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The Surviving Sepsis Campaign

European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, International Sepsis Forum and Society of Critical Care Medicine



Society of Critical Care Medicine  
The Intensive Care Professionals



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American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
Canadian Critical Care Society  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases  
European Society of Intensive Care Medicine  
European Respiratory Society  
International Sepsis Forum  
Japanese Association for Acute Medicine  
Japanese Society of Intensive Care Medicine  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Surgical Infection Society  
World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine.  
Participation and endorsement by German Sepsis Society and Latin American Sepsis Institute.

## Fluid resuscitation (6)

◆ Give crystalloids as the initial fluid resuscitation in septic shock. (1C)  
◆ Use 300-500 ml of crystalloids as the initial fluid resuscitation in septic shock. (1C)  
◆ Do not use low-dose dopamine for renal protection. (1A)  
◆ In patients requiring vasopressors, insert an arterial catheter as soon as practical. (1D)

## Inotropic therapy

◆ Use dobutamine in patients with myocardial dysfunction as supported by elevated cardiac filling pressures and low cardiac output. (1C)  
◆ Do not increase cardiac index to predetermined supranormal levels. (1B)

## Steroids

◆ Consider intravenous hydrocortisone for adult septic shock when hypotension remains poorly responsive to adequate fluid resuscitation and vasopressors. (2C)  
◆ ACTH stimulation test is not recommended to identify the subset of adults with septic shock who should receive hydrocortisone. (2B)  
◆ Hydrocortisone is preferred to dexamethasone. (2B)  
◆ Fludrocortisone (50 µg orally once a day) may be included if an alternative to hydrocortisone is being used which lacks significant mineralocorticoid activity. Fludrocortisone is optional if hydrocortisone is used. (2C)  
◆ Steroid therapy may be weaned once vasopressors are no longer required. (2D)  
◆ Hydrocortisone dose should be <300mg/day. (1A)  
◆ Do not use corticosteroids to treat sepsis in the absence of shock unless the patient's endocrine or corticosteroid history warrants it. (1D)

## Recombinant human activated protein C (rhAPC)

◆ Consider rhAPC in adult patients with sepsis-induced organ dysfunction with clinical assessment of high risk of death (typically APACHE II ≥ 25 or multiple organ failure) if there are no contraindications. (2B; 2C for post-operative patients)  
◆ Adult patients with severe sepsis and low risk of death (eg: APACHE II <20 or one organ failure) should not receive rhAPC. (1A)

## Blood product administration

◆ Give red blood cells when haemoglobin decreases to <7.0 g/dl (<70 g/L) to target a haemoglobin of 7.0 – 9.0 g/dl in adults. (1B)  
◆ Do not use erythropoietin to treat sepsis-related anaemia. Erythropoietin may be used for other accepted reasons. (1B)  
◆ Do not use fresh frozen plasma to correct laboratory clotting abnormalities unless there is bleeding or planned invasive procedures. (2D)  
◆ Do not use antithrombin therapy. (1B)  
◆ Administer platelets when: (2D)  
- counts are <5000/mm<sup>3</sup> (5 X 10<sup>9</sup>/L) regardless of bleeding.  
- counts are 5000 to 30,000/mm<sup>3</sup> (5–30 X 10<sup>9</sup>/L) and there is significant bleeding risk.  
- Higher platelet counts ≥ 50,000/mm<sup>3</sup> (50 X 10<sup>9</sup>/L) are typically required for surgery or invasive procedures.

## Mechanical ventilation of sepsis-induced acute lung injury (ALI)/ARDS

◆ Target a tidal volume of 6ml/kg (predicted) body weight in patients with ALI/ARDS. (1B)  
◆ Target an initial upper limit plateau pressure ≤30cmH<sub>2</sub>O. Consider chest wall compliance when assessing plateau pressure. (1C)  
◆ Allow PaCO<sub>2</sub> to increase above normal, if needed to minimise plateau pressures and tidal volumes. (1C)  
◆ Positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) should be set to avoid extensive lung collapse at end expiration. (1C)  
◆ Consider using the prone position for ARDS patients requiring potentially injurious levels of FiO<sub>2</sub> or plateau pressure, provided they are not put at risk from positional changes. (2C)  
◆ Maintain mechanically ventilated patients in a semi-recumbent position unless contraindicated. (1B)  
◆ Suggested target elevation 30 - 45 degrees. (2C)

◆ Epinephrine, phenylephrine or vasopressin should not be administered as the initial vasopressor in septic shock. (2C)  
◆ Vasopressin 0.03 units/min may be subsequently added to norepinephrine with anticipation of an effect equivalent to norepinephrine alone.  
◆ Use epinephrine as the first alternative agent in septic shock when blood pressure is poorly responsive to norepinephrine or dopamine. (2B)  
◆ Do not use low-dose dopamine for renal protection. (1A)  
◆ In patients requiring vasopressors, insert an arterial catheter as soon as practical. (1D)

◆ Non invasive ventilation may be considered in the minority of ALI/ARDS patients with mild-moderate hypoxemic respiratory failure. The patients need to be haemodynamically stable, comfortable, easily arousable, able to protect/clear their airway and expected to recover rapidly. (2B)  
◆ Use a weaning protocol and a spontaneous breathing trial (SBT) regularly to evaluate the potential for discontinuing mechanical ventilation. (1A)  
◆ SBT options include a low level of pressure support with continuous positive airway pressure 5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O or a T-piece.  
◆ Before the SBT, patients should:  
- be arousable  
- be haemodynamically stable without vasopressors  
- have no new potentially serious conditions  
- have low ventilatory and end-expiratory pressure requirement  
- require FiO<sub>2</sub> levels that can be safely delivered with a face mask or nasal cannula  
◆ Do not use a pulmonary artery catheter for the routine monitoring of patients with ALI/ARDS. (1A)  
◆ Use a conservative fluid strategy for patients with established ALI who do not have evidence of tissue hypoperfusion. (1C)

## Sedation, analgesia, and neuromuscular blockade in sepsis

◆ Use sedation protocols with a sedation goal for critically ill mechanically ventilated patients. (1B)  
◆ Use either intermittent bolus sedation or continuous infusion sedation to predetermined end points (sedation scales), with daily interruption/ lightening to produce awakening. Re-titrate if necessary. (1B)  
◆ Avoid neuromuscular blockers where possible. Monitor depth of block with train of four when using continuous infusions. (1B)

## Glucose control

◆ Use IV insulin to control hyperglycaemia in patients with severe sepsis following stabilisation in the ICU. (1B)  
◆ Aim to keep blood glucose <8.3 mmol/L (150 mg/dl) using a validated protocol for insulin dose adjustment. (2C)  
◆ Provide a glucose calorie source and monitor blood glucose values every 1-2 hours (4 hours when stable) in patients receiving intravenous insulin. (1C)  
◆ Interpret with caution low glucose levels obtained with point of care testing, as these techniques may overestimate arterial blood or plasma glucose values. (1B)

## Renal replacement

◆ Intermittent haemodialysis and continuous veno-venous haemofiltration (CVVH) are considered equivalent. (2B)  
◆ CVVH offers easier management in haemodynamically unstable patients. (2D)

## Bicarbonate therapy

◆ Do not use bicarbonate therapy for the purpose of improving haemodynamics or reducing vasopressor requirements when treating hypoperfusion-induced lactic acidemia with pH ≥ 7.15. (1B)

## Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis

◆ Use either low-dose unfractionated heparin (UFH) or low-molecular weight heparin (LMWH), unless contraindicated. (1A)  
◆ Use a mechanical prophylactic device, such as compression stockings or an intermittent compression device, when heparin is contraindicated. (1A)  
◆ Use a combination of pharmacologic and mechanical therapy for patients who are at very high risk for DVT. (2C)  
◆ In patients at very high risk LMWH should be used rather than UFH. (2C)

## Stress ulcer prophylaxis

◆ Provide stress ulcer prophylaxis using H<sub>2</sub> blocker (1A) or proton pump inhibitor (1B). Benefits of prevention of upper GI bleed must be weighed against the potential for development of ventilator-acquired pneumonia.

## Consideration for limitation of support

◆ Discuss advance care planning with patients and families. Describe likely outcomes and set realistic expectations. (1D)

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