Most emergency department patients meeting sepsis criteria are not diagnosed with sepsis at discharge

Des Plaines, IL – Most patients meeting sepsis criteria in the emergency department were not diagnosed with sepsis at discharge. This is the conclusion of a study titled Most emergency department patients meeting sepsis criteria are not diagnosed with sepsis at discharge, to be published in the July issue of Academic Emergency Medicine (AEM), the peer-reviewed journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM).

The study also found that urgent treatment bundles triggered by consensus criteria in the early phase of emergency department care may be administered to several patients without sepsis, potentially exposing some to interventions of uncertain benefit and possible harm. The authors sought to answer a common clinical dilemma: Do certain septic patients warrant a more judicious approach to crystalloid administration or is a uniform resuscitative approach to all septic patients of greater net benefit? They recommend additional research toward the risk factors for harm and await the results of ongoing randomized contrail trials.

The lead author of the study is John M. Litell, MD, of the Department of Emergency Medicine, Hennepin Healthcare and the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Details and results of the study are discussed with Dr. Litell in a recent AEM podcast.
ABOUT ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE
Academic Emergency Medicine, the monthly journal of Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, features the best in peer-reviewed, cutting-edge original research relevant to the practice and investigation of emergency care. The above study is published open access and can be downloaded by following the DOI link: 10.1111/aecm.14265. Journalists wishing to interview the authors may contact Tami Craig at tcraig@saem.org.

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