Additional file 1
Sepsis recognition in the emergency department - impact on quality of care and outcome?
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Baseline characteristics of all included patients

| Variable                              | Total     | No infection | Infection | P value |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Demographics                          |           |              |           |         |
| Number of patients, n (%)             | 487 (100) | 377 (77.4)   | 110 (22.6)|         |
| Age in years, median (IQR)            | 58 (41–72)| 57 (40–72)   | 59 (44–73)| 0.5     |
| Female sex, n (%)                     | 197 (40.5)| 151 (40.1)   | 46 (41.8) | 0.7     |
| Primary reason for admission, n (%)   |           |              |           |         |
| Cardiovascular                        | 203 (53.8)| 0            |           |         |
| Gastrointestinal                      | 53 (14.1) | 0            |           |         |
| Respiratory                           | 37 (9.8)  | 0            |           |         |
| Nephrologic/ rheumatologic            | 31 (8.2)  | 0            |           |         |
| Hematologic                           | 12 (3.2)  | 0            |           |         |
| Intoxication/drug-related             | 9 (2.4)   | 0            |           |         |
| Other                                 | 32 (8.5)  | 0            |           |         |
| Infection                             | 0         | 110 (100)    |           |         |
| SIRS criteria                         |           |              |           | <0.0001 |
| Positive SIRS criteria, n (%)         |           |              |           | <0.0001 |
| 0                                     | 264 (54.2)| 244 (64.7)   | 20 (18.2) |         |
| 1                                     | 143 (29.4)| 107 (28.4)   | 36 (32.7) |         |
| 2                                     | 49 (10.1) | 21 (5.6)     | 28 (25.5) |         |
| 3                                     | 26 (5.3)  | 5 (1.3)      | 21 (19.1) |         |
| 4                                     | 5 (1)     | 0 (0)        | 5 (4.5)   |         |
| SIRS, mean/median (IQR)               | 0.7/0 (0–1)| 0.4/0 (0–1) | 1.6/1 (1–2)| <0.0001|
| Heart rate in beats per min, median   | 80 (68–96)| 77 (66–92)   | 92 (80–106)| <0.0001|
|                                    | Group 1  | Group 2  | Group 3  | p-value |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| **Respiratory rate, breaths/min (IQR)** | 14 (12–18) | 14 (12–17) | 16 (13–20) | <0.0001 |
| **Temperature in °C, median (IQR)**  | 36.2 (36.0–36.7) | 36.2 (36.0–36.5) | 37.2 (36.1–38.4) | <0.0001 |
| **Leukocytes (×1000/µL)**           | 8.1 (6.2–10.3)  | 7.8 (6.2–9.7)  | 10 (5.8–13.7) | 0.006   |
| **Additional clinical data**         |          |          |          |         |
| **MAP in mmHg, median (IQR)**       | 98 (90–109) | 101 (92–111) | 92 (83–102) | <0.0001 |
| **CRP in mg/dL, median (IQR)**      | <0.5 (<0.5–3.5) | <0.5 (<0.5–0.9) | 8.6 (2.8–14.6) | <0.0001 |
| **Lactate mmol/L**                  | 0.9 (0.7–1.5) | 0.9 (0.7–1.5) | 0.9 (0.7–1.4) | 0.9     |
| **Hospitalization, n (%)**          | 159 (53.2) | 168 (44.6) | 91 (82.7) | <0.0001 |

Median and interquartile range reported for continuous variables and frequency; percentage reported for categorical variables. Differences between patients with/without infection were calculated using the Mann–Whitney U test for continuous variables and chi-square test for categorical variables. Two-sided p values <0.05 were considered statistically significant. SIRS, systemic inflammatory response syndrome; MAP, mean arterial pressure; CRP, C-reactive protein.