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Sepsis Screening Tools: A Comprehensive Guide

What is Sepsis?

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's immune system overreacts to an infection. It can lead to organ failure and even death.

Why Use a Sepsis Screening Tool?

Sepsis can be difficult to diagnose in its early stages. Screening tools help identify people who are at risk of developing sepsis so that they can receive prompt treatment.

Types of Sepsis Screening Tools

- **Electronic Sepsis Screening Tool (ESST):** A computer-based tool that uses electronic health record data to identify patients at risk for sepsis.
- **Sepsis 6 Tool:** A simple score-based tool that assesses six vital signs and patient history to determine the risk of sepsis.
- **qSOFA Screening Tool for Sepsis:** A similar score-based tool that evaluates three vital signs: respiratory rate, systolic blood pressure, and level of consciousness.

Best Sepsis Screening Tool

The best sepsis screening tool depends on the specific setting and patient population. However, the Sepsis 6 Tool and qSOFA Tool are widely used in clinical practice.

How to Do Sepsis Screening

Sepsis screening should be performed on all patients who have signs of infection. The screening process involves:

- Monitoring vital signs
- Assessing patient history
- Using a sepsis screening tool

Sepsis Risk Tool Dashboard

A sepsis risk tool dashboard is a computer-based platform that combines data from electronic health records and sepsis screening tools. It helps clinicians identify patients at high risk for sepsis and track their progress.

Scoring Tool for Sepsis

The scoring tool for sepsis assigns points based on vital signs, laboratory values, and patient history. A higher score indicates a higher risk of sepsis.

New Sepsis Test

There are several new sepsis tests under development, including:

- **Molecular diagnostic tests:** These tests detect specific molecules in the blood that are associated with sepsis.
- **Biosensor devices:** These devices monitor vital signs and other parameters to detect early signs of sepsis.

Sepsis Protocol

A sepsis protocol is a set of guidelines that outlines the steps to follow when a patient is identified as being at risk for or developing sepsis.

Red Flag Sepsis

Red flag sepsis refers to the most severe stage of sepsis, where the patient has organ dysfunction and a high risk of death.

QSOFA Screening Tool for Sepsis

The qSOFA Screening Tool for Sepsis is a simple and quick tool that can be used to screen for sepsis in any setting. It uses three vital signs: respiratory rate, systolic blood pressure, and level of consciousness.

Robson Screening Tool for Sepsis

The Robson Screening Tool for Sepsis is a scoring tool that takes into account the patient's age, vital signs, and laboratory values. It is often used in the emergency department.

Is qSOFA Better than SIRS?

The qSOFA Tool is generally considered more accurate than the SIRS (Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome) criteria for diagnosing sepsis.

SIRS Screening for Sepsis

The SIRS Screening for Sepsis is an older screening tool that uses two or more of the following criteria:

- Body temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Heart rate >90 beats per minute
- Respiratory rate >20 breaths per minute
- White blood cell count $>12,000/\text{mm}^3$ or $<4,000/\text{mm}^3$

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