Evaluation for Severe Sepsis Screening Tool

Instructions: Use this optional tool to screen patients for severe sepsis in the emergency department, on the medical/surgical floors, or in the ICU.

1. Is the patient’s history suggestive of a new infection?
   - Pneumonia, empyema
   - Urinary tract infection
   - Acute abdominal infection
   - Meningitis
   - Skin/soft tissue infection

   Note: removed chills and rigors

   - Bone/joint infection
   - Wound infection
   - Blood stream catheter infection
   - Endocarditis
   - Implantable device infection
   - Other infection

   ____ Yes   ____ No

2. Are any two of following signs & symptoms of infection both present and new to the patient? Note: laboratory values may have been obtained for inpatients but may not be available for outpatients.
   - Hyperthermia > 38.3 °C (101.0 °F)
   - Hypothermia < 36 °C (96.8°F)
   - Altered mental status
   - Tachycardia > 90 bpm

   - Tachypnea > 20 bpm
   - Leukocytosis (WBC count >12,000 µL–1)
   - Leukopenia (WBC count < 4000 µL–1)

   - Hyperglycemia (plasma glucose >140 mg/dL) or 7.7 mmol/L in the absence of diabetes

   ____ Yes   ____ No

If the answer is yes, to both questions 1 and 2, suspicion of infection is present:

✓ Obtain: lactic acid, blood cultures, CBC with differential, basic chemistry labs, bilirubin.
✓ At the physician’s discretion obtain: UA, chest x-ray, amylase, lipase, ABG, CRP, CT scan.

3. Are any of the following organ dysfunction criteria present at a site remote from the site of the infection that are NOT considered to be chronic conditions? Note: in the case of bilateral pulmonary infiltrates the remote site stipulation is waived.
   - SBP < 90 mmHg or MAP <65 mmHg
   - SBP decrease > 40 mm Hg from baseline
   - Creatinine > 2.0 mg/dl (176.8 mmol/L) or urine output < 0.5 ml/kg/hour for  2 hours
   - Bilirubin > 2 mg/dl (34.2 mmol/L)
   - Platelet count < 100,000 µL
   - Lactate > 2 mmol/L (18.0 mg/dl)
   - Coagulopathy (INR >1.5 or aPTT >60 secs)
   - Acute lung injury with PaO2/FiO2 <250 in the absence of pneumonia as infection source
   - Acute lung injury with PaO2/FiO2 <200 in the presence of pneumonia as infection source

   ____ Yes   ____ No

If suspicion of infection is present AND organ dysfunction is present, the patient meets the criteria for SEVERE SEPSIS and should be entered into the severe sepsis protocol.

Date: ____/____/____ (circle: dd/mm/yy or mm/dd/yy)    Time: ____ : ____ (24 hr. clock)

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