA	RA	RA	RA
WCC	12	19	13.6	13.4	11.7	11	12	13.1	8	7	6	8
PLATE LETS	155	150	160	155	161	161	180	145	180	185	167	177
BGL	7-9mmol/L											
CRP	45	150	155	130	99	55	40	180	25	22	29	57
PCT ng/mL	1.8	3.2	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.55	0.50	0.25	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.35
URINE	>1mL/Kg/Hour											

**Day 7-19  
Micafungin  
C albicans**

**Day 15  
Extubated**

**Day 17  
High Care**

**Day 21  
Ward**



**Would you be concerned that the patient  
might be developing a repeat bacterial  
infection?**

**1. Yes**

**2. No**

## **Patient AB**

**45 years old**

**Obese**

**Diabetic**

**Hospital admission**

**For elective repair large  
incisional hernia**

**Finally rescheduled for surgery**

**Can the PCT be used postoperatively to  
adjudge surgical complications or infections**

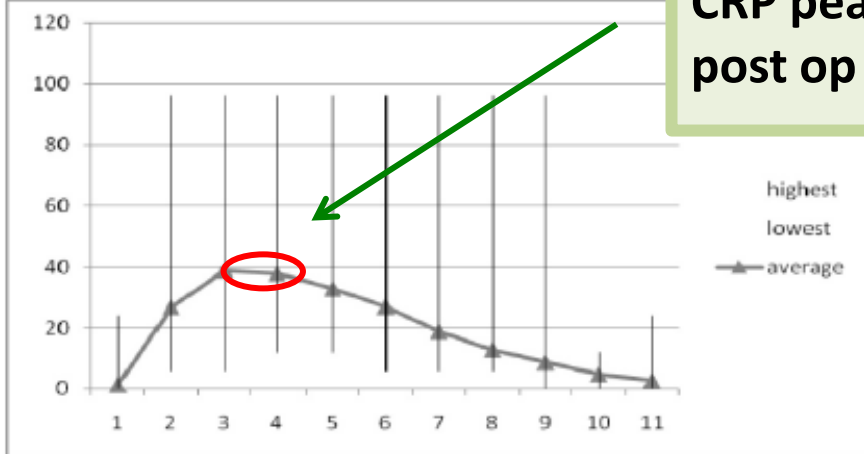
### Monitoring the post surgery inflammatory host response

Fathima Paruk, Julian M. Chausse

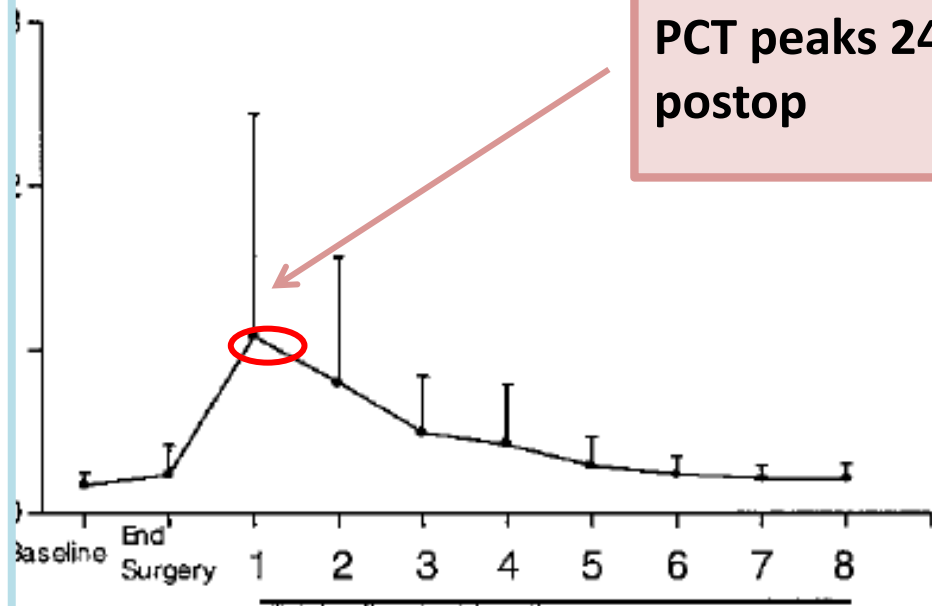
Journal of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, 2019

Department of Critical Care, Steve Biko Academic Hospital and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

**CRP peaks D3-4 post op**

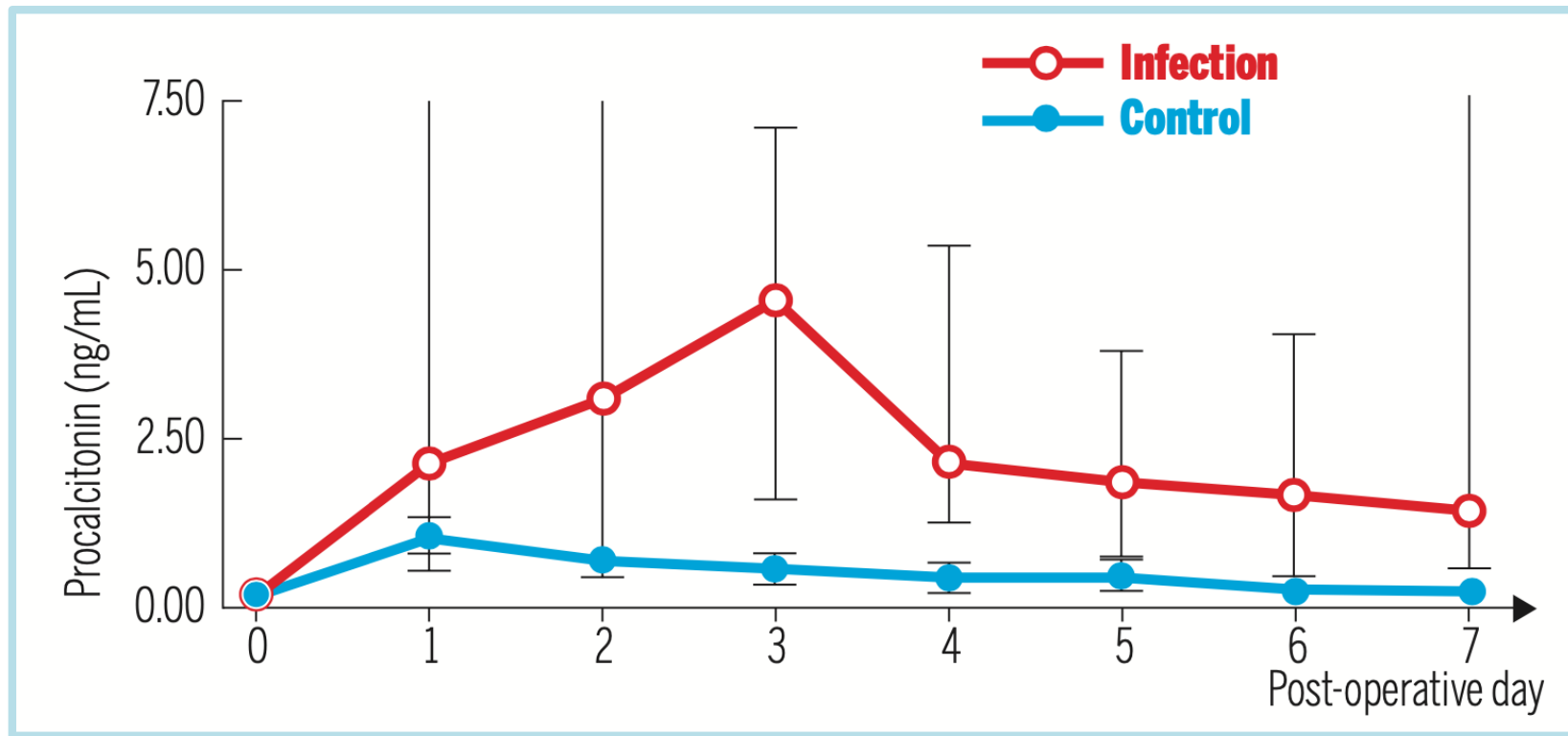


**PCT peaks 24 hours postop**



**PCT Response**  
**Abdominal > Sternotomy > Thoracic**

# CRP and PCT Post surgery



Adapted from Jebali MA *et al.* Anesthesiology 2007;107:232-8

# PCT Post surgery

## PCT Response

- Detect ongoing sepsis
- Detect new sepsis
- Detect post op complications

Review Article

*J Emerg Crit Care Med* 2019;3:47

Page 1 of 13

## Monitoring the post surgery inflammatory host response

Fathima Paruk, Julian M. Chausse

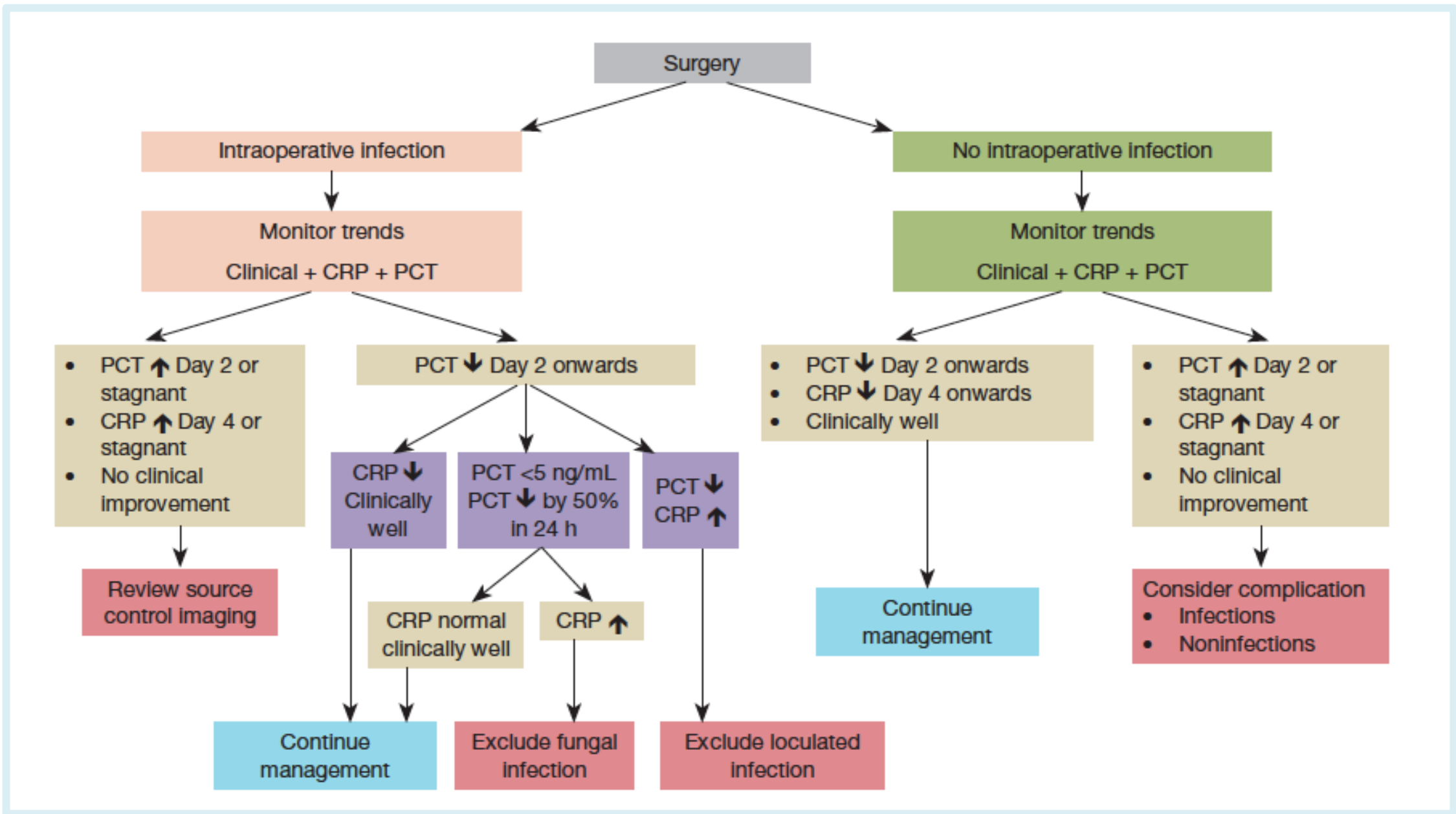
Department of Critical Care, Steve Biko Academic Hospital and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

## Post surgery

### Concern if:

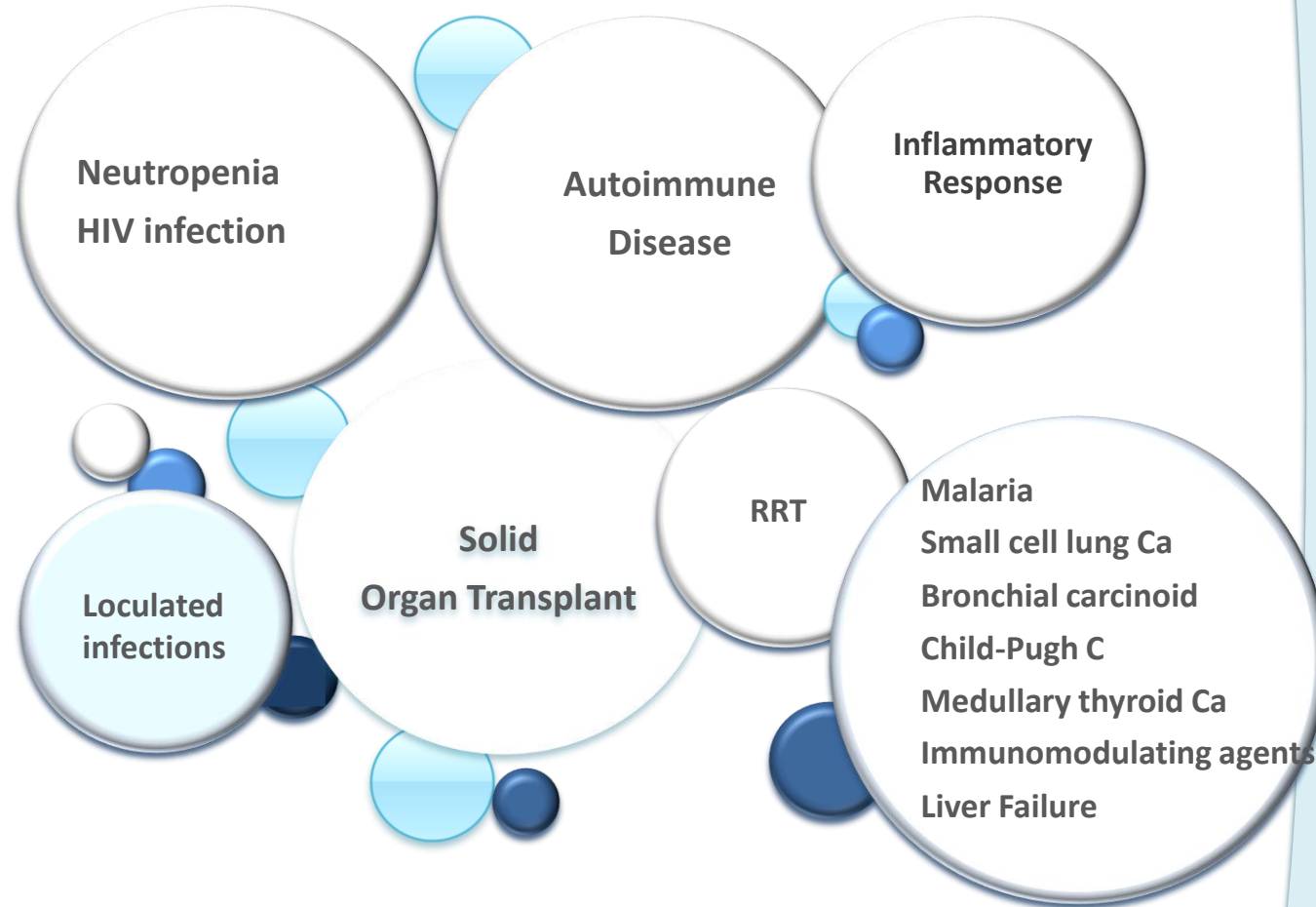
- PCT >10ng/mL
- From 48 hours PCT stagnant or ↑

## Kinetics and Clearance



Monitoring the post surgery inflammatory host response

# Special situations



**Immunesupression**

## Chronic kidney disease

- PCT elevated in 1/3 (stage V, Dialysis)
- Bacterial infection
  - PCT increases
  - Rate of clearance with resolution of sepsis unchanged

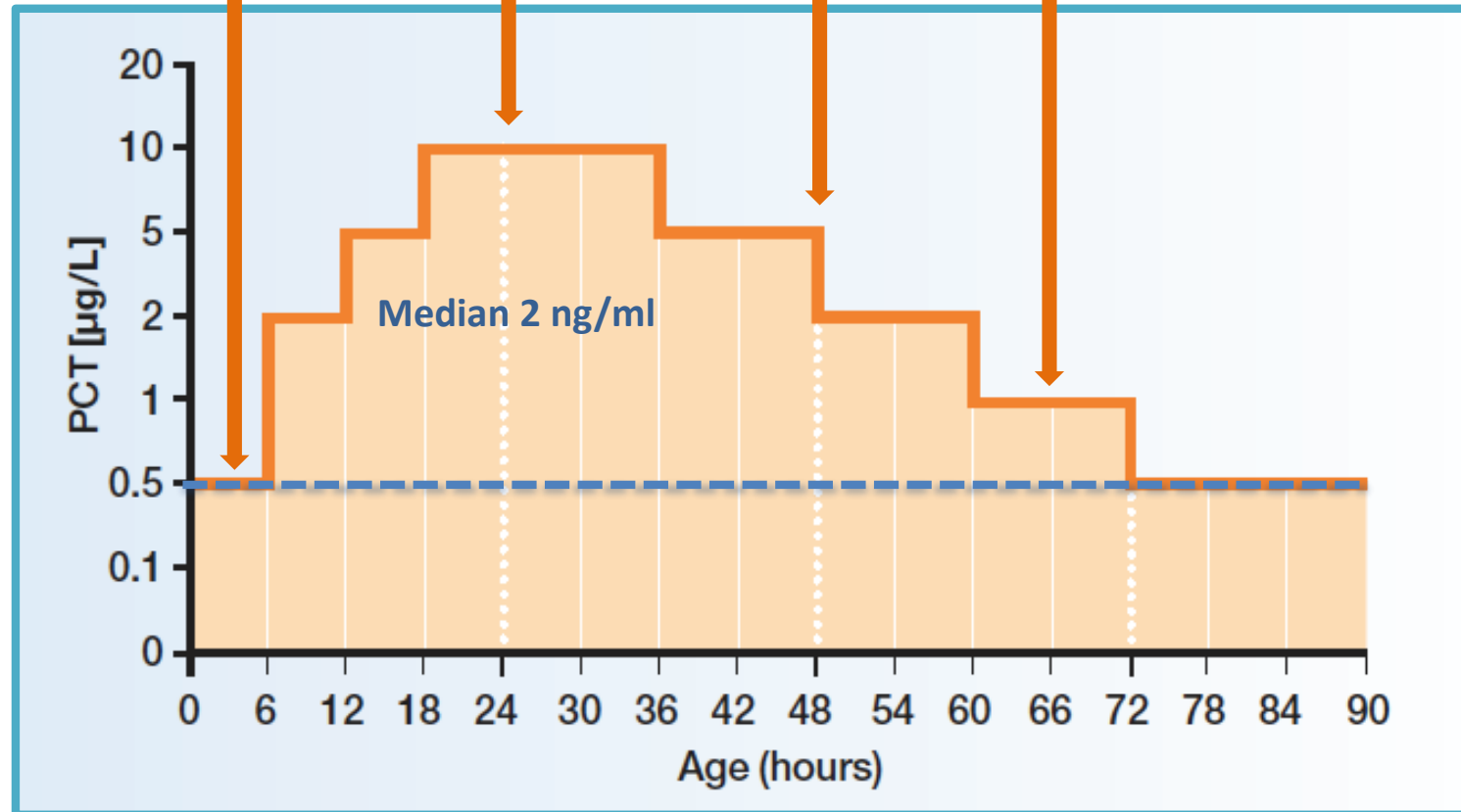
## RRT

- PCT drops on initiation (depends on type of RRT)
- Intermittent RRT- 3 hours
- CVVHD- massive decline within 15 min

# Neonates

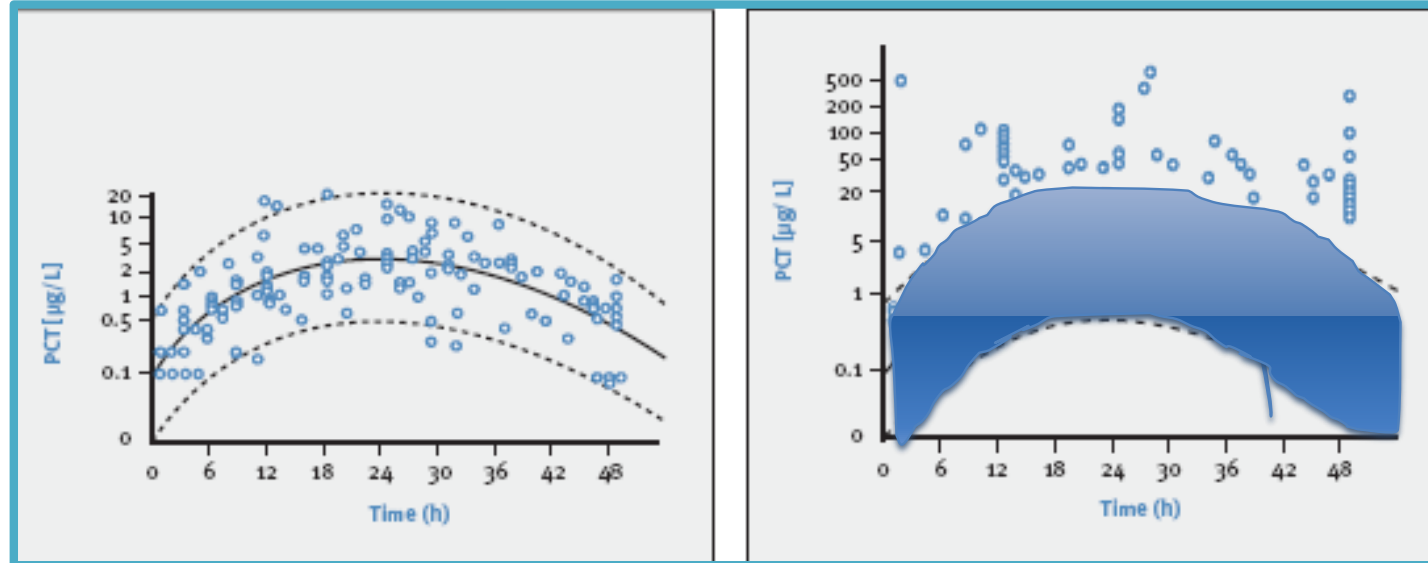
Immature immune system  
Nonspecific signs and symptoms

Normal PCT values post delivery

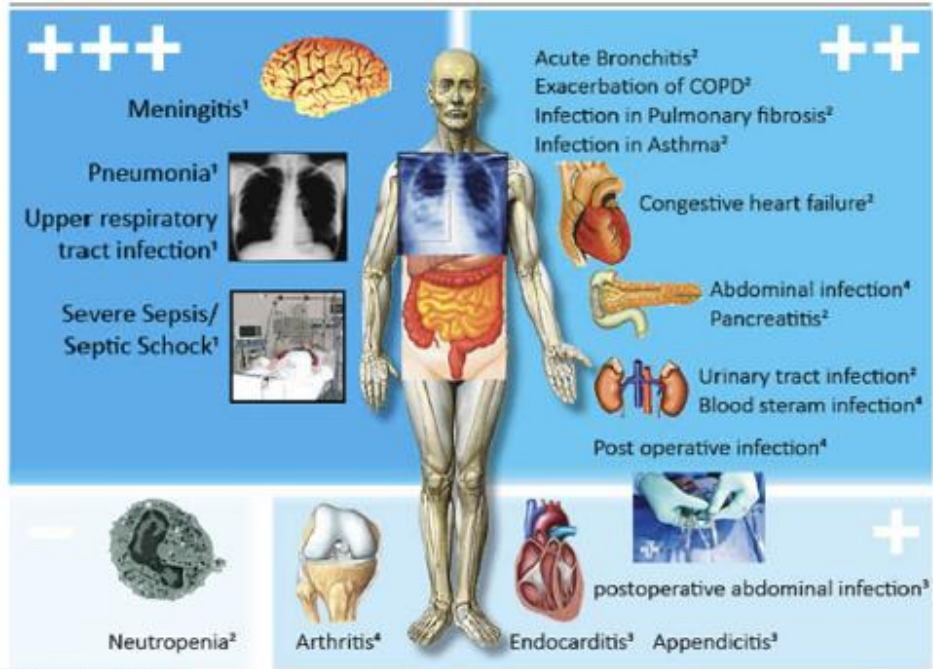


# Early onset neonatal sepsis

## Infection



Clear differentiation between infected and uninfected neonates possible by application of **age-related reference values**



Primary care  
 Emergency department  
 General ward  
 Critically ill

Sager et al. *BMC Medicine* (2017) 15:13  
 DOI 10.1186/s12916-017-0795-7

KINETICS OF PROCALCITONIN IN INFECTIONS CAUSED BY MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT BACTERIA  
 IVÁN HUESPE<sup>1,2</sup>, EDUARDO PRADO<sup>1</sup>, INÉS STANELONI<sup>2</sup>, NICOLÁS CONTRERA<sup>1</sup>, LISANDRO DENADAY<sup>4</sup>, EDUARDO SAN ROMAN<sup>1</sup>, JORGE SINNER<sup>1</sup>

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**Opinion Paper**

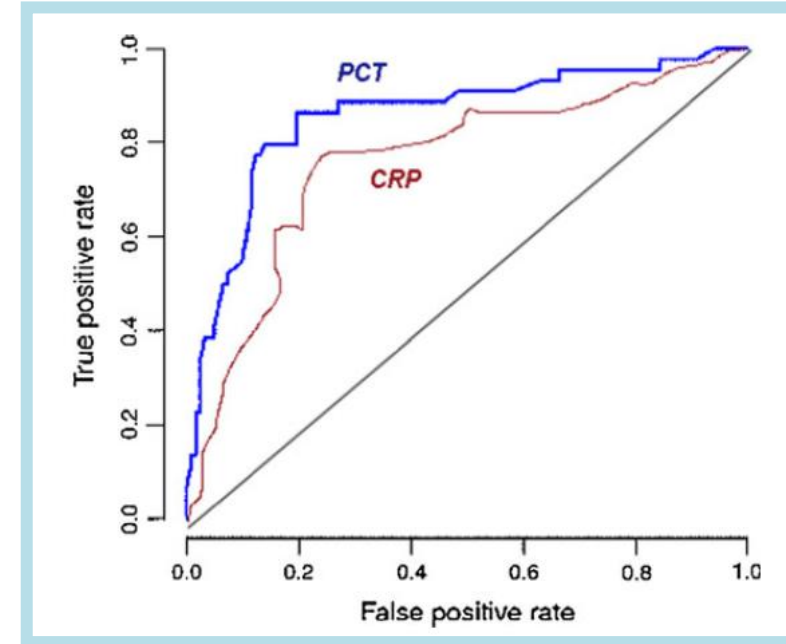
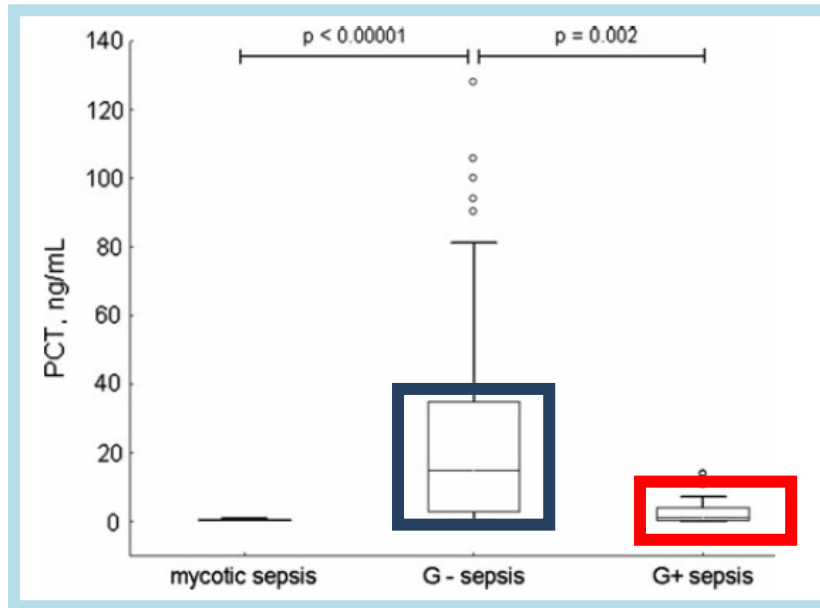
Philipp Schuetz<sup>1\*</sup>, Albertas Beshraizis, Michael Brazys, Ricard Ferrer, Gaetan Gawaziz, Eric Howard Gluck, Juan González del Castillo, Jens Høiby Jensen, Peter Laszlo Karlson, Andrea Lay Hoon Iwa, Stefan Krueger, Charles-Goulard Lay, Michael Oppert, Marie Plebani, Sergey A. Shlyepikov, Giulio Toccalini, Jennifer Townsend, Tobias Weite and Rado Seedorf

**Procalcitonin (PCT)-guided antibiotic stewardship: an international experts consensus on optimized clinical use**

Procalcitonin-guided diagnosis and antibiotic stewardship revisited  
 Ramon Sager<sup>1,2</sup>, Alexander Kutz<sup>1,2</sup>, Beat Mueller<sup>1,2</sup> and Philipp Schuetz<sup>1,2\*</sup>

Evidence

# PCT: G+ vs G- infections



8.9 [1.8-32 ng/mL]

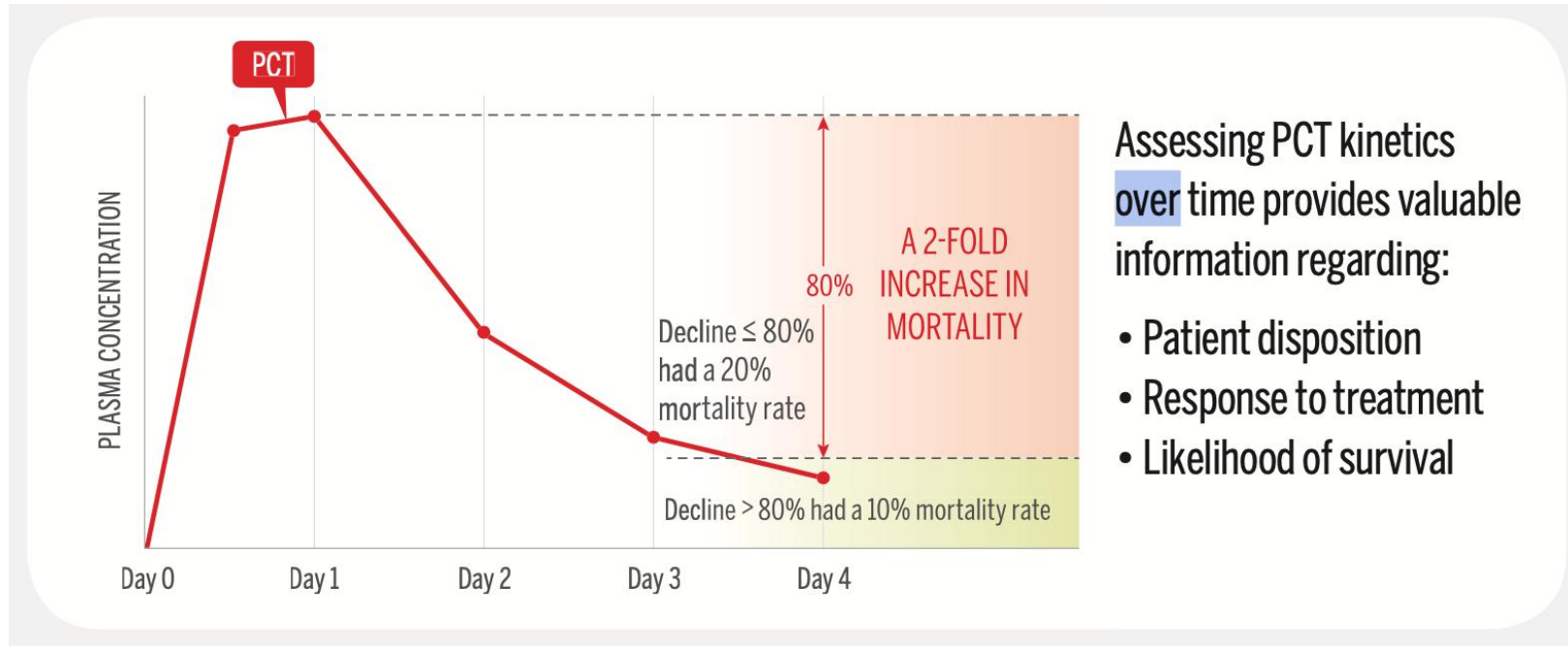
0.73 [0.2-3.4 ng/mL]

**Significantly higher procalcitonin levels could differentiate Gram-negative sepsis from Gram-positive and fungal sepsis**

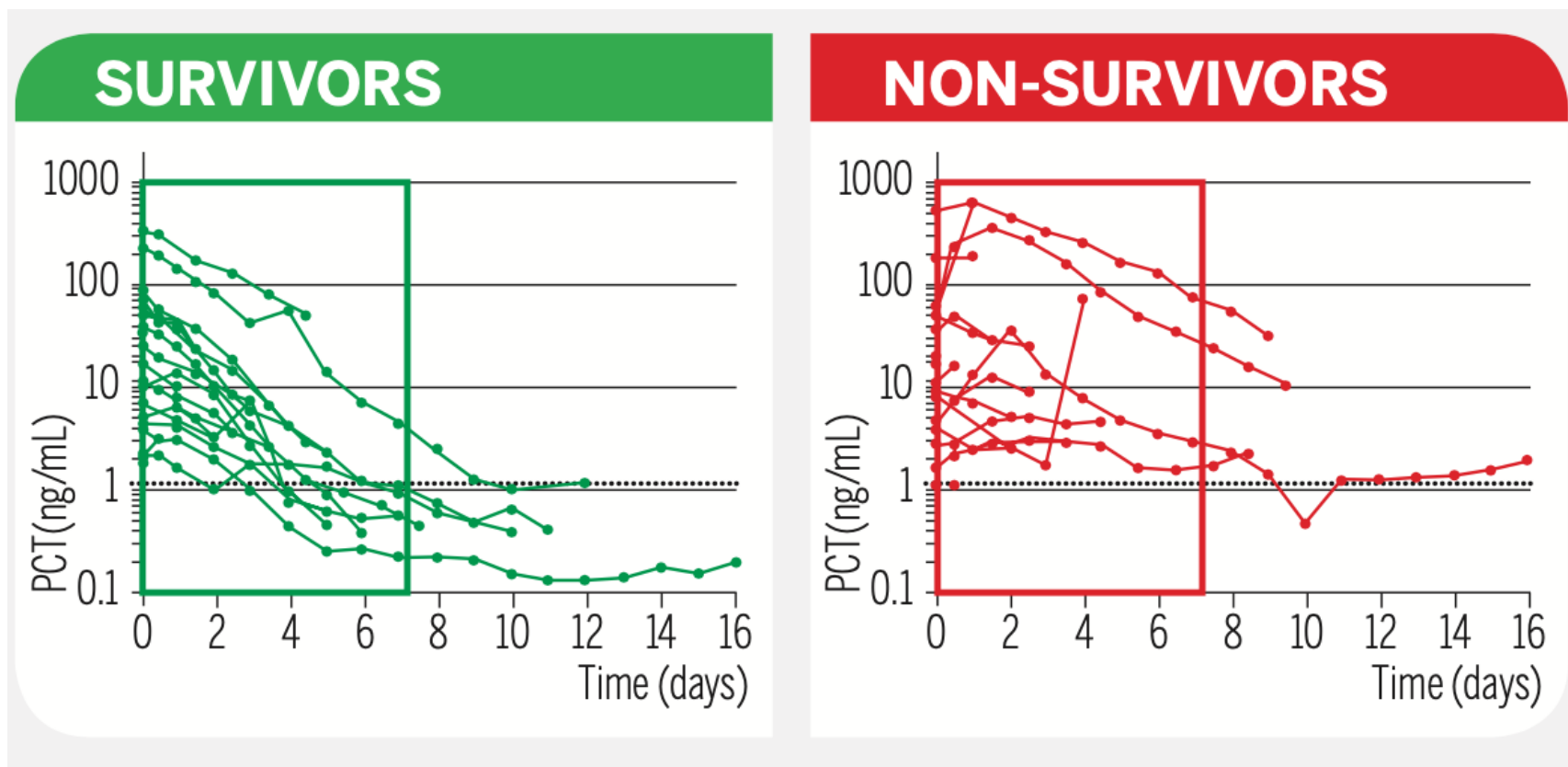
Helena Brodská · Karin Malíčková · Václava Adámková ·  
Hana Benáková · Markéta Marková Štastná · Tomáš Zima

n=166 Blood cultures

Clin Exp Med (2013) 13:165–170  
DOI 10.1007/s10238-012-0191-8



Adapted from Schuetz P, *et al.* Crit Care Med. 2017; 45(5):781–789



Adapted from Harbarth S., *et al.* Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2001;164:396-402



# AI and PCT

### Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of a Procalcitonin-Guided Decision Algorithm for Antibiotic Stewardship Using Real-World U.S. Hospital Data

OMICS A Journal of Integrative Biology  
Volume 23, Number 10, 2019

Anne M. Voermans<sup>1</sup>, Janne C. Mewes<sup>1</sup>, Michael R. Broyles<sup>2</sup> and Lotte M. G. Steuten<sup>3,\*</sup>

costs per patient, and numbers of patients with *Clostridium difficile* and antibiotic resistance (ABR) infections. We found that health care with the PCT decision algorithm for hospitalized sepsis and LRTI patients resulted in shorter length of stay, reduced antibiotic use, fewer mechanical ventilation days, and lower numbers of patients with *C. difficile* and ABR infections. The PCT-guided health care resulted in cost savings of \$25,611 (49% reduction from standard care) for sepsis and \$3630 (23% reduction) for LRTI, on average per patient. In conclusion, the PCT decision algorithm for ABS in sepsis and LRTI might offer cost savings in comparison with standard care in a U.S. hospital context. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first health economic analysis on PCT implementation using U.S. real-world data. We suggest that future CEA studies in other U.S. and worldwide settings are warranted in the current age when PCT and other decision algorithms are increasingly deployed in precision therapeutics and evidence-based medicine.

#### PCT Group

Antibiotic exposure reduced  
ICU LOS reduced  
C diff reduced  
Cost < 25 000 USD (sepsis)  
Cost < 3 630 USD (RTI)

### Impact of Procalcitonin-Guided Antibiotic Management on Antibiotic Exposure and Outcomes: Real-world Evidence

Michael R. Broyles<sup>1</sup>

September 2017



Open Forum Infectious Diseases

985 (control) vs 1167 (PCT guided)  
Significant reduction  
• Antibiotic exposure  
• Adverse events

### Impact: LOS, ICU cost, Pharmacy cost, antibiotic exposure

CHEST 2017; 151(1):23-33

#### Effect of Procalcitonin Testing on Health-care Utilization and Costs in Critically Ill Patients in the United States



Robert A. Balk, MD; Sameer S. Kadri, MD; Zhun Cao, PhD; Scott B. Robinson, MA, MPH; Craig Lipkin, MS; and Samuel A. Bozzette, MD, PhD

33 569 PCT guided vs 98 543 non-PCT guided

Reduced antibiotic exposure

**CONCLUSIONS:** Use of PCT testing on the first day of ICU admission was associated with significantly lower hospital and ICU lengths of stay, as well as decreased total, ICU, and pharmacy cost of care. Further elucidation of clinical outcomes requires additional data.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

### The cost impact of PCT-guided antibiotic stewardship versus usual care for hospitalised patients with suspected sepsis or lower respiratory tract infections in the US: A health economic model analysis

Janne C. Mewes<sup>1</sup>, Michael S. Pulia<sup>2</sup>, Michael K. Mansour<sup>3,4</sup>, Michael R. Broyles<sup>5</sup>, H. Bryant Nguyen<sup>6,7</sup>, Lotte M. Steuten<sup>1,8,9,\*</sup>

PLOS ONE | <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0214222> April 23, 2019

**Critically ill patients (ICU/HC)**

Daily\*

**Ward**

Every 48 hours post surgery

Every 48 hours if planning to use the PCT to stop antibiotic therapy

Immediately when infection/sepsis suspected

**Frequency of Monitoring**

**Clinical context matters**

**Embed PCT in stewardship and education**

**PCT is a tool - Not a rule**

**MDT**

**PCT kinetics**

**Clinical context matters**

