

Special Issue

Sepsis and Group A Streptococcus

Message from the Guest Editors

Sepsis, defined as life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection, is the major cause of mortality from any infectious disease worldwide. In 2005, the WHO reported a global estimate of 18.1 million cases of severe *Streptococcus pyogenes* (GPOS) disease, with 1.78 million new cases of severe disease and 517,000 deaths per year. Group A streptococci (GAS) not only cause superficial diseases, but they have also the capacity to breach epithelial barriers and cause a variety of invasive diseases that lead to the death of 8 to 23% of patients with GAS invasive disease within 7 days of infection. The 3–6 hours after the clinical suspicion is critical for the establishment of therapeutic measures that improve prognosis and the keystone of sepsis management is timely administration of active microbials. Under routine clinical praxis, patients with suspected sepsis are immediately screened for biomarkers and blood culture is drawn.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics.

Pathogens is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

Editor-in-Chief

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