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