Automated digital technologies for supporting sepsis prediction in children: a scoping review protocol

Ryan Tennant, Jennifer Graham, Kate Mercer, J Mark Ansermino, Catherine M Burns

ABSTRACT

Introduction While there have been several literature reviews on the performance of digital sepsis prediction technologies and clinical decision-support algorithms for adults, there remains a knowledge gap in examining the development of automated technologies for sepsis prediction in children. This scoping review will critically analyse the current evidence on the design and performance of automated digital technologies to predict paediatric sepsis, to advance their development and integration within clinical settings.

Methods and analysis This scoping review will follow Arksey and O'Malley's framework, conducted between February and December 2022. We will further develop the protocol using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for scoping reviews. We plan to search the following databases: Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Embase, Google Scholar, Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science. Studies will be included on children >90 days postnatal to <21 years old, predicted to have or be at risk of developing sepsis by a digitalised model or algorithm designed for a clinical setting. Two independent reviewers will complete the abstract and full-text screening and the data extraction. Thematic analysis will be used to develop overarching concepts and present the narrative findings with quantitative results and descriptive statistics displayed in data tables.

Ethics and dissemination Ethics approval for this scoping review study of the available literature is not required. We anticipate that the scoping review will identify the current evidence and design characteristics of digital prediction technologies for the timely and accurate prediction of paediatric sepsis and factors influencing clinical integration. We plan to disseminate the preliminary findings from this review at national and international research conferences in global and digital health, gathering critical feedback from multidisciplinary stakeholders.

Scoping review registration https://osf.io/veqha/?view_only=f560d48926c459ea4cfff6cdefcb086

INTRODUCTION

Globally, it is estimated that there were a total of 25.2 million cases of sepsis in children (<19) in 2017, imposing significant healthcare and societal burden.1 Healthcare costs for severe paediatric sepsis hospitalisations reached approximately US$7.31 billion in the USA in 2016, accounting for almost 20% of total paediatric hospitalisation costs.2 However, about 85% of global sepsis cases and 84.8% of sepsis-related deaths among all age groups occur in low–middle-income countries, specifically those in sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia.3 Annual global mortality rates for children (<5) are approximately 2.9 million (table 1).3

Early recognition of sepsis in children is challenging. Unlike adult sepsis, children have different sepsis aetiologies.3 For example, children commonly develop sepsis from pneumonia, diarrhoea, meningitis or viral infections, where abdominal or genitourinary sources are more common in adults.4 Differences in aetiology can also be found between childhood and neonatal sepsis, with early-onset neonatal sepsis having a distinct microbial pattern.5 Recognising sepsis in children is also significantly more challenging due to maturation-based differences in physiology (including immune system response),
limitations in the communication of symptoms and diagnostic modalities. Sepsis can lead to life-altering organ dysfunction if not identified quickly in children, where mortality rates are reduced two-fold if treated within the first hour. Recognition of sepsis is confounded by the age-based symptom variations within children, such as their differences in blood pressure response, serum lactate levels and commonalities among other childhood conditions and syndromes like Kawasaki syndrome or bronchiolitis. This milieu of complex information combined with significant time pressure provides a significant cognitive burden for healthcare professionals to promptly identify the onset of deterioration that can lead to this serious medical condition.

In 2020, updated Paediatric Sepsis Survival guidelines were published calling for the integration of screening standards in healthcare facilities to support rapid identification of sepsis in children and provide the appropriate antimicrobial therapy at the proper time. Established screening tools such as the Paediatric Early Warning Score may support the timeliness of detecting clinical deterioration in children that can lead to sepsis. Recently, adaptations to the Sequential Organ Assessment Score (SOFA) for paediatric patients and neonates have shown promise in identifying children at risk for mortality with sepsis; however, it is controversial whether these scores provide value in low-resource environments. Development and implementation of algorithms such as the Sepsis Prediction and Optimisation Therapy that can analyse mathematical, statistical and machine learning techniques to support sepsis prediction using clinical information, symptoms, biomarkers and other signs at the bedside. While recent reviews have explored the literature on the effectiveness of digital technologies for adult and neonate sepsis prediction, there is currently no review on the design and implementation of these predictive technologies for children. Considering the pathophysiology and aetiology for paediatric sepsis are different from that seen in adults and neonates, combined with the lack of widely accessible digital technologies for children compared with adults, it is critically important to review the literature on this age cohort.

### Prior reviews on sepsis prediction technologies

Recent narrative reviews discuss machine learning-based technologies for adult and paediatric sepsis. However, their eligibility criteria focus primarily on adults, with only two or three articles on children. One review excluded digital technologies that were not based on ‘modern’ machine learning models, and one involved a broad search on infectious disease prediction beyond sepsis. Others have also limited their investigations to PubMed/Medline, excluding engineering databases, which may provide greater insight into the design characteristics of digital technologies, or they focus exclusively on US hospitals.

Many systematic and scoping reviews have been rigorous in their search strategy but similar to the identified narrative reviews, report on screening tools and technologies for adult patients while excluding children and the engineering disciplines. Currently published protocols plan to exclude data-driven algorithms or only include literature on the application of machine learning, which may not capture all research on certain relevant technologies. While there have been systematic reviews on the performance of neonatal sepsis prediction and recognition technologies providing insight into their capabilities, none focus on the specifics of paediatric sepsis.

Current systematic reviews that include the paediatric literature as part of their search strategy are not strictly focused on this patient population, having only identified one or three related articles specific to children. Other reviews broadly examine early warning systems for paediatric clinical deterioration. We have not identified any systematic or scoping reviews that comprehensively scope the literature on digital paediatric sepsis prediction technology. While one identified protocol aims to capture strategies for early recognition of paediatric sepsis from clinical deterioration, the focus of the review is general strategy effectiveness and does not explicitly include engineering databases, which would describe technical design aspects.

### Purpose of the study

Given the limitations of recent literature reviews and the lack of reviews focused on paediatric sepsis, it is necessary to synthesise the current research describing the development and evaluation of automated sepsis prediction technologies for this underrepresented age cohort. The scoping review defined by this protocol will identify and summarise the existing literature on the design characteristics, performance and integration of automated

---

**Table 1** Differences between global neonatal, paediatric and adult sepsis

|                      | Neonatal (<90 days) | Paediatric (<5 years) | Adult (>20 years) |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Annual cases (mil)   | 1.3–3.9             | 20.3                  | 23.7              |
| Annual mortality (mil)| 0.4–0.7             | 2.9                   | 7.7               |

Tennant R, et al. *BMJ Open* 2022;12:e065429. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2022-065429
sepsis prediction technologies in paediatric contexts. The scoping review, a methodology focusing on answering broader research questions through a systematic search and presenting tabular findings along with a narrative integration, was identified as the best approach for this study. We anticipate that the rigorous methodology will warrant a meaningful summary about the current development of digital technologies for sepsis prediction that can inform future research towards improving their performance and evidence-based clinical implementation to ultimately improve the lives of children globally.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

The reviewers on this scoping review consist of a multidisciplinary team of engineers, a health researcher/biomedical engineering research librarian, a psychology student and a paediatric clinician. Our methodology will be guided by the framework developed by Arksey and O’Mally, which iterates through six steps: (1) identifying the research questions; (2) searching for relevant studies; (3) selecting the studies; (4) charting the data; (5) collating, summarising and reporting the results and (6) consulting with stakeholders to inform or validate findings. The sixth step is optional, and we will modify this step to consult with experts specifically around finding technologies used in hospital or industry settings. Levac’s recommendations for independent full-text reviews by at least two reviewers will also be followed. This study protocol will follow the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for a scoping review (PRISMA-ScR) with any gaps being filled by the PRISMA-extension for protocols. This protocol has been registered on the Open Science Framework (https://osf.io/nh6qz/?view_only=8c840412a2a41117ac16fd7fe60ab6).

Step 1: identifying the research questions

The research questions were developed through an initial search of the literature on automated digital technologies for paediatric sepsis recognition and gaps identified in current systematic and narrative reviews in the neonatal and adult context. The Joanna Briggs Institute recommendations of the Population, Concept and Context model were followed, maintaining a broad scope for understanding the existing evidence on paediatric sepsis prediction technologies with respect to their current performance, identified outcome measures and existing research gaps:

1. How do the design characteristics of automated paediatric sepsis prediction technologies for healthcare facilities (eg, the recognition task, type, method, demographics and indicators) influence their performance?
2. What are the impacts of clinically implemented automated paediatric sepsis prediction technologies on decision-making and patient outcome measures?
3. What challenges and research gaps (eg, evidence, practical knowledge, population, theoretical, methodological) exist for improving the sociotechnical integration of knowledge-based algorithms and data-driven models for predicting paediatric sepsis in healthcare facilities?

Step 2: identifying relevant studies

We will conduct a comprehensive scoping review that includes a multidisciplinary group of scholarly databases: Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL, Embase, Google Scholar, Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science. Articles will further be identified using the snowballing technique, to identify relevant literature among the references and citations of articles included for the full review. We will also hand-search for reports on the design, validation and implementation of commercial digital technologies for sepsis prediction, which may be approved by governing bodies such as Health Canada, the Food and Drug Administration (access-data.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cf/), the European Union Medical Device Regulation (europa.eu/tools/eudamed/#/screen/home).

Guided by a University of Waterloo biomedical engineering research librarian, we developed a comprehensive search strategy for each database. The approach employs keywords, medical subject headings (MeSH), key concept subject headings and Boolean terms broken down into the following parts: the recognition algorithm or model, type of digital technology, health condition, alert type, implementation or validation factors and patient population. A sample search strategy for PubMed is presented in table 2.

The search results will be imported to Mendeley’s reference management software for future referencing and organisation (Mendeley). A systematic review management software, Covidence (Veritas Health Innovation), will be used to identify and merge duplicate articles. A sample of 20 abstracts will be initially screened by two reviewers (RT and JG), ensuring that the inclusion–exclusion requirements are robust in capturing relevant articles related to the design and evaluation of automated prediction technologies for paediatric sepsis. Both reviewers will also ensure that the data extraction items capture valuable and appropriate study details from the articles included in the full-text review, which will be shared with the research team.

Step 3: study selection

Inclusion criteria

The proposed review will include articles that meet the following inclusion criteria:

- The article is written in English.
- The article is a peer-reviewed journal article, full conference proceeding or research published on a commercially available digital technology, which may be approved by a medical device regulatory body.
The digital technology is evaluated for its performance through validation testing, experiments or an observational study.

There is no specification for publication years.

Exclusion criteria
Screened articles that fit within the following categories will be excluded from this review: Commentaries, dissertations, editorials, books and book chapters, lectures and addresses, study protocols, review articles and articles inaccessible for full-text review after using library resources. Articles that describe digital technologies informing sepsis treatment strategy selection are outside the scope of this review, because this study is focused on technologies supporting clinical decision-making and screening that occurs before fluid resuscitation or antibiotic selection for confirmed sepsis patients. Digital technologies developed for at-home use are also outside the scope of this review, as the context of the protocol is to review the evidence on automated sepsis prediction technologies in regulated healthcare settings.

Selection process
This review will follow the reporting checklist in the PRISMA-ScR, provided by Tricco et al. First, all relevant articles will be imported into Covidence. Second, two reviewers (RT and JG) will independently perform the title and abstract screening using the developed eligibility criteria by classifying them as ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘maybe’. Any article classified as ‘yes’ or ‘maybe’ by RT or JG will be included in the full-text review during this stage by adding them to an Excel spreadsheet for access by all authors. If a full-text article cannot be accessed, the reviewers will seek assistance from library services at the institution or directly contact the article’s corresponding author. Third, two investigators (RT and JG) will independently perform the title and abstract screening using the developed eligibility criteria by classifying them as ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘maybe’. Any article classified as ‘yes’ or ‘maybe’ by RT or JG will be included in the full-text review during this stage by adding them to an Excel spreadsheet for access by all authors. If a full-text article cannot be accessed, the reviewers will seek assistance from library services at the institution or directly contact the article’s corresponding author. Third, two investigators (RT and JG) will independently perform the full-text screening for eligibility using the listed inclusion–exclusion criteria. A third member of the research team will resolve any disagreements on eligibility that occur during the full-text review. After the full-text review, an inter-rater agreement will be calculated using Cohen’s kappa coefficient (κ) statistic.

The first step in identifying relevant studies was performed on 15 February 2022. The planned end date for completing the full-text screening and analysis is 30 December 2022. We have maintained search alerts for potentially eligible articles to ensure our review remains updated before dissemination through publication.

Step 4: charting the data
The data extraction form will be developed in Covidence and exported to Excel to capture the relevant information.

---

### Table 2

| Database | Search terms | Results | Date |
|----------|--------------|---------|------|
| PubMed | (‘decision support’[All Fields] OR ‘decision-support’[All Fields] OR ‘early warning score’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘early warning’[All Fields] OR ‘smart system’[All Fields] OR ‘electronic alert’[All Fields] OR ‘artificial intelligence’[All Fields] OR ‘artificial intelligence’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘machine learning’[All Fields] OR ‘deep learning’[All Fields] OR ‘neural network’[All Fields] OR ‘support vector machine’[All Fields] OR ‘hidden markov model’[All Fields] OR ‘statistical learning’[All Fields] OR ‘predictive function’[All Fields] OR ‘algorithm’[All Fields] OR ‘algorithms’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘automat’[All Fields] OR ‘comput’[All Fields] OR ‘decision making, computer assisted’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘electronic’[All Fields] OR ‘representation learning’[All Fields] OR ‘conformal prediction’[All Fields] OR ‘random forest’[All Fields] OR ‘naïve bayes’[All Fields] OR ‘regression’ OR ‘regression analysis’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘gradient boosting’[All Fields] OR ‘artificial learning’[All Fields] OR ‘machine intelligence’[All Fields] OR ‘probabilistic network’[All Fields] OR ‘knowledge representation’[All Fields] OR ‘bayesian learning’[All Fields] OR ‘expert system’[All Fields] OR ‘technology assisted’[All Fields] OR ‘computer assisted’[All Fields] OR ‘statistical’[All Fields] OR ‘mathematical’[All Fields] AND ‘system’[All Fields] OR ‘tool’[All Fields] OR ‘alert’[All Fields] OR ‘technology’[All Fields] OR ‘software’[All Fields] OR ‘model’[All Fields] OR ‘engine’[All Fields] OR ‘approach’[All Fields] OR ‘algorithm’[All Fields] OR ‘platform’[All Fields] OR ‘method’[All Fields] OR ‘score’[All Fields] OR ‘device’[All Fields] AND ‘sepsis’[All Fields] OR ‘sepsis’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘septic shock’[All Fields] OR ‘systemic inflammatory response syndrome’[All Fields] OR ‘acute deterioration’[All Fields] OR ‘patient deterioration’[All Fields] OR ‘clinical deterioration’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘clinical deterioration’[All Fields] OR ‘severe infection’[All Fields] OR ‘severe bacterial infection’[All Fields] OR ‘bacterial infections’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘febrile illness’[All Fields] OR ‘non-malaria febrile illness’[All Fields] OR ‘bacteremia’[All Fields] AND [‘diagnosis’[All Fields] OR ‘detect’[All Fields] OR ‘predict’[All Fields] OR ‘prognosticate’[All Fields] OR ‘identify’[All Fields] OR ‘infer’[All Fields] OR ‘warn’[All Fields] OR ‘alert’[All Fields] OR ‘recog’[All Fields] OR ‘screen’[All Fields] OR ‘monitor’[All Fields] OR ‘assess’[All Fields] OR ‘surveillance’[All Fields] OR ‘classify’[All Fields] AND [‘evaluat’[All Fields] OR ‘implement’[All Fields] OR ‘perform’[All Fields] OR ‘design’[All Fields] OR ‘validate’[All Fields] OR ‘usability’[All Fields] OR ‘effectiveness’[All Fields] OR ‘efficiency’[All Fields] OR ‘satisfaction’[All Fields] OR ‘safety’[All Fields] OR ‘acceptance’[All Fields] OR ‘clinical value’[All Fields] OR ‘interpreted’[All Fields] OR ‘interpret’[All Fields] OR ‘perception’[All Fields] OR ‘opinion’[All Fields] OR ‘error’[All Fields] AND [‘child’[All Fields] OR ‘paediatric’[All Fields] OR ‘pediatric’[All Fields] OR ‘pediatrics’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘toddler’[All Fields] OR ‘teen’[All Fields] OR ‘youth’[All Fields] OR ‘adolescent’[All Fields] OR ‘adolescent’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘infant’[All Fields] OR ‘infant’[MeSH Terms] OR ‘school age’[All Fields] OR ‘PICU’[All Fields] LIMIT TO: [Text Availability]: Full text, [Language]: English, [Species]: Human |
|          |              | 15 531 | 02/15/2022 |
from each article. Two reviewers (RT and JG) will individually extract the relevant data from a sample of eligible articles screened for inclusion in the full-text review to ensure consistency of recording data. Any disagreements on extracted data will be resolved through discussion between the reviewers. The form will be iteratively updated until the authors reach a consensus on the relevant data to extract. We will begin by pulling the following type of data into the form, with additional data included as we screen more articles:

- Article information: author(s), year published, city, country, discipline(s).
- Prediction task: the definition of sepsis being identified and the use context for recognition in paediatrics.
- Prediction task type:
  - Alerting automation that provides a notification that a patient has met the objective sepsis recognition criteria.
  - Decision support automation that provides assistance in the diagnosis of sepsis.
  - Data automation that collects clinically relevant cues and information on behalf of the user(s), which may be used in combination with alerting and decision support.
- Prediction method:
  - Data-driven methods that use retrospective data sets to build a statistical or machine learning-based model.
  - Knowledge-based methods that use consensus criteria to build an algorithm with threshold-based criteria.
- Participant demographics: age cohort, number of participants.
- Prediction indicators: vital signs, biomarkers, sociodemographics, prior treatments, medical history.
- Prediction interface: audible alert, dialogue box, provided information.
- Validation measures:
  - Reported number of true positives, false positives and false negatives.
  - Reported sensitivity and specificity.
  - Time to accurate sepsis recognition by the technology and/or the clinician.
  - Measured or expected impact on clinical decisions and patient outcomes.
  - Generalisability of the digital technology in the context of bias, fairness and appropriateness.49 50

**Step 5: collating, summarising and reporting the results**

The extracted data will be synthesised within tables that summarise the current digital technology landscape in predicting paediatric sepsis, including characteristics that describe their performance and the sociotechnical factors of their integration by healthcare providers on patient outcomes. Within summary tables, we will present the current approaches towards model and algorithm development for automated sepsis prediction technologies, including the predictive indicators, the prediction timing objective and how they interface with clinicians. Quantitative performance and implementation measures such as sensitivity and specificity, and the impacts on intervention timing will also be reported in data tables, including calculations of precision, recall and F1 score, when possible.

We will then perform a thematic analysis to identify concepts related to our research questions. This analysis will be presented as a narrative, including an organisation of themes on the identified design characteristics of automated prediction technologies integrated within clinical contexts. The purpose of the analysis will be to identify the types of research gaps that exist for knowledge-based algorithms and data-driven models to improve sociotechnical integration (ie, supporting clinical decision-making) and patient outcomes. Challenges with bias, fairness and appropriateness will also be qualitatively examined with respect to potential generalisability barriers. Diagrams will be developed for the identified relationships and themes among the design characteristics of the automated technologies for paediatric sepsis prediction and their influence on system performance and implementation throughout time to visually highlight the opportunities for future investigations.

**Step 6: methodological quality appraisal**

We will consult with experts in automated paediatric sepsis prediction technologies for this review to identify those applied in clinical settings. While critical appraisal of the identified articles is not mandatory in the scoping review methodology, we will consult with stakeholders to inform and validate our findings.

**Patient and public involvement**

There were no patients or public involvement in the development of this protocol.

**Ethics and dissemination**

Approval from an ethics review committee is not required for this study because it is a scoping review of previously published literature. Once the review is completed, we plan to disseminate the preliminary findings at national and international research conferences in global and digital health to gather critical feedback from researchers and the public. The finalised results from the review will be submitted for publication in an open access peer-reviewed journal.

**DISCUSSION**

This scoping review will provide a comprehensive and structured understanding of the automated digital technologies that have been developed to support the timely prediction of paediatric sepsis. At a high-level, the results will focus on design characteristics, performance validation and current sociotechnical integration factors, which will be analysed thematically and reported in data summary tables, indicating how the development of these
technologies is evolving throughout time. It is anticipated that the outcomes will reveal the current challenges in developing and implementing clinically meaningful digital prediction technologies for paediatric sepsis across various clinical environments. Furthermore, the results are expected to identify critical research aspects requiring further investigation.

Compared with previous articles, this scoping review focuses on the complexities of paediatric sepsis, with a methodological strength in taking a comprehensive and systematic approach that will provide an overview of the evidence in this digital technology landscape. Inherent in the approach of a scoping review is the limitation of its objective: to summarise the literature and identify meaningful gaps for further research. As this study will include articles with various study designs, it does not aim to answer specific questions about recommending the use or application of certain sepsis prediction technologies for paediatrics. With the results of the pilot search (table 2), this review is also limited in its scope, where non-English articles or articles without a full-text version will not be included. Finally, digital technologies informing treatment strategies for sepsis and studies looking at age cohorts <90 days postnatal or >21 years old will be excluded because of significant differences in sepsis aetiology and clinical presentation, while capturing literature from geographic areas that provide paediatric healthcare services to this age range. We plan to adequately convey the overall strengths and limitations once the full-text review is completed, including any deviations from the protocol, in the final review.

In conclusion, by mapping the attributes of paediatric sepsis prediction technologies to outcomes related to clinical integration and performance, we anticipate that our results will highlight critical research gaps among the medical, engineering and computer science disciplines. The results may inform research on identifying relevant predictive indicators best suited for the design of digital technologies in specific use contexts and environments, improvements towards model development for sepsis prediction and factors supporting the optimal workflow integration of digital prediction systems by clinicians. Ultimately, this review will be critical for advancing knowledge to improve sepsis prediction for children globally.

**Twitter** Ryan Tennant @ryantenmant

**Acknowledgements** RT is supported by an Engineering Excellence Doctoral Fellowship from the University of Waterloo Faculty of Engineering.

**Contributors** RT, JG, KM, CMB and JMA contributed to the development of this manuscript. RT is the guarantor of the review, conceptualised the research questions and methods, and drafted the initial manuscript. All authors contributed to the development of the search strategy, selection criteria and data extraction template. JMA provided expertise on paediatric sepsis and search terms. All authors critically reviewed the protocol for intellectual content, subsequently revised it for publication, and read and approved the final version for submission.

**Funding** The authors have not declared a specific grant for this research from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

**Competing interests** None declared.

**REFERENCES**

1. Rudd KE, Johnson SC, Agesa KM, et al. Global, regional, and national sepsis incidence and mortality, 1990–2017: analysis for the global burden of disease study. The Lancet 2020;395:200–11.
2. Carlton EF, Barbaro RP, Iwashyna TJ, et al. Cost of pediatric severe sepsis hospitalizations. JAMA Pediatr 2019;173:986.
3. World Health Organization. Global report on epidemiology and burden of sepsis: current evidence, identifying gaps and future directions [Internet]. Geneva, 2020. Available: https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/34216 [Accessed 25 Jan 2022].
4. Emr BM, Alcamo AM, Carcillo JC, et al. Pediatric sepsis update: how are children different? Surg Infect 2018;19:176–83.
5. Aneja RK, Varughese-Aneja R, Vetterly CG, et al. Antibiotic therapy in neonatal and pediatric septic shock. Curr Infect Dis Rep 2011;13:433–41.
6. Peshman M, Nadel S. Sepsis in children: state-of-the-art treatment. Ther Adv Infect Dis 2021;8:204993612110553.
7. Davis AL, Carcillo JA, Aneja RK, et al. American College of critical care medicine clinical practice parameters for hemodynamic support of pediatric and neonatal septic shock. Crit Care Med 2017;45:1061–93.
8. Cox MJ, Voss H. Improving sepsis recognition and management. Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care 2021;51:101001.
9. Cotten CM. Antibiotic stewardship. Clin Perinatol. 2015. Available: https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S00655181400116X
10. Lambert V, Matthews A, MacDonell R, et al. Paediatric early warning systems for detecting and responding to clinical deterioration in children: a systematic review. BMJ Open 2017;7:e014497.
11. Humoodi MO, Aldabbagh MA, Salem MM, et al. Epidemiology of pediatric sepsis in the pediatric intensive care unit of King Abdulaziz medical City, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. BMC Pediatr 2021;21:222.
12. Wynn JL, Polin RA. A neonatal sequential organ failure assessment score predicts mortality to late-onset sepsis in preterm very low birth weight infants. Pediatr Res 2020;88:85–90.
13. Schlappbach LJ, Strickley L, Bellomo R, et al. Prognostic accuracy of age-adapted SOFA, SIRS, PELOD-2, and qSOFA for in-hospital mortality among children with suspected infection admitted to the intensive care unit. Intensive Care Med 2018;44:179–88.
14. Matic T, Sanchez-Pinto LN. Adaptation and validation of a pediatric sequential organ failure assessment score and evaluation of the Sepsis-3 definitions in critically ill children. JAMA Pediatr 2017;171:e172352.
15. Perlin JB, Jackson E, Hall C, et al. 2019 John M. Eisenberg patient safety and quality awards: spotting sepsis to save lives: a nationwide computer algorithm for early detection of sepsis. The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety 2020;46:381–91.
16. Ansermino JM, Wiens MO, Kissoon N. We need smarter trigger tools for diagnosing sepsis in children in Canada. CMAJ 2018;190:E1060–1.
17. Yin J, Ngiam KY, Teo HH. Role of artificial intelligence applications in real-life clinical practice: systematic review. J Med Internet Res 2021;23:e25759.
18. Persad E, Jost K, Honoré A, et al. Neonatal sepsis prediction through clinical decision support algorithms: a systematic review. Acta Paediatr 2021;110:3201–26.
Schinkel M, Paranjape K, Nannan Panday RS, et al. Clinical applications of artificial intelligence in sepsis: a narrative review. *Comput Biol Med* 2019;115:103488.

Sundararajan S, Doctor A. Early recognition of neonatal sepsis using a bioinformatic vital sign monitoring tool. *Pediatr Res* 2022;39:270–2.

Al-Shwaqeeri T, Mogherl M, Hau YW. Use of learning approaches to predict clinical deterioration in patients based on various variables: a review of the literature. *Artif Intell Rev* 2021.

Sahu P, Raj Sangerla N, Simon Lewis LE, et al. Prediction modelling in the early detection of neonatal sepsis. *World J Pediatr* 2022;18:160–75.

Hassan N, Slight R, Weandi D, et al. Preventing sepsis; how can artificial intelligence inform the clinical decision-making process? A systematic review. *Int J Med Inform* 2021;150:104457.

Muralitharan S, Nelson W, Di S, et al. Machine Learning-Based early warning systems for clinical deterioration: systematic scoping review. *J Med Internet Res* 2021;23:e25187.

Wu M, Du X, Gu R, et al. Artificial intelligence for clinical decision support in sepsis. *Front Med* 2021;8.

S. Wheeler D. “Children are not Small Adults!”. *Open Inflamm J* 2011;4:4–15.

Wulff A, Montag S, Marschollek M, et al. Clinical Decision-Support systems for detection of systemic inflammatory response syndrome, sepsis, and septic shock in critically ill patients: a systematic review. *Methods Inf Med* 2019;58:e43–57.

Peiffer- Smadja N, Rawson TM, Ahmad R, et al. Machine learning for clinical decision support in infectious diseases: a narrative review of current applications. *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2020;26:584–95.

Eisenberg MA, Balamuth F. Pediatric sepsis screening in US hospitals. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 2022;9:351–8.

Teng AK, Wilcox AB. A review of predictive analytics solutions for sepsis patients. *Appl Clin Inform* 2020;11:387–98.

Ocampo-Quintero N, Vidal-Cortés P, Del Río Carbajo L, et al. Enhancing sepsis management through machine learning techniques: a review. *Med Intensiva* 2020;44(6):321–31. [Epub ahead of print: 29 May 2020].

Fernandes M, Vieira SM, Leite F, et al. Clinical decision support systems for triage in the emergency department using intelligent algorithms: a systematic review. *Artif Intell Med* 2020;102:101762.

Fleuren LM, Klausch TL, Zwager CL, et al. Machine learning for the prediction of sepsis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy. *Intensive Care Med* 2020;46:383–400.

Makram AN, Nguyen OK, Auerbach AD. Diagnostic accuracy and effectiveness of automated sepsis alert systems: a systematic review. *J Hosp Med* 2015;10:396–402.

Smyth MA, Brace-McDonnell SJ, Perkins GD. Identification of adults with sepsis in the prehospital environment: a systematic review. *BMJ Open* 2016;6:e011218.

Despins LA. Automated detection of sepsis using electronic medical record data: a systematic review. *Journal for Healthcare Quality* 2017;39:322–33.

Li L, Ackermann K, Baker J, et al. Use and evaluation of computerized clinical decision support systems for early detection of sepsis in hospitals: protocol for a scoping review. *J Med Syst* 2020;39:e24899.

Patton L, Young V. Effectiveness of provider strategies for the early recognition of clinical deterioration due to sepsis in pediatric patients: a systematic review protocol. *JBI Database System Rev Implement Rep* 2017;15:76–85.

Pepic I, Feldt R, Ljungström L, et al. Early detection of sepsis using artificial intelligence: a scoping review protocol. *Syst Rev* 2021;10:28.

Chapman SM, Wray J, Oulton K, et al. Systematic review of paediatric track and trigger systems for hospitalised children. *Resuscitation* 2016;109:87–109.

Trubey R, Huang C, Lugg-Widger FV, et al. Validity and effectiveness of paediatric early warning systems and track and trigger tools for identifying and reducing clinical deterioration in hospitalised children: a systematic review. *BMJ Open* 2019;9:e022105.

Arksesy H, O’Malley L. Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework. *Int J Soc Res Methodol* 2005;8:19–32.

Levac D, Colquhoun H, O’Brien KK. Scoping studies: advancing the methodology. *Implement Sci* 2010;5:69.

Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, et al. PRISMA extension for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR): checklist and explanation. *Ann Intern Med* 2018;169:467–73.

Moher D, Shamseer L, Clarke M, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. *Syst Rev* 2015;4:1.

Peters MDJ, Godfrey C, McInerney P, et al. Best practice guidance and reporting items for the development of scoping review protocols. *JBI Evid Synth* 2022;20:953–68.

Wohlin C. Guidelines for snowballing in systematic literature studies and a replication in software engineering. In: *Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Evaluation and Assessment in Software Engineering - EASE '14*. New York, New York, USA: ACM Press, 2014: 1–10.

Hagan JF, Shaw JS, Duncan PM. *Bright futures*. New York, USA: ACM Press, 2014: 1–10.

Fletcher RR, Nakeshima A, Olubeko B. Addressing fairness, bias, and appropriate use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in global health. *Front Artif Intell* 2020;3:561802.

Pot M, Kleusseynan Y, Prainsack B. Not all biases are bad: equitable and inequitable biases in machine learning and radiology. *Insights Imaging* 2021;12:13.