

Procalcitonin as a sepsis marker: experience in intensive care setting in Malaysia

Despite advances in critical care, early diagnosis, outcome prediction and decision-making on antibiotics in sepsis remain challenging. Biomarkers like procalcitonin (PCT) may overcome these problems. Meta-analyses revealed that PCT has mean sensitivity of 77% and specificity of 79% for diagnosing sepsis. Elevated level of PCT is also found to be a superior predictor of mortality. Implementation of a PCT-guided antibiotics therapy is associated with a reduced antibiotic exposure without compromising outcomes. However, PCT is still less than a perfect biomarker. Using PCT requires understanding of its physiology and must be interpreted in the light of the patient's clinical context.