Heparin-binding protein is significantly increased in acute pancreatitis

Martina Sjöbeck¹, Hanna Sternby¹, Heiko Herwald², Henrik Thorlacius¹ and Sara Regnér¹*

Abstract

Background: Most patients with acute pancreatitis (AP) experience mild, self-limiting disease with little or no need for hospital care. However, 20–25% of patients develop a more severe and potentially life-threatening condition with progressive systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) and multiorgan failure, resulting in high morbidity and mortality rates. Predicting disease severity at an early stage is important, as immediate supportive care has been demonstrated to reduce the incidence of SIRS and organ failure, improving patient outcome. Several studies have demonstrated elevated levels of heparin-binding protein (HBP) in patients with sepsis and septic shock, and HBP is believed to play a part in endothelial dysfunction leading to vascular leakage. As HBP levels increase prior to other known biomarkers, HBP has emerged as a promising early predictor of severe sepsis with organ dysfunction.

Methods: Patients admitted to Skåne University Hospital in Malmö between 2010 and 2013 fulfilling the criteria for AP were identified in the emergency department and prospectively enrolled in this study. The primary outcome was measured levels of HBP upon hospital admission in patients with confirmed AP. Correlations among HBP concentrations, disease severity and fluid balance were considered secondary endpoints. The correlation between HBP levels and fluid balance were analysed using Pearson correlation, and the ability of HBP to predict moderately severe/severe AP was assessed using a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve.

Results: The overall median HBP level in this study was 529 (307–898) ng/ml. There were no significant group differences in HBP levels based on AP severity. Fluid balance differed significantly between patients with mild versus moderately severe and severe pancreatitis, but we found no correlation between HBP concentration and fluid balance.

Conclusions: HBP levels are dramatically increased in patients with AP, and these levels far exceed those previously reported in other conditions. In this study, we did not observe any significant correlation between HBP levels and disease severity or the need for intravenous fluid. Additional studies on HBP are needed to further explore the role of HBP in the pathogenesis of AP and its possible clinical implications.

Keywords: Acute pancreatitis, Heparin-binding protein, Biomarkers

Background

Most patients with acute pancreatitis (AP) present with mild, self-limiting disease, with little or no need for hospital care. However, 20–25% of patients develop a more severe and potentially life-threatening condition with progressive systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) and multiorgan failure, resulting in high morbidity and mortality rates [1–3]. Therefore, early recognition of patients with potentially severe disease is crucial. Additionally, immediate supportive care has been demonstrated to reduce the incidence of SIRS and organ failure, improving patient outcomes. The role of fluid resuscitation in acute pancreatitis has recently gained increasing interest.
Counteracting hypotension and haemoconcentration using early fluid administration is believed to preserve microcirculation in the pancreas, preventing further damage and necrosis [4, 5]. However, there are controversies regarding the optimal rate and volume of fluid administration in these patients. Therefore, a method for analysing the fluid requirement of each individual patient would be of great clinical value [6–8].

The inflammatory response plays a key role in the pathogenesis of acute pancreatitis, particularly in the more severe forms, and numerous mediators have been investigated as potential prognostic biomarkers [9, 10]. Although some have shown promising results in predicting severe pancreatitis upon hospital admission, none of them has proven sufficient to be incorporated into routine clinical practice [11–13].

Heparin-binding protein (HBP), also known as CAP37 and azurocidin, is a glycoprotein stored in azurophilic granules and secretory vesicles in neutrophils that is released upon neutrophil activation early in the systemic inflammatory response [14].

HBP serves as a potent chemoattractant for monocytes, fibroblasts, and T-cells and enhances the inflammatory response by stimulating the production of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha, interleukin (IL)-1 and IL-6 [15–20].

In addition, HBP has been shown to increase endothelial cell permeability, leading to vascular dysfunction and plasma fluid leakage in sepsis and in other inflammatory disorders [18, 19, 21, 22].

Several studies have reported elevated levels of HBP in patients with sepsis and septic shock [23–25]. Because HBP levels increase prior to other known biomarkers (e.g., C-reactive protein (CRP), procalcitonin, white blood cell count (WBC) and lactate), it has emerged as a promising early predictor of severe sepsis with organ dysfunction [25]. Interestingly, HBP elevation has been found not only in septic shock but also in patients who develop circulatory failure for other reasons [26–28].

In AP, endothelial dysfunction, plasma fluid leakage and the need for substantial volumes of intravenous fluids to maintain adequate circulation resemble the pathophysiology of sepsis and septic shock. In both cases, neutrophil recruitment and activation play a crucial role in the aggravated inflammatory response. Given the role of HBP in endothelial dysfunction in sepsis, we hypothesized that HBP might also play a crucial role in the development of AP.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate whether the concentration of HBP is elevated in AP and whether HBP can be used as an early predictive biomarker for severe disease. Furthermore, we examined whether HBP represents a biomarker for fluid loss during acute pancreatitis.

Methods

Patients and study design

As has been previously described, all patients > 18 years of age diagnosed with AP and admitted to the Department of Surgery, Skåne University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden, from January 2010 to September 2013 were prospectively and consecutively enrolled in a research database [11, 29]. Patients who did not understand information provided in Swedish or with a symptom duration exceeding 72 h were excluded. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee for Clinical Research at Lund University, Sweden (2009/415). Informed consent (oral and written) was obtained from all participants in the study.

The diagnosis of AP was determined at fulfilment of two out of the following three criteria: (1) acute characteristic upper abdominal pain, (2) serum amylase ≥ 3 times the upper reference limit and/or (3) characteristic findings on computed tomography, ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging.

Clinical data were obtained from patients at inclusion and retrospectively from medical charts [11, 29]. Patients were retrospectively classified as having mild, moderately severe or severe pancreatitis according to the Revised Atlanta Classification of 2012 [30]. Fluid balance was retrospectively obtained from separate fluid charts that were used in routine practice in the surgical wards. Included in the fluid balance were intravenous (iv) and oral fluid input, urinary output, vomiting, fluid loss through gastric tube and iv diuretic administration.

The primary end point was measured levels of HBP upon hospital admission in patients with confirmed AP. The correlation between HBP concentration and disease severity, as well as HBP concentration and fluid balance, were regarded as secondary endpoints.

Blood samples

EDTA plasma samples were obtained upon admission to the hospital, centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 10 min (25 °C) and stored at −80 °C until analysis. HBP concentration was determined by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), as previously described by Tapper et al. [14]. In addition, CRP was analysed using standard methods at the Department of Clinical Chemistry, Skåne University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden.

Statistical analysis

Data are presented as the mean ± standard deviation (SD) and median with interquartile range (IQR) as appropriate. Proportions were compared using the chi-squared
test. With the population stratified into three groups, variables were analysed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) or Kruskal–Wallis test when appropriate. Post hoc pairwise comparisons were adjusted for multiple comparisons using the Bonferroni correction. Since this study included a limited number of patients with severe pancreatitis, we chose to analyse the discriminatory ability of HBP by dichotomizing mild and moderately severe/severe disease. The stratifying capacity of HBP was assessed using a receiver operating curve (ROC), and the results are presented as the area under the curve (AUC). The correlation between HBP levels and fluid balance was analysed using the Pearson correlation. A multivariable logistic regression was performed to assess the independent effect of HBP concentration (in relation to fluid balance, diuretics administered and symptom duration) on disease severity, and the results are presented as odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). A $p$ value $< 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. All statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics (IBM SPSS Statistics for Mac (2017), version 26. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp).

**Results**

**Patient characteristics**

A total of 260 patients with AP were included in our research database, and plasma material for HBP analysis was available for 204 of them. In two cases, the analysis failed due to an inadequate amount of plasma, leaving a study cohort of 202 patients.

The baseline characteristics of the study group are presented in Table 1. The mean age was 63.8 ± 18.7 years, and 50% of patients were female. In 59% of cases, patients presented with biliary pancreatitis, 13% were alcohol induced, and 10% were idiopathic, whereas the remaining cases were caused by other mechanisms (e.g., post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), tumours, strictures, hypercalcaemia and hyperlipidaemia). In total, 4% of cases were classified as severe AP, 19% as moderately severe and 77% as mild, according to the Revised Atlanta classification [30]. One patient in the mild group was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) due to delirium tremens.

Age, body mass index (BMI) and symptom duration were similar across the three groups, whereas CRP on the day of admission was 28 (11–59) mg/L, 30 (19–97) mg/L and 122 (83–170) mg/L in the mild, moderately severe and severe groups, respectively ($p = 0.004$).

In total, 5% of the patients were admitted to the ICU—1% in the mild group, 6% with moderately severe pancreatitis and 75% of patients with severe pancreatitis ($p < 0.001$) (Table 2). There were no deaths among patients with mild or moderately severe pancreatitis, whereas 56% of patients with severe pancreatitis succumbed to the disease.

Fluids administered on the day of hospital admission are presented in Table 3. The majority of patients received lactated ringers and glucose as initial fluid resuscitation.

**HBP measurement**

The overall median HBP concentration in this study was 529 (307–898) ng/ml. In mild pancreatitis, the median HBP level was 527 (301–887) ng/ml; in moderately severe cases, it was 529 (338–955) ng/ml; and in the severe group, the median HBP was 640 (383–1465) ng/ml ($p = 0.474$) (Fig. 1). ROC analysis testing the performance

| Table 1 | Baseline characteristics |
|---------|--------------------------|
|         | All (n = 202) | Mild (n = 155) | Moderately severe (n = 38) | Severe (n = 9) | p value | Missing |
| Gender n (%) | | | | | | |
| Male | 102 (50) | 76 (49) | 21 (55) | 5 (56) | 0.751 | 0 |
| Female | 100 (50) | 79 (51) | 17 (45) | 4 (44) | | |
| Age | 63.8 ± 18.7 | 63.0 ± 19.0 | 65.6 ± 18.5 | 75 ± 12.0 | 0.155 | 0 |
| BMI (kg/m²) | 25.5 (23.2–29.8) | 25.2 (22.9–29.7) | 26.6 (24.3–31.0) | 24.5 (22.6–30.1) | 0.207 | 0 |
| Aetiology n (%) | | | | | | |
| Biliary | 119 (59) | 95 (61) | 21 (55) | 3 (33) | 0.161 | 0 |
| Alcohol | 27 (13) | 17 (11) | 9 (24) | 1 (11) | | |
| Idiopathic | 21 (10) | 14 (9) | 4 (11) | 3 (33) | | |
| Other | 35 (19) | 29 (19) | 4 (11) | 2 (22) | | |
| Onset to admission *(h) | 9 (3–24) | 9 (4–25) | 8 (3–24) | 8 (0–19) | 0.634 | 2 |

*Values are expressed as the median and interquartile range (IQR), except for age, which is presented as the mean ± standard deviation (SD). Classification of groups according to revised Atlanta Classification

*Onset of symptom until admission to hospital
of HBP to discriminate between mild and moderately severe/severe AP resulted in an AUC = 0.455 (Fig. 2). When analysing HBP in patients admitted to the hospital < 12 h after symptom onset, we found an HBP concentration of 565 (307–898) ng/ml in mild AP and 529 (301–887) ng/ml in patients with moderately severe/severe disease ($p = 0.531$). In patients who were admitted > 12 h from the start of symptoms, the median HBP concentration was 508 (302–827) ng/ml in mild AP and 413 (333–1031) ng/ml in moderately severe/severe AP ($p = 0.493$).

We identified significant differences in fluid balance between patients with mild disease compared to those with moderately severe and severe AP (Table 4). However, there was no correlation between HBP concentration and fluid balance on the day of admission (correlation coefficient 0.031, $p = 0.712$) or day one ($−0.010$, $p = 0.899$) or two (0.056, $p = 0.475$) after admission. When only those patients who did not receive diuretics were analysed, there was still no correlation between HBP concentration and fluid balance. Additionally, there was no correlation between HBP concentration and the amount of fluid given/hour on the day of admission (correlation coefficient $−0.022$, $p = 0.776$).
Furthermore, multivariable logistic regression did not identify HPB as independently associated with moderately severe/severe AP (OR; 1.000, 95% CI 0.999–1.001, \( p = 0.742 \)) (Additional file 1: Table S1). However, both fluid balance on the day of admission (OR; 1.010, 95% CI 1.004–1.016, \( p = 0.002 \)) and the need for diuretics (OR; 3.600, 95% CI 1.502–8.632, \( p = 0.004 \)) were associated with moderately severe/severe AP independent of HPB concentration or symptom duration.

### Discussion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to analyse HPB levels in AP. Herein, we demonstrate that the concentration of HPB was dramatically elevated in all patients with AP and that HPB levels far exceeded those previously reported in other conditions. However, although variation in fluid balances corresponded to different severity levels of pancreatitis, this did not correlate with significant differences in HPB levels at admission. Initial assessment of patients with AP remains a clinical challenge. A number of promising biomarkers and scoring systems have been shown to aid in the prediction of disease severity, but none of them have yet been translated into general clinical use [11–13, 31]. Therefore, management of these patients still relies to a large extent on blunt methods, including monitoring of vital signs and fluid balance, using fluid charts and urinary output.

Several studies have shown the importance of early fluid resuscitation for reducing systemic inflammation and organ failure, which improves patient outcome [4, 5, 32, 33]. The majority of patients experience mild disease [1, 3], many of whom are overtreated and thus subjected to unnecessary risks of fluid overload, hospital-related infections and discomfort, along with the economic burden to the healthcare system [34, 35].

HPB has shown promising results as an early biomarker for predicting hypotension and organ failure in patients with sepsis [25]. Part of this is believed to be due to HPB’s involvement in vascular dysfunction, with HPB’s interaction with the endothelial surface contributing to vascular leakage and oedema formation [18, 19, 21, 22]. In acute pancreatitis, a similar inflammatory response and endothelial dysfunction are observed, with both a local and systemic inflammatory response. In more severe cases, this reaction leads to hypotension and organ dysfunction. As such, HPB could be useful as a tool for estimating the severity of AP, as well as the volume of fluid required in individual patients.

Interestingly, the levels of HPB upon admission were substantially elevated in all patients with AP included in this study. The median value of HPB was 529 (307–898) ng/ml, which far exceeds any previously reported HPB levels. Linder et al. published several studies on HPB in the setting of septic shock, with median HPB levels of 40–65 ng/mL [23, 25]. In cardiac arrest and in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), similar HPB levels were reported [27, 28].

The extremely high concentrations of HPB, regardless of disease severity, may indicate that HPB plays a key role in the pathophysiology of acute pancreatitis by increasing vascular permeability and promoting fluid loss. HPB is released early in response to activation of neutrophils and binds to proteoglycans on the endothelial surface. Thereafter, by mechanisms that are still not fully established, HPB rearranges the cytoskeleton of endothelial cells, leading to alterations in their permeability. In the setting of acute pancreatitis, trypsin activation triggers recruitment and activation of neutrophils, and in turn, neutrophils cause trypsin activation locally in the pancreatic tissue, resulting in a vicious cycle. This interplay might explain the dramatically increased HPB levels that set AP apart from other diagnoses [36].

Despite demonstrating generally increased levels in AP, this study did not observe any significant difference in HPB levels between the different severity groups, as confirmed by a ROC analysis with an area under the curve (AUC) of 0.455. One should keep in mind that the number of patients presenting with severe pancreatitis in our study was low, comprising only 9 patients. However, this group seems to be representative of severe AP based on exhibiting significantly higher CRP levels than those with mild disease (\( p = 0.004 \)) and a mortality rate of 56% compared to 0% among the remaining patients.

### Table 4: Fluid balances day 0–2 according to AP severity grade

|                  | Mild (\( n = 155 \)) | Moderately severe (\( n = 38 \)) | Severe (\( n = 9 \)) | \( p \) value (mild vs. moderate) | \( p \) value (mild vs. severe) | \( p \) value (moderate vs. severe) | Missing |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Fluid balance Day 0 | 1623 (900–2301)      | 2341 (1458–3092)                 | 2707 (1950–2828)     | 0.002                           | 0.106                           | 1.000                            | 58      |
| Fluid balance Day 1 | 453 (537–1364)       | 1750 (548–2438)                  | 3740 (750–6640)      | 0.001                           | 0.001                           | 0.450                            | 29      |
| Fluid balance Day 2 | – 83 (600–600)       | 510 (538–1265)                   | 2260 (60–3830)       | 0.200                           | 0.007                           | 0.157                            | 39      |

Values are expressed as medians and interquartile ranges (IQRs). All \( p \) values were corrected for multiple comparisons using the Bonferroni method. Fluid is expressed in millilitre (ml).
In this study, patients had HBP concentrations of 527 (301–887) ng/ml, 529 (338–955) ng/ml and 640 (383–1465) ng/ml when presenting with mild, moderately severe and severe disease, respectively ($p = 0.474$). Despite the low number of patients with severe AP, the results indicate a wide range of HBP levels, similar to other biomarkers studied in AP [11, 13]. These large variations make HBP less useful as a predictive marker for severity.

On the other hand, our data revealed that fluid balance in the first days differs between AP severity groups, with patients with moderately severe and severe disease requiring more fluid than patients with mild disease. Our findings are consistent with other studies showing that patients with the moderately severe and severe form of AP are in need of more IV fluid [4, 8]. However, to our knowledge, this is the first study to demonstrate that this variable corresponds to a difference in overall fluid balance. A large positive fluid balance, despite diuretics, could give clinicians an early hint that the patient is heading towards a more severe form of the disease. In addition, our multivariable logistic regression showed that fluid input/hour on the day of admission and the use of diuretics were associated with moderately severe/severe AP independent of symptom duration or HBP concentration. However, it is likely that there is a reverse causality between moderately severe/severe AP and these factors, as severe AP leads to loss of excessive fluid volume and multi-organ failure with reduced renal output, triggering the use of diuretics.

Therefore, although appealing in theory, we did not observe any correlation between HBP and fluid balance in our study. The fact that HBP levels did not correlate with fluid balance might indicate that there are additional mechanisms responsible for increasing vascular permeability in pancreatitis. This study has several limitations, the most important being the small number of patients with severe AP, evidently increasing the risk of type II errors. Furthermore, the fluid balances were collected retrospectively. Although the registration of fluid charts is a well-established routine in our surgical wards, there is always uncertainty in how well urine output is reported. In addition, the volume of fluid given to patients was decided by the physician in charge and not according to a standardized protocol. Therefore, the causality between the amount of fluid given and the level of the disease could be questioned. However, the study is strengthened by its prospective and consecutive inclusion of patients and a well-established protocol for handling blood samples. Furthermore, our HBP analyses were conducted in the same laboratory using the same methods and ELISA chemicals as several key studies in HBP research, reducing the risk of incomparable results [19, 23–25, 27].

More studies are needed to further illustrate the role of HBPs in the pathogenesis of acute pancreatitis and to determine whether HBP can be used as a biomarker for the early detection of patients who will develop more severe disease.

Conclusions

To our knowledge, this is the first study reporting a distinct general elevation in concentrations of HBP in the setting of AP. Further research should aim to investigate the role of HBP in the pathophysiology of acute pancreatitis and whether HBP can be used as a biomarker for the early detection of specific complications in patients with moderately severe and severe disease.

Abbreviations

ANOVA: Analysis of variance; AP: Acute pancreatitis; ARDS: Acute respiratory distress syndrome; AUC: Area under the curve; BMI: Body-mass index; CRP: C-reactive protein; ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; HBP: Heparin-binding protein; ICU: Intensive care unit; IL: Interleukin; IQR: Inter-quartile range; ROC: Receiver operating curve; SD: Standard deviation; SIRS: Systemic inflammatory response syndrome; TNF: Tumour necrosis factor; WBC: White blood cell count.

Supplementary Information

The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1186/s12876-021-01910-6.

Additional file 1. Table S1: Multivariable logistic regression analysis for identifying independent predictors of moderately severe/severe pancreatitis.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Anne-Marie Rohrstock for valuable support in sample analysis and Ingrid Palmquist for assistance in the handling of samples.

Authors’ contributions

MS—manuscript and statistical analysis; HS—collection of data, revision of manuscript; HT—analysis of HBP, revision of manuscript; HT—study design, revision of manuscript; SR—study design, collection of data, revision of manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

Open access funding provided by Lund University. This work was supported by grants from the Einar and Inga Nilsson Foundation, Lundgren Foundation and Skåne University Hospital Foundation.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

All methods were performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and complied with relevant guidelines and regulations. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee for Clinical Research at Lund University.
Sweden (2009/415). Informed consent (oral and written) was obtained from all participants in the study.

Consent for publication
Not applicable.

Competing interests
The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Author details
1 Department of Surgery, Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, 205 02 Malmö, Sweden. 2 Division of Infection Medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

Received: 16 February 2021  Accepted: 18 August 2021
Published online: 28 August 2021

References
1. Forsmark CE, Vege SS, Wilcox CM. Acute Pancreatitis. N Engl J Med. 2016;375(20):1972–81.
2. Appelros S, Borgstrom A. Incidence, aetiology and mortality rate of acute pancreatitis over 10 years in a defined urban population in Sweden. Br J Surg. 1999;86(4):465–70.
3. Lankisch PG, Apte M, Banks PA. Acute pancreatitis. Lancet. 2011;378(9787):953–64.
4. Welin E, et al. Early fluid resuscitation reduces mortality among patients with severe acute pancreatitis. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2011;9(8):705–9.
5. de-Andrade E, Martinowitz U, Perez-Mateo M. The dynamic nature of fluid resuscitation in acute pancreatitis. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2012;10(1):95–6. author reply 96.
6. Gad WM, Simons-Linares CR. Is aggressive intravenous fluid resuscitation beneficial in acute pancreatitis? A meta-analysis of randomized control trials and cohort studies. World J Gastroenterol. 2020;26(10):1098–106.
7. Koksal AS, Parlik E. Fluid resuscitation in acute pancreatitis. Turk J Gastroenterol. 2017;28(4):322–3.
8. Yamashita T, et al. Large volume fluid resuscitation for severe acute pancreatitis is associated with reduced mortality: a multicenter retrospective study. J Clin Gastroenterol. 2019;53(5):385–91.
9. Mayer J, et al. Inflammatory mediators in human acute pancreatitis: clinical and pathophysiological implications. Gut. 2000;47(4):654–62.
10. Bhattacharjee M, et al. Pathophysiology of acute pancreatitis. Panreatology. 2005;5(2–3):132–44.
11. Sternby H, et al. Predictive capacity of biomarkers for severe acute pancreatitis. Eur Surg Res. 2016;56(3–4):154–63.
12. Nieminen A, et al. Circulating cytokines in predicting development of severe acute pancreatitis. Crit Care. 2014;18(3):R104.
13. van den Berg FF, van Santvoort HC, Issa Y, Boermeester MA. Early laboratory biomarkers for severity in acute pancreatitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Panreatology. 2020;6:66.
14. Tapper H, et al. Secretion of heparin-binding protein from human neutrophils is determined by its localization in azurophilic granules and secretory vesicles. Blood. 2002;99(5):1785–93.
15. Pereira HA, et al. CAP37, a human neutrophil-derived chemotactic factor with monocyte specific activity. J Clin Invest. 1990;85(5):1468–76.
16. Shafer WM, Martin LE, Spitznagel JK. Late intraphagosomal hydrogen ion concentration favors the in vitro antimicrobial capacity of a 37-kilodalton cationic granule protein of human neutrophil granulocytes. Infect Immun. 1986;53(3):651–5.
17. Chertov O, et al. Identification of defensin-1, defensin-2, and CAP37/azurocidin as T-cell chemotactic proteins released from interleukin-8-stimulated neutrophils. J Biol Chem. 1996;271(6):2935–40.
18. Gautam N, et al. Signaling via beta(2) integrins triggers neutrophil-dependent alteration in endothelial barrier function. J Exp Med. 2000;191(11):1829–39.
19. Herrwald H, et al. M protein, a classical bacterial virulence determinant, forms complexes with fibrinogen that induce vascular leakage. Cell. 2004;116(3):367–79.
20. McNamara C, et al. Coiled-coil irregularities and instabilities in group A Streptococcus M1 are required for virulence. Science. 2008;319(5868):1405–8.
21. Gautam N, et al. Heparin-binding protein (HBP/CAP37): a missing link in neutrophil-evoked alteration of vascular permeability. Nat Med. 2001;7(10):1129–37.
22. Benitez P, et al. Heparin-binding protein is important for vascular leak in sepsis. Intensive Care Med Exp. 2016;4(1):33.
23. Linder A, et al. Heparin-binding protein: an early marker of circulatory failure in sepsis. Clin Infect Dis. 2009;49(7):1044–50.
24. Linder A, et al. Elevated plasma levels of heparin-binding protein in intensive care unit patients with severe sepsis and septic shock. Crit Care. 2012;16(3):R90.
25. Linder A, et al. Heparin-binding protein measurement improves the prediction of severe infection with organ dysfunction in the emergency department. Crit Care Med. 2015;43(11):2378–86.
26. Chew M, et al. Increased plasma levels of heparin-binding protein in patients with shock: a prospective, cohort study. Inflamm Res. 2012;61(4):375–9.
27. Dankiewicz J, et al. Heparin-binding protein: an early indicator of critical illness and predictor of outcome in cardiac arrest. Resuscitation. 2013;84(7):935–9.
28. Lin Q, et al. Increased plasma levels of heparin-binding protein in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome. Crit Care. 2013;17(4):R155.
29. Sternby H, et al. IL-6 and CRP are superior in early differentiation between mild and non-mild acute pancreatitis. Panreatology. 2017;17(4):550–4.
30. Banks PA, et al. Classification of acute pancreatitis–2012: revision of the Atlanta classification and definitions by international consensus. Gut. 2013;62(1):102–11.
31. Kuo DC, et al. Acute Pancreatitis: What’s the Score? J Emerg Med. 2015;48(6):762–70.
32. Wu B, et al. Editorial: fluid resuscitation in acute pancreatitis: striking the right balance. Am J Gastroenterol. 2011;106(10):1851–2.
33. Gardner N, et al. Faster rate of initial fluid resuscitation in severe acute pancreatitis diminishes in-hospital mortality. Panreatology. 2009;9(9):770–6.
34. Wu B, et al. The impact of hospital-acquired infection on outcome in severe acute pancreatitis. Gastroenterology. 2008;135(3):816–20.
35. Peery AF, et al. Burden of gastrointestinal, liver, and pancreatic diseases in the United States. Gastroenterology. 2015;149(7):1731–41.
36. Yang ZW, Meng XX, Xu P. Central role of neutrophil in the pathogenesis of severe acute pancreatitis. J Cell Mol Med. 2015;19(11):2513–20.

Publisher’s Note
Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.