**openMetaAnalysis: PICO Table**

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| **Trial** | **Patients** | **Intervention** | **Comparison** | **Outcome** |
| Svoboda, 2007 Hepatogastroenterology PMID: [17523274](http://pubmed.gov/17523274) | 72 subjects with Severe sepsis after major abdominal surgery or surgery for multiple trauma  • Microbiologically proven infection: not reported • Mean age 45.8 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: not defined Criteria for antibiotic cessation: not defined Other interventions: if severe sepsis with PCT >2 ng/mL, change antibiotics and intravascular devices | Usual care | Primary: • All cause in-hospital mortality Secondary: • Duration of ICU stay, and others |
| Nobre, 2008 Am J Respir Crit Care Med PMID: [18096708](http://pubmed.gov/18096708) [NCT00250666](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00250666) | 79 subjects with Suspected severe sepsis or septic shock admitted to the ICU  • Microbiologically proven infection: 50%. Blood cultures positive in 32% • Mean age 67.7 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 3 if initial PCT value less than 1 μg/L, 5 if initial PCT value more than 1 μg/L  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 90% or PCT value lower than 0.25 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Total duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • All cause 28 day mortality, in-hospital mortality, duration of ICU and hospital stay |
| Schroeder, 2009 Langenbecks Arch Surg PMID: [19034493](http://pubmed.gov/19034493) | 27 subjects with Severe sepsis after surgery and admitted to the surgical ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: 67% • Mean age 68.8 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT less than 1 ng/mL or declined more than 25% to 35% of the initial concentration within 3 days | Usual care | Primary: • Total duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • Others |
| Hochreiter, 2009 Crit Care PMID: [19493352](http://pubmed.gov/19493352) [ISRCTN10288268](http://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN10288268) | 110 subjects with Sepsis (confirmed or highly suspected bacterial infection and at least two concomitant SIRS criteria) patients admitted to the surgical ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: not reported • Mean age 66.9 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT less than 1 ng/mL or declined more than 25% to 35% of the initial concentration within 3 days | Standard regimen of antibiotics over 8 days | Primary: • Total duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • Mortality at 90 days • All cause mortality at 90 days, duration of ICU stay, and others |
| Bouadma (PRORATA), 2010 Lancet PMID: [20097417](http://pubmed.gov/20097417) [NCT00472667](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00472667) | 621 subjects with suspected bacterial infection admitted to the ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: 70% • Mean age 61.5 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 80% or PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • All cause mortality at 28 and 60 days  Secondary: • Duration of ICU and hospital stay, total number of days on antimicrobial therapy, duration of antimicrobial therapy according to infection site, and others |
| Jensen, 2011 Crit Care Med PMID: [21572328](http://pubmed.gov/21572328) [NCT00271752](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00271752) | 1200 subjects with Admitted to the ICU for more than 24 hours • 38% had severe sepsis or septic shock • Microbiologically proven infection: not reported (83% were 'judged to have infection') • Mean age 65.1 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 0  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: not defined  Other interventions: Escalation of antibiotics/interventions based on PCT of more than 1 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • All cause mortality at 28 days Secondary: • Duration of ICU stay, and others |
| Layios, 2012 Crit Care Med PMID: [22809906](http://pubmed.gov/22809906) | 509 subjects with Sepsis admitted to the ICU (per Layios Table 3, all had sepsis) • Microbiologically proven infection: 61% (87% ot total 'suspected' of having infection) • Mean age 65.51 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 0  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Antibiotic consumption days Secondary: • Others |
| Annane, 2013 BMJ Open PMID: [23418298](http://pubmed.gov/23418298) [NCT01025180](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT01025180) | 62 subjects with non-microbiologically proven apparent severe sepsis admitted to the ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: 0% • Mean age 56.5 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 3  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L for patients admitted to the medical ICU or lower than 9 μg/L for patients admitted to surgical ICU (less than 4% of patients) | Usual care | Primary: • Proportion of patients receiving antibiotics at day 5  Secondary: • All cause mortality at 5 days,at ICU discharge and at hospital discharge, total number of days on antimicrobial therapy, duration of ICU and hospital stay, and others |
| Oliveira, 2013 Crit Care Med PMID: [23921272](http://pubmed.gov/23921272) [NCT00934011](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00934011) | 94 subjects with Severe sepsis or septic shock admitted to the ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: 46%. Bllod cultures positive in 21% • Mean age 59.6 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 4 if initial PCT value less than 1 μg/L, 5 if initial PCT value more than 1 μg/L  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 90% if initial PCT value more than 1 μg/L or PCT value lower than 0.1 μg/L if initial PCT value less than 1 μg/L or after 7 days of antibiotic therapy | protocol based on the serum levels of CRP | Primary: • Duration of antimicrobial therapy  Secondary: • Total number of days on antimicrobial therapy, duration of ICU and hospital stay, all-cause mortality at 28 days, and others |
| Liu, 2013 Zhonghua Wei Zhong Bing Ji Jiu Yi Xue PMID: [24225216](http://pubmed.gov/24225216) | 82 subjects with Sepsis admitted to the ICU  • Microbiologically proven infection: not reported but blood cultures positive in 30% • Mean age 49.56 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 90% or PCT value lower than 0.25 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • Duration of ICU and hospital stay, all-cause mortality at 28 days,and others |
| Deliberato, 2013 Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease PMID: [23711530](http://pubmed.gov/23711530) [NCT01494675](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT01494675) | 81 subjects with Sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock admitted to the ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: 100% • Mean age 65.1 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 5  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 90% or PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • In-hospital mortality, ICU mortality, duration of ICU stay |
| Shehabi (ANZICS Clinical Trials Group), 2014 Am J Respir Crit Care Med PMID: [25295709](http://pubmed.gov/25295709) [ACTRN12610000809033](http://www.anzctr.org.au/TrialSearch.aspx?searchTxt=ACTRN12610000809033) | 394 subjects with suspected sepsis (bacterial infectionwith SIRS) admitted to the ICU • Microbiologically proven infection: 61% • Mean age 64.4 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 90% or PCT value lower than 0.25 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Duration of antimicrobial therapy at 28 days, hospital discharge, or death, whichever came first Secondary: • Duration of ICU and hospital stay, death from any cause by 90 days, all-cause mortality, and others |
| Najafi, 2015 Acta Med Iran PMID: [26553084](http://pubmed.gov/26553084) | 60 subjects with SIRS criteria but no initial source of infection who were admitted to the ICU. Proportion with eventual sepsis or suspected infection not reported. • Mean age 40.45 years • Microbiologically proven infection: not reported, but blood cultures positive in 35% | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 0  Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value lower than 2 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • Early mortality, and others |
| de Jong, 2015 Lancet Infect Dis PMID: [26947523](http://pubmed.gov/26947523) [NCT01139489](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT01139489) | 1575 subjects with critical illness admitted to the ICU with sepsis (per de Jong's Table 1, all had sepsis) • Microbiologically proven infection: not reported, but 'Unknown focus' was 9% • Mean age 65 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  Criteria for antibiotic Cessation: PCT value decreased over 80% or PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • Duration of antimicrobial therapy Secondary: • Duration of ICU and hospital stay, death from any cause by 28 days and 1 year, and others |
| Bloos, 2015 JAMA Intern Med PMID: [27428731](http://pubmed.gov/27428731) [NCT00832039](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00832039) | 1089 subjects with severe sepsis or septic shock admitted to the ICU • Mean age 65.7 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 7 Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 50% or PCT value lower than 1 μg/L | Usual care | Primary: • All cause mortality at 28 days Secondary: • Duration of ICU and hospital stay, duration of antimicrobial therapy, and others |
| **Trial** | **Patients** | **Intervention** | **Comparison** | **Outcome** |