

# Sepsis for neurologist: SAE and pressors in neuroICU



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## Introduction

72/F

# Liver abscess

c septic shock s/p PCD

P/Hx

# HTN

# Type II DM

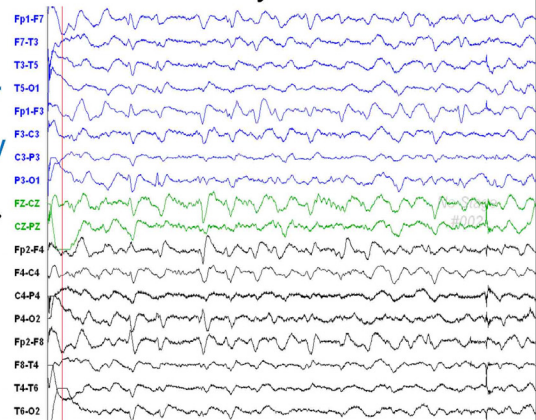
# MI

Consultation for  
altered mentality



Brain image : unremarkable

CSF study : unremarkable



## Introduction

72/F

# Liver abscess

c septic shock s/p PCD

P/Hx

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# Type II DM

# MI

Consultation for  
altered mentality



Sepsis associated encephalopathy (SAE)

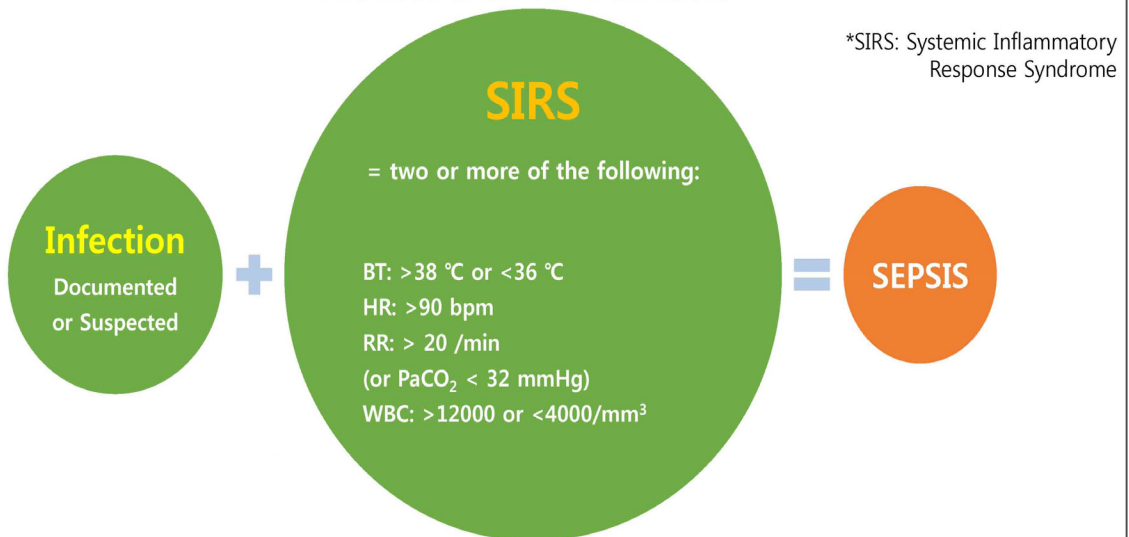
Septic encephalopathy

Sepsis associated delirium

Sepsis induced brain dysfunction

## Definition

### The 1991 and 2001 Definitions



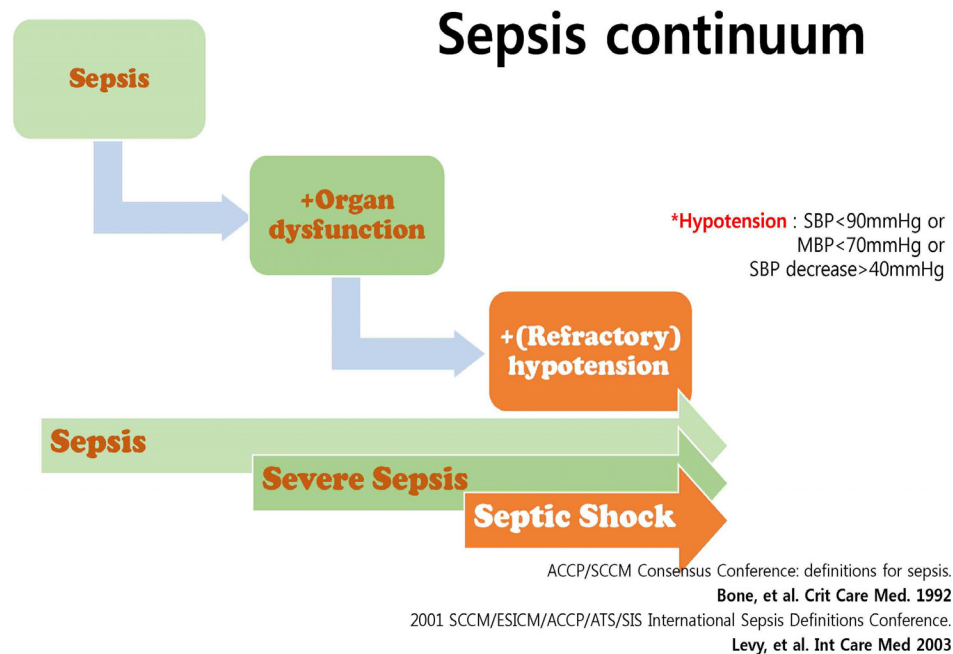
ACCP/SCCM Consensus Conference: definitions for sepsis.

Bone, et al. Crit Care Med. 1992

2001 SCCM/ESICM/ACCP/ATS/SIS International Sepsis Definitions Conference.

Levy, et al. Int Care Med 2003

## Definition



## Definition

### Issues with the 1991 and 2001 Definitions

- ; ACCP/SCCM Consensus Conference: definitions for sepsis. (Bone et al. 1992)
- ; 2001 SCCM/ESICM/ACCP/ATS/SIS International Sepsis Definitions Conference. (Levy et al. 2003)

### SIRS – based

- ; SIRS is an appropriate response to **infection or any other stimulus that activates inflammation**.

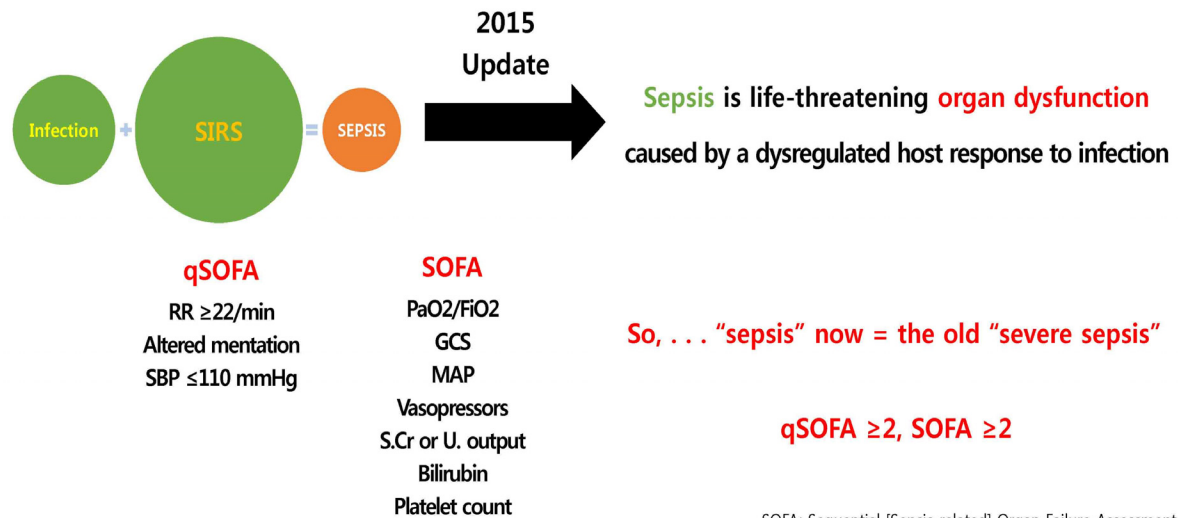
### Severe sepsis

- ; **Confusing** – most people say “sepsis” when they mean “severe sepsis”
- ; Is “severe sepsis” **really needed**?

### Different criteria yielding different results

- ; Australia – 22% (Kaukonen et al. 2014) ; Germany – 60.5% (Heublein et al. 2016) ; The Netherlands – 60% (Klein-Klouwens et al. 2012)

## Definition



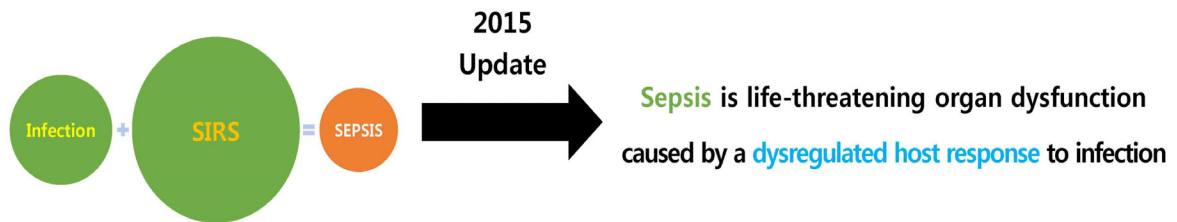
SOFA; Sequential [Sepsis-related] Organ Failure Assessment  
The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3) **Singer, et al. JAMA. 2016**

## Sequential [Sepsis-Related] Organ Failure Assessment Score

System	Score				
	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Respiration</b>					
PaO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> , mm Hg (kPa)	$\geq 400$ (53.3)	$< 400$ (53.3)	$< 300$ (40)	$< 200$ (26.7) with respiratory support	$< 100$ (13.3) with respiratory support
<b>Coagulation</b>					
Platelets, $\times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$	$\geq 150$	$< 150$	$< 100$	$< 50$	$< 20$
<b>Liver</b>					
Bilirubin, mg/dL ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	$< 1.2$ (20)	1.2-1.9 (20-32)	2.0-5.9 (33-101)	6.0-11.9 (102-204)	$> 12.0$ (204)
<b>Cardiovascular</b>					
MAP $\geq 70$ mm Hg		MAP $< 70$ mm Hg	Dopamine $< 5$ or dobutamine (any dose) <sup>b</sup>	Dopamine 5.1-15 or epinephrine $\leq 0.1$ or norepinephrine $\leq 0.1^b$	Dopamine $> 15$ or epinephrine $> 0.1$ or norepinephrine $> 0.1^b$
<b>Central nervous system</b>					
Glasgow Coma Scale score <sup>c</sup>	15	13-14	10-12	6-9	$< 6$
<b>Renal</b>					
Creatinine, mg/dL ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	$< 1.2$ (110)	1.2-1.9 (110-170)	2.0-3.4 (171-299)	3.5-4.9 (300-440)	$> 5.0$ (440)
Urine output, mL/d				$< 500$	$< 200$



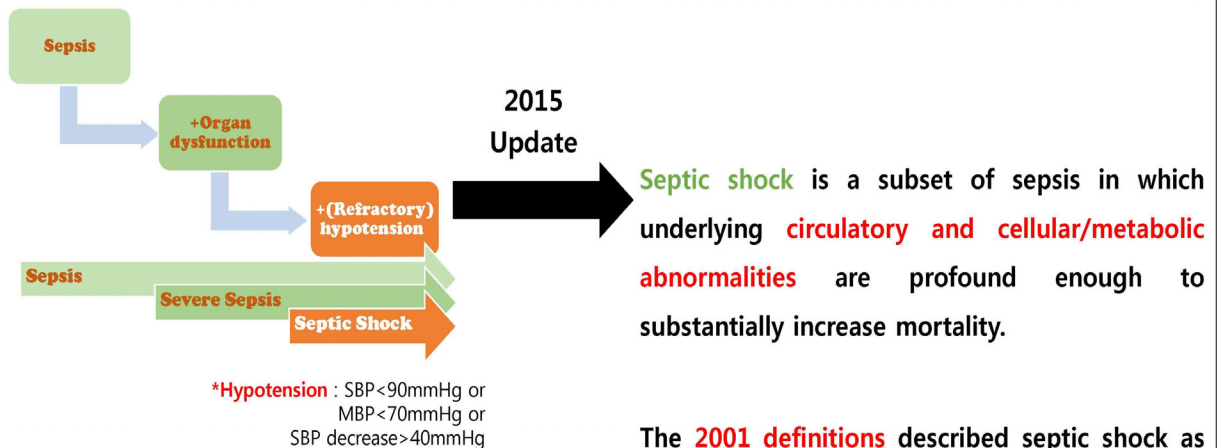
## Definition



As opposed to the “regulated host response” that characterizes the non-septic response to infection (“not simple infection”)

The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3)  
Singer, et al. JAMA. 2016

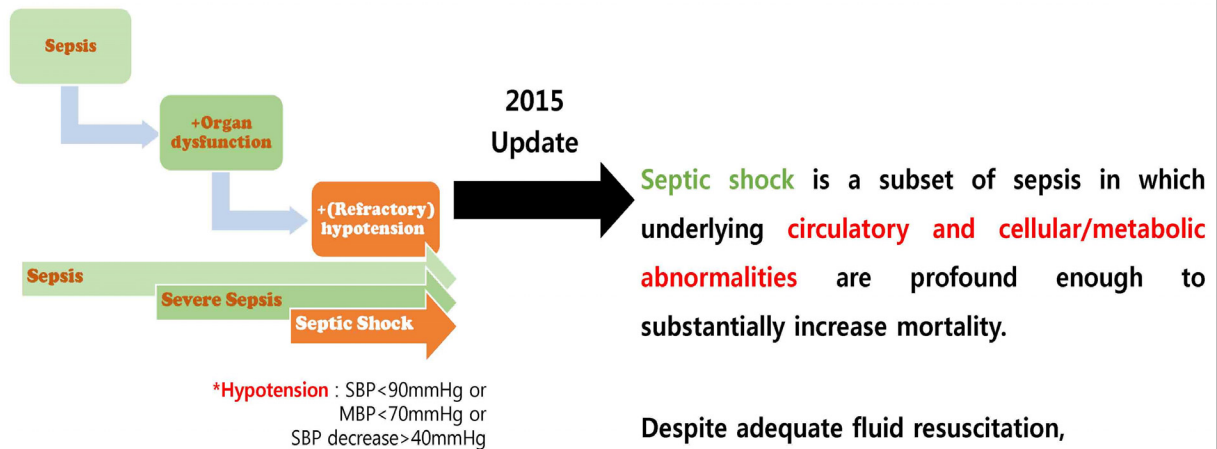
## Definition



The 2001 definitions described septic shock as “a state of acute circulatory failure.”

The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3)  
Singer, et al. JAMA. 2016

## Definition

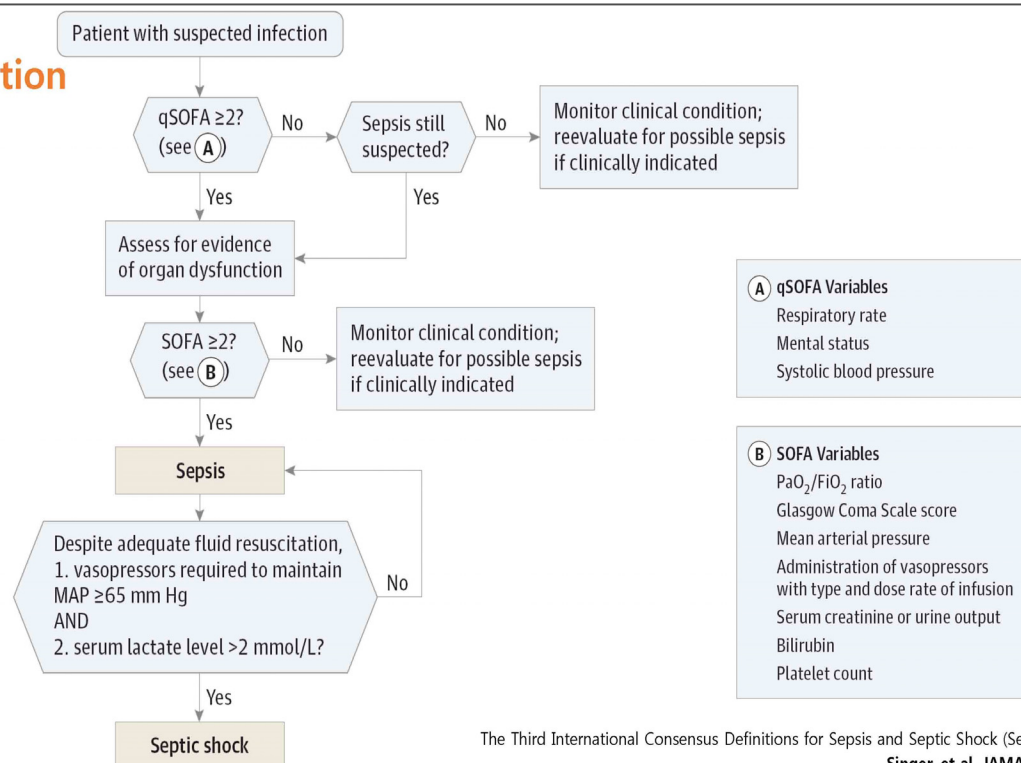


"Sepsis" in place of "Severe Sepsis"

Despite adequate fluid resuscitation,  
 1. **vasopressors** required to maintain **MAP ≥ 65 mmHg**  
**AND**  
 2. serum **lactate level > 2 mmol/L**

The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3)  
 Singer, et al. JAMA. 2016

## Definition



The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3)  
 Singer, et al. JAMA. 2016

## Definition

### Sepsis-associated encephalopathy

Defined by diffuse cerebral dysfunction that accompanies sepsis in the **absence** of **direct CNS infection**, **structural abnormality** or **other types of encephalopathy**, as detected by clinical or standard laboratory tests.



Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012

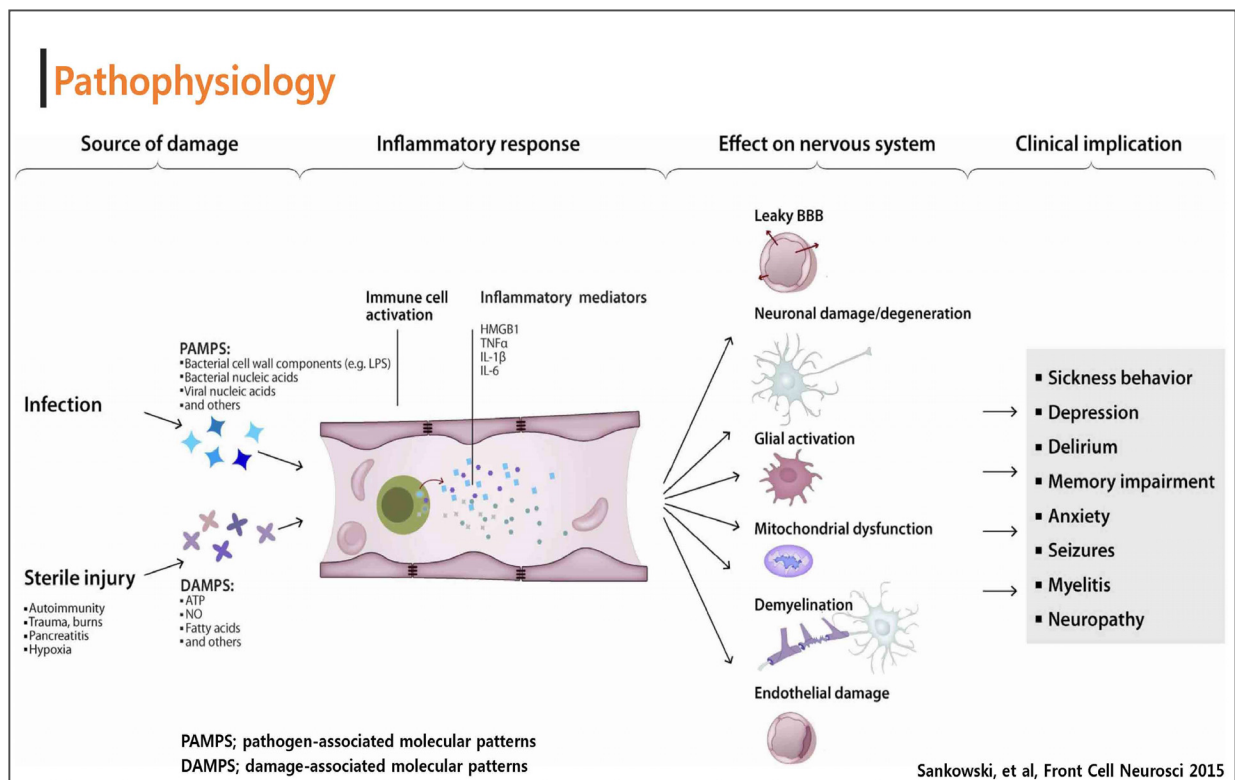
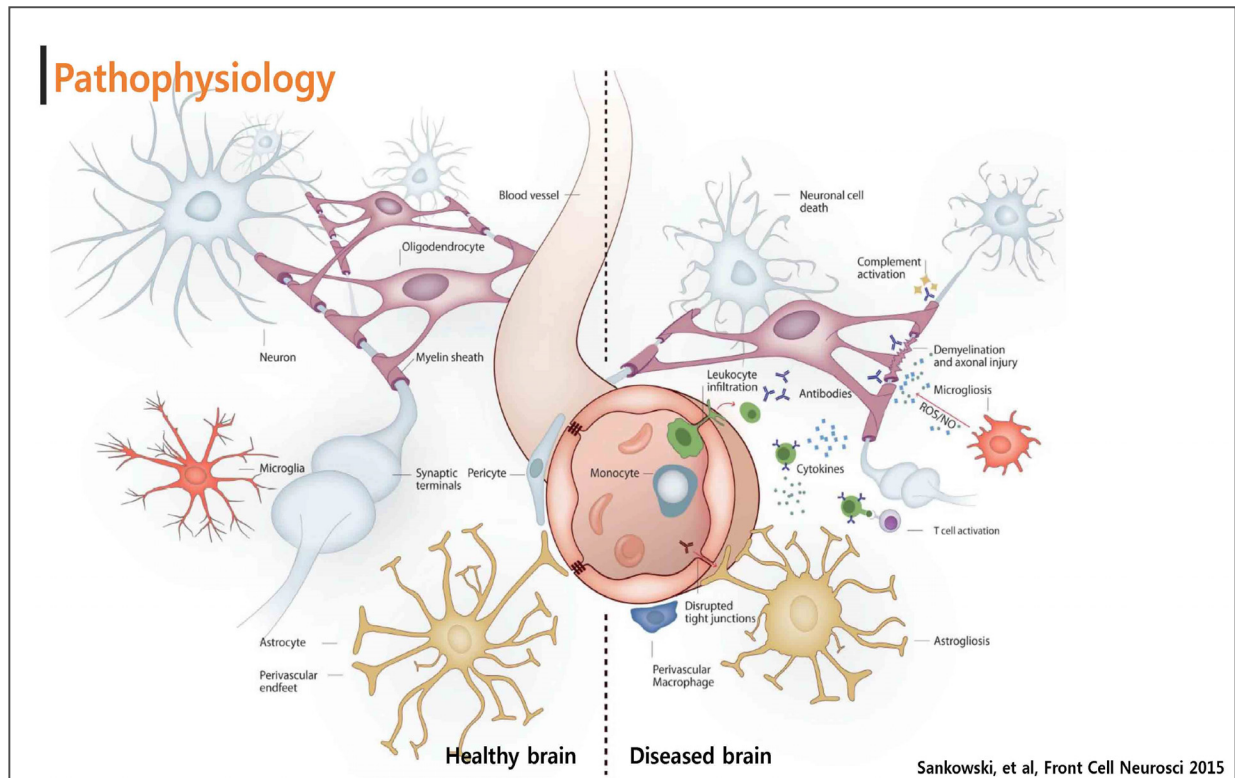
## Epidemiology

- ✓ The **most common cause** of encephalopathy in the ICU
  - : Sepsis is the leading cause of medical illness that required ICU adm.
  - : Over half of patients with sepsis have encephalopathy.
- ✓ Higher incidence rate in patients with bacteremia (~46%)
- ✓ **Delirium** : 20-50% of sepsis
- ✓ **High mortality** : 49% in SAE vs. 26% in normal mental status

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012

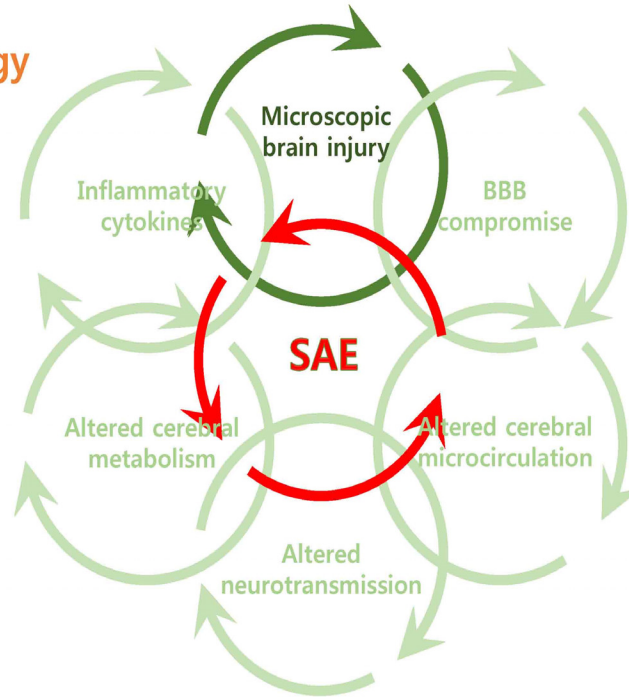
Young, et al. Clin Invest Med 1990

Bolton, et al, Ann Neurol 1993





## Pathophysiology

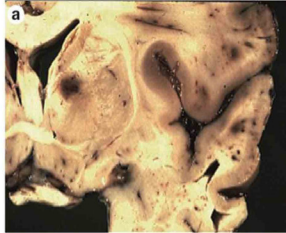


Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012

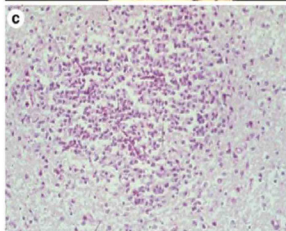
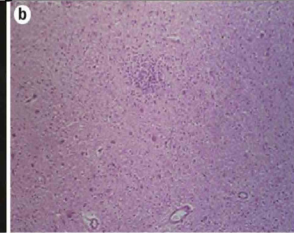
## Pathophysiology

### Microscopic brain injury

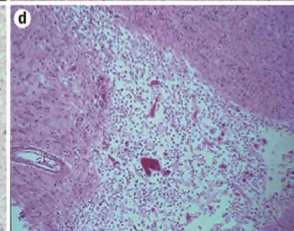
Cerebral ischemia and hemorrhage



Microabscess

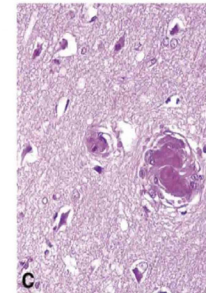


Microabscess

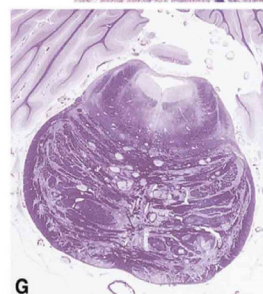
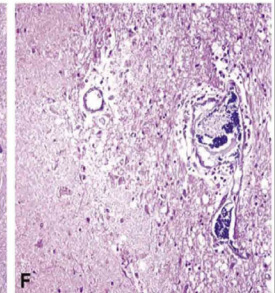


Cerebral ischemia and hemorrhage

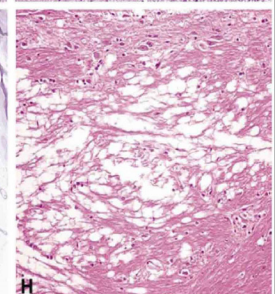
Fibrinous microthrombi



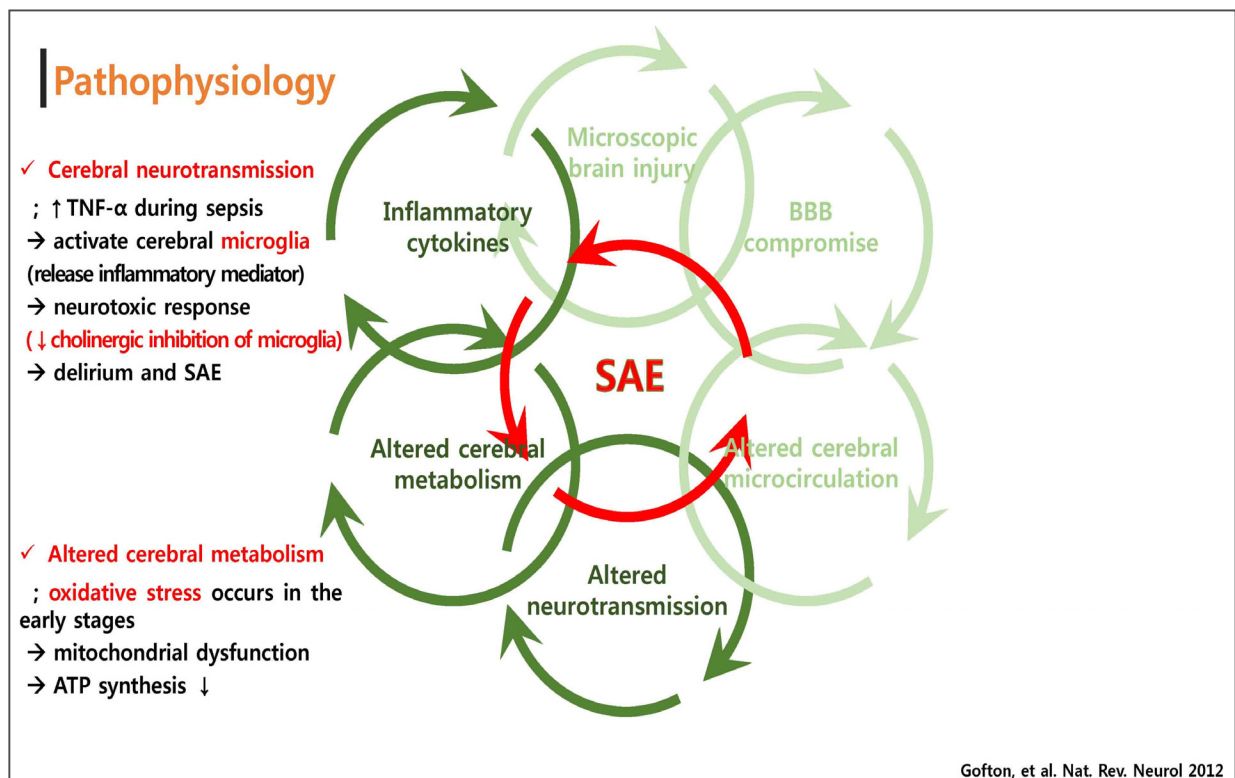
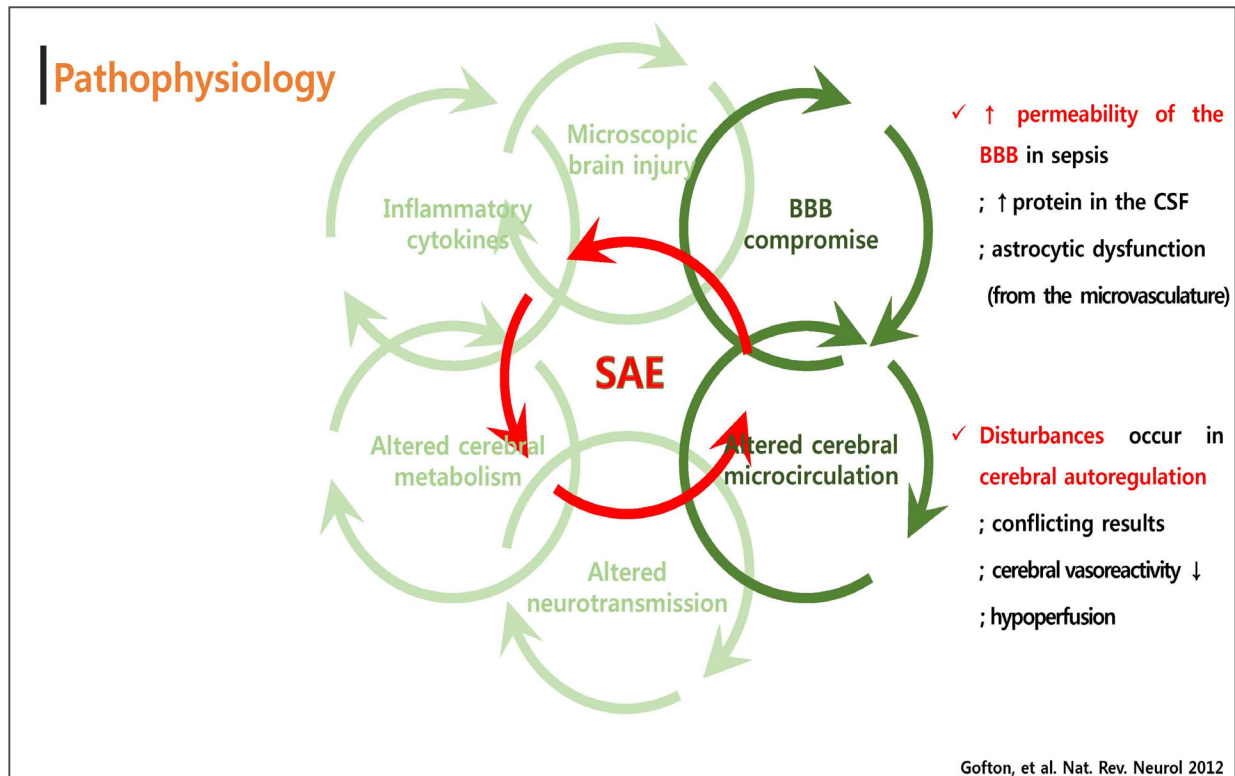
Septic emboli



Multifocal necrotizing leukoencephalopathy



Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012



## Diagnosis

### Sepsis-associated encephalopathy

Defined by diffuse cerebral dysfunction that accompanies sepsis in the **absence** of **direct CNS infection**, **structural abnormality** or **other types of encephalopathy**, as detected by clinical or standard laboratory tests.

#### Diagnosis of exclusion; investigate and eliminate the followings;

- ✓ Direct CNS infection (encephalitis, meningitis, subdural empyema, cerebral abscess, etc.)
- ✓ Structural abnormality (stroke, septic emboli, PRES, etc.)
- ✓ Other types of encephalopathy (hepatic, renal, metabolic, etc.)
- ✓ Drug intoxication or withdrawal (alcohol, benzodiazepine, opioids, SSRI, cefepime, etc.)
- ✓ Non-convulsive status epilepticus

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012

## Checklist for the evaluation of the patients with sepsis and diminished responsiveness

If Patient Has	Possible Cause	Next Steps
Bacteremia and focal deficits	Seeding of the <b>CNS with bacteria</b> ; multiple embolic ± hemorrhagic <b>strokes</b>	Neuroimaging Perform TEE if: 1. Prosthetic valves 2. Prior valvular abnormality 3. S. aureus bacteremia 4. Bacteremia due to an organism known to be a common cause of infectious endocarditis, eg, Viridans streptococci
Paroxysmal or persistent a. fib and focal deficits	Cardioembolic ischemic <b>strokes</b>	Neuroimaging
Ventricular assist device, ECMO Anticoagulation or coagulopathy	Cardioembolic ischemic <b>strokes</b> ; hemorrhagic <b>stroke</b>	Neuroimaging
History of epilepsy; or nystagmus, gaze deviation, or abnormal movements	<b>Nonconvulsive status epilepticus</b>	EEG

Hocker, et al. Continuum 2014

## Checklist for the evaluation of the patients with sepsis and diminished responsiveness

If Patient Has	Possible Cause	Next Steps
Exposure to multiple serotonergic agents; hyperreflexia and rigidity $\pm$ dysautonomia	<b>Serotonin syndrome</b>	Discontinue serotonergic agents Control fever Consider treatment with benzodiazepines Consider treatment with cyproheptadine
Impaired renal function and cefepime use $\geq 3$ days	<b>Cefepime neurotoxicity</b>	Replace cefepime with alternative antimicrobial and observe
Exposure to immunosuppressant; any autoimmune condition; seizures $\pm$ focal deficits	Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome ( <b>PRES</b> )	If possible, remove immunosuppressants EEG $\pm$ AED BP control
Exposure to dopaminergic agents or DBS stimulation; history of mood disorder; rigidity $\pm$ dysautonomia	<b>Neuroleptic malignant syndrome</b> Parkinsonism-hyperpyrexia syndrome Malignant catatonia	Discontinue antidopaminergic agents, hydrate, control fever, consider treatment with dantrolene Interrogate DBS, give dopamine Benzodiazepines, electroconvulsive therapy

Hocker, et al. Continuum 2014

## Diagnosis

81/F

# Rt. **psaos** muscle **abscess**

c **septic shock**(MSSA) s/p PCD

# **AKI**, R/O gentamicin toxicity

P/Hx

# L5 spondylitis

# CHF, HTN

# Panperitonitis d/t appendicitis c perforation

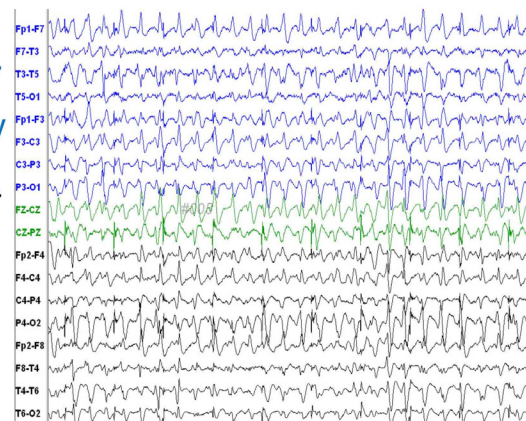
# Parkinson`s disease

WBC 41400, CRP 24.6

Consultation for  
altered mentality



Cefepime for 2 days



Cefepime induced NCSE



## Symptoms and signs of SAE

Main clinical features	Rare signs	Exceptional signs
<b>Altered mental status (from lethargy to coma)</b> Fluctuating confusional state Inappropriate behavior Inattention Agitation <b>Delirium</b> Unresponsiveness Coma Paratonic rigidity Peripheral nerve dysfunction	Asterixis Myoclonus Tremor Seizures	<b>Cranial nerve dysfunction</b> <b>Lateralization</b>

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012  
Chelazzi, et al, Current Anaesthesia & Critical Care 2008

## Symptoms and signs of SAE

**Changes in cognitive or mental status** that are associated with SAE can present in susceptible patients up to **36~48h before other systemic symptoms** of sepsis or SIRS become apparent.

**Hyperventilation** can be an early feature and **paratonic rigidity** might be the only neurological finding, besides delirium, in early SAE.

Advanced disease is associated with **critical illness polyneuropathy in 70% of cases.**

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012  
Eidelman, et al. JAMA 2004

## Diagnostic test

Diagnostic Testing	Findings
EEG	Theta waves Delta waves Triphasic waves Burst suppression Periodic epileptiform discharges Electrographic seizures
CSF analysis	Elevated protein Normal glucose, cell count, Gram stain, and cultures
Neuroimaging	Normal Ischemic strokes Multifocal subcortical white matter lesions

Sharshar, et al, Intensive Care Med 2007  
Gofton, et al, Nat Rev Neurol 2012

## Diagnostic test

### EEG

- ✓ cEEG in MICU (sepsis in 60%)
  - ; ESZs in 10%, PED in 17%, NCSE in 67% of ESZs
  - ; Patients with sepsis had a higher rate of ESZs or PEDs than those without sepsis (32% vs. 9%)
  - ; ESZs or PEDs was associated with death or severe disability at hospital discharge (89% vs. 39%)
- ✓ Triphasic wave in 20% of patients c sepsis
- ✓ Bacteremia without encephalopathy ; EEG abnormality in 50%

### Changes in EEG recordings in patients with sepsis

Degree of encephalopathy	EEG findings (% of patients)				
	normal	Theta	Delta	Triphasic	Burst-suppression
None	50	38	12	0	0
Mild	0	47	53	0	0
Severe	0	10	40	20	30

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012  
Young, et al. Clin Invest Med 1992  
Oddo, et al, Crit Care Med 2009

## Diagnostic test

### Biomarkers

#### ✓ S 100 $\beta$ , neuron-specific enolase (NSE)

- S 100 $\beta$  : reflects glial cell injury and abnormal BBB function
- NSE : reflects neuronal injury (intraneuronal enzyme)
- NSE was not a good biomarker for SAE compared to S 100 $\beta$ .

#### ✓ procalcitonin, IL-6, 8, amyloid- $\beta$ , glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)

#### ✓ No specific biomarkers

- also can increase in patients with survived CA and TBI

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012  
Young, et al. Clin Invest Med 1992  
Oddo, et al, Crit Care Med 2009

## Treatment

#### ✓ Early detection and treatment of delirium & SAE

- ; delirium - the first manifestation of sepsis

#### ✓ Determination of the underlying cause

#### ✓ Accurate and prompt treatment of the infection

Surviving Sepsis  
Campaign

#### ✓ Avoid benzodiazepine & deep sedation

- ; Patients treated with dexmedetomidine had more encephalopathy-free days, shorter time on the ventilator and lower mortality than those treated with lorazepam.

- ; RASS 0~(-2), SAS 3~4, Ramsay sedation scale 3~5

#### ✓ No definitive therapy exists for SAE

- ; magnesium, riluzole(glutamate release inhibitor), etc.

Gofton, et al. Nat. Rev. Neurol 2012  
Hocker, et al. Continuum 2014  
Pandharipande, et al. Crit Care 2010

## Treatment

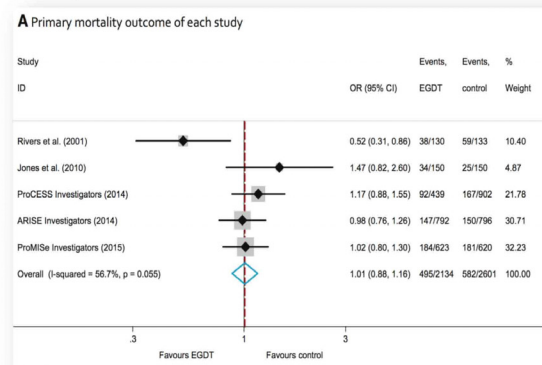
Surviving Sepsis Campaign

Updated Bundles in Response to New Evidence

### 2012 Recommendation for Initial Resuscitation

We recommend the **protocolized**, quantitative resuscitation of patients with sepsis- induced tissue hypoperfusion. During the first 6 hours of resuscitation, the **goals of initial resuscitation should include all** of the following as a part of a treatment protocol:

- a) CVP 8–12 mm Hg
- b) MAP  $\geq$  65 mm Hg
- c) Urine output  $\geq$  0.5 mL/kg/hr
- d) Scvo2  $\geq$  70%



Angus, et al. Intensive Care Med 2015

## Treatment

Surviving Sepsis Campaign

Updated Bundles in Response to New Evidence

### TO BE COMPLETED **WITHIN 3 HOURS**:

1. Measure **lactate** level
2. Obtain **blood cultures** prior to administration of antibiotics
3. Administer **broad spectrum antibiotics**
4. Administer **30ml/kg crystalloid** for hypotension or lactate  $\geq$  4mmol/L

### TO BE COMPLETED **WITHIN 6 HOURS**:

5. Apply vasopressors (for hypotension that does not respond to initial fluid resuscitation) to maintain a **MAP  $\geq$  65mmHg**
6. In the event of persistent hypotension after initial fluid administration (MAP < 65mmHg) or if initial lactate was  $\geq$  4 mmol/L, re-assess volume status and tissue perfusion
7. Re-measure lactate if initial lactate elevated.

## Treatment

Surviving Sepsis  
Campaign

Updated Bundles in Response to New Evidence

Suggest **albumin** in addition to crystalloids for initial resuscitation and subsequent IV volume replacement in patients with sepsis and septic shock **when patients require substantial amounts of crystalloids** (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).

Recommend **against using hydroxyethyl starches** for IV volume replacement in patients with sepsis or septic shock (strong recommendation, high quality of evidence).

## Treatment

Surviving Sepsis  
Campaign

Updated Bundles in Response to New Evidence

Recommend **norepinephrine** as the first-choice vasopressor (strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Suggest adding either **vasopressin** (up to 0.03 U/min) or **epinephrine** to norepinephrine with the intent of raising MAP to target, or adding vasopressin (up to 0.03 U/min) to decrease norepinephrine dosage. (weak recommendation)

Suggest using **dopamine** as an alternative vasopressor agent to norepinephrine **only in highly selected patients** (e.g., patients with low risk of tachyarrhythmias and absolute or relative bradycardia) (weak recommendation)

## Treatment



Updated Bundles in Response to New Evidence

Recommend **against using low-dose dopamine** for renal protection (strong recommendation, high quality of evidence)

Suggest using **dobutamine** in patients who show evidence of **persistent hypoperfusion** despite adequate fluid loading and the use of vasopressor agents (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).

Suggest that all patients requiring vasopressors have an **arterial catheter** placed as soon as practical if resources are available (weak recommendation, very low quality of evidence).

## Summary

- ✓ **3rd definition** of Sepsis & Septic shock
- ✓ **SAE and delirium are early features of infection and might appear before other systemic features** of sepsis are obvious
- ✓ SAE has a spectrum of degrees of severity, ranging from **lethargy to coma**
- ✓ Diagnosis relies on **exclusion** of primary CNS infection and other causes of encephalopathy
- ✓ Multiple mechanisms and pathophysiology
- ✓ **Mortality** increase with disease severity
- ✓ **Early investigation and prompt treatment** of underlying infection



## Summary

- ✓ Recommend **norepinephrine** as the first-choice vasopressor
- ✓ Suggest **albumin** in addition to crystalloids for initial resuscitation and subsequent IV volume replacement in patients with sepsis and septic shock **when patients require substantial amounts of crystalloids**
- ✓ Recommend **against using hydroxyethyl starches**
- ✓ Suggest using **dopamine** as an alternative vasopressor agent to norepinephrine **only in highly selected patients**
- ✓ Suggest that all patients requiring vasopressors have an **arterial catheter** placed as soon as practical if resources are available

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Education  
Section**

**Neurocritical care**

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**Department of Neurology  
Keimyung Univ. Dongsan Hospital**

**Sepsis for neurologist  
; SAE and pressor in neuroICU**