

Evaluation of Procalcitonin Test for Early Diagnosis of Neonatal Sepsis

Suzan Adil Rashid Al-Naqeeb, Northern Technical University, Kirkuk. Iraq.

Email: suzan.adel@ntu.edu.iq; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4736-8967>.

Yokcil Izaldeen Sowaid, Northern Technical University, Kirkuk. Iraq.

Email: yokcilezdin@ntu.edu.iq; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-4200-1720>.

Zuhair Assi Husse, Al-kunooze University College, Basrah. Iraq

Email: zuhairkirkuk2015@gmail.com; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-2817-2456>.

Correspondence author: Suzan Adil Rashid Al-Naqeeb, Northern Technical University, Kirkuk. Iraq. Email: suzan.adel@ntu.edu.iq; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4736-8967>.

Received: 30/09/2024 Accepted: 16/11/2024 Published: 01/01/2025

To cite the article: Al-Naqeeb, Suzan Adil; Sowaid, Yokcil Izaideen; Husse, Zuhair Assi. Evaluation of Procalcitonin Test for Early Diagnosis of Neonatal Sepsis. Int J Med Sci 2025;8(1):24-40. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32441/ijms.8.1.2>

Abstract

Background: It is a precursor to calcitonin, a hormone that plays an essential role in the balance of calcium within the body. Procalcitonin, Bernard A. Ross, was first recognized in the 1970s by Leonard J. Divus. It consists of 116 amino acids which are synthesized in the thyroid gland and the lung and intestine by intermolecular cells.

Objective: To clarify the role of Procalcitonin test for early diagnosis of neonatal sepsis.

Methods: Procalcitonin is a peptide of 116 amino acids and is the precursor to calcitonin (CT) CT, a hormone that is contained in amine granules and excreted in the blood to balance calcium levels.

Results: The involvement of bacteria in your blood is bacterial sepsis or bacteremia. This may be the first symptom of a significant underlying condition, such as HIV or HIV. In the early stages of systemic bacterial infections, there is recurrent bacteremia.

In systemic bacterial infection detection, the use of PCT measurements has increased. PCT has a brief half-life (25-30 hours in plasma) and an obvious absence of bacterial contamination in terms of health and specificity.

Conclusion: PCT is a more sensitive marker than blood culture, CRP count and WBS for early diagnosis of bacterial sepsis. The most efficient antibiotics used were gentamicin, tetracycline, vancomycin and ciprofloxacin. PCT administration in septic mice improved their death rate, while the survival rate of anti-PCT antibodies improved.

Key words: Procalcitonin Test, Early Diagnosis, Neonatal Sepsis, Patient, therapy, Techniques of PCT, Clinical infections.

Introduction

Procalcitonin is a precursor to calcitonin, a hormone that plays an important role in the body's calcium regulation process. It is made up of 116 amino acids which are synthesized by intramolecular cells (c cells) in the thyroid gland and endocrine cells in the lung and stomach [1]. The blood levels in healthy adults are lower than the amount they should be detected at. When an inflammatory stimulus occurs, This increases, particularly when the source is bacterial, and Sepsis is the systemic reaction of a microbial organism to infection [2-5]. The most prominent bacteria in sepsis are staphylococci and streptococci. In clinical labs, existing techniques of diagnosing bacterial infections usually take a longer time. A biomarker that can be used to detect bacterial infections is Procalcitonin (PCT) [6,7].

Definition Of Procalcitonin and Neonatal Sepsis

Procalcitonin :-It is a precursor of the hormone calcitonin, which plays a major role in the body's calcium balance. Procalcitonin was first recognized in the 1970s by Bernard A. Ross, Leonard J. Divus, as it consists of 116 amino acids synthesized in the thyroid gland by intramolecular cells (c cells) and in the lung and intestine by endocrine cells [8,9]. The level of procalcitonin in healthy people's blood is smaller than the level at which it can be measured so it does not reach (0.01 micrograms / liter), while the level of procalcitonin in the blood increases when an inflammatory stimulus happens, in particular when its source is bacterial, and in this case when it is released by the lungs and intestines. Often, as acute infection occurs due to changes occurring in the body in response to the infection, its level will increase to (100

micrograms / liter) and it stays elevated in the blood for a half-life the ranges from 25-30 hours [10]. It should be remembered that during infection, elevated procalcitonin levels in the blood are not accompanied by a parallel rise in calcitonin levels or a reduction in calcium levels in the blood [11].

Biochemistry of PCT

Procalcitonin is a peptide that is the precursor to the hormone calcitonin (CT) with 116 amino acids. The amine place of procalcitonin PCT, the immature calcitonin, and the primary peptide end of During the manufacturing of calcitonin encoded through the CALC-1 gene on chromosome, calcitonin carboxyl-terminus peptide-1 (CCP-1, also known as catacalcin) passes thru three stages [12]. CT is stored in amine granules and discharged into the bloodstream to manipulate calcium attention. In the context of a microbial contamination, non-neuroendocrine tissues also explicit the CALC-1 gene, which produces PCT. [13] Microbial contamination reasons a widespread increase in CALC-1 gene expression in all parenchymal tissues and diverse cell sorts within the body that make PCT. In serious systemic infections, their ranges are substantially better than other microbial infection parameters [14]. PCT materials generated in Non-Neuroendocrine Tissues beneath the influence of microbial infection are but unknown; although, their discovery has aided in their discovery to differentiate inflammatory system analysis [15].



Figure (1) Procalcitonin test [16].

Neonatal Sepsis

Septicemia or sepsis is a synonymous word relating to a severe human and animal illness characterized by a systemic inflammatory response arising from bacterial infection and the presence in the blood and tissues of germs and their metabolites, contributing to sepsis [17]. Staphylococci and streptococci are the most common pathogens of sepsis, of which pneumococcus and Escherichia coli are the most rare. In the past, medical practitioners have used these designations inconsistently, For instance as a synonym of bacteremia (or bacterial sepsis), which has created a few confusion. Clinical trials have discovered that septicemia can be non-stop or sporadic [18]. Recurrent septicemia takes place particularly in patients with vascular infections (inclusive of endocarditis, thrombophlebitis, and vascular catheterization-associated infections) [19,20] or as an instance , in cases of septic surprise. Patients with localized infections (e.g., lungs, urinary tract , skin, and soft tissues) suffer occasional septicemia. Sepsis is a systemic reaction to a microbial contamination, and differential prognosis of infection due to bacteria or other microbial species is required for effective therapy and evaluation. In scientific laboratories, modern-day techniques of diagnosing bacterial infections regularly take longer. Procalcitonin (PCT) is a biomarker which could hit upon bacterial infections and is extra specific in patients with sepsis than different inflammatory signs (including cytokines) [21,22]. In the scientific laboratory, determining whether or not the source of irritation in patients is bacterial has emerge as a warm subject matter. To come across sepsis, several laboratory scientific techniques were used [23]. Broth tradition is the gold preferred for bacterial illness detection, but the very last result can absorb to 24 hours to arrive. C Reactive Protein (CRP), leukocyte mobile be counted, and cytokines (TNF-a, IL-1, or IL-6) are a selection of inflammatory markers, Inflammation and irritation were used to diagnose them. Failure to determine the purpose of contamination, however, has contributed to ongoing hobby in engaging in more targeted laboratory clinical analyses Procalcitonin PCT has been recognized in current research as a relevant marker inside the speedy diagnosis of bacterial infection , specifically to be used in emergency departments and intensive care gadgets in hospitals [24]. A considerable variety of research were executed regarding procalcitonin PCT and its therapeutic use for the reason that discovery of sepsis and its entry into the field of research within the 1990s. For some years, a PCT check has

been to be had in Europe and has recently been authorized for use within the United States by way of the FDA [25,26]. We discussed earlier that sepsis refers to a systemic reaction to microbial agent infections, consisting of micro organism, fungi, and yeast, in which signs and symptoms normally stand up from: fever, tachycardia, tachypnea, and leukocytosis.

Blood microbiological cultures or irritation sites are often nice, however they are now not dependable. Extreme sepsis of at least one organ is synonymous with hypoperfusion or disorder. This disease is known as Septic Shock whilst Extreme Sepsis is related to hypotension or more than one organ gadget failure. Epidemiological reports display that the United States has about 750,000 instances of sepsis per year. There are extremely complex symptoms and signs of septicemia and are laid low with several reasons [27,28], such as: virulence and the bioburden of the pathogen, The portal of entry, the host susceptibility.

The number one websites are: Respiratory Tract Infections, Followed via Genitourinary Infections, Gastrointestinal Infections [29]. In addition to an increase inside the causes of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), the variety of instances of bacterial infections in hospitalized sufferers has lately risen due to accelerated hospitalizations due to catheterization and immunosuppressive treatment. In the remedy of immune reactions in hospitalized patients, the difference among infection because of bacterial infections, other microbial infections or organ rejection is good sized [30,31]. A standard difficulty in clinical practice is that, especially in breathing tract infections, the signs and signs of bacterial and viral infections fluctuate substantially. In positive conditions, diagnostic confusion still exists, even after acquiring the scientific records of the affected person, undertaking a bodily test, chest X-ray, and laboratory take a look at [32]. In all cases, laboratory studies with extra precision could additionally greatly decorate clinical differential diagnosis. In addition, differential infection analysis facilitates to assess while antibiotic therapy is effective. About 75% of the doses in this respect are prescribed with antibiotics to treat ARIs wherein the pathogen is predominantly viral [33]. It have to be remembered that the number one cause for the proliferation of micro organism immune to these antibiotics is the beside the point use of antibiotics. Therefore, to address the upward thrust in microorganisms which might be proof against these antibiotics, lowering using antibiotics is vital [34].

Etiology

Similar to the cause of the virus, bloodstream infections are divided into primary (or primary) and secondary. The most common cause of bloodstream infections is venous systems. The second most prevalent cause is urinary tract infection. Original infections of the bloodstream (that is, without a prior cause of infection) can be separated from secondary infections of the bloodstream (that is, other infections such as pneumonia, infections of the biliary tract, infections of the skin and soft tissue, and infections of the wound). Main bloodstream diseases are divided into: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratory-confirmed diseases of the bloodstream [35] .



Figure (2)Bacterial infections [36] .

Clinical infections

Bacterial infections caused by venous channels, the digestive tract, or the skin and soft tissue (such as bed sore infections and cases of cellulite occur in patients with hospital-acquired bloodstream infections and health care-related bloodstream infections. The odds of both factors are identical. They are more vulnerable to

secondary bloodstream infections caused by UTIs by community-acquired bloodstream infections [37] .

Diagnostic Methods for Sepsis

The conventional method of diagnosing sepsis typically takes 24 to forty eight hours to diagnose: blood culture, urinary culture, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or other body fluids. Sadly, in the absence of a healthy society, clinical signs frequently surface.

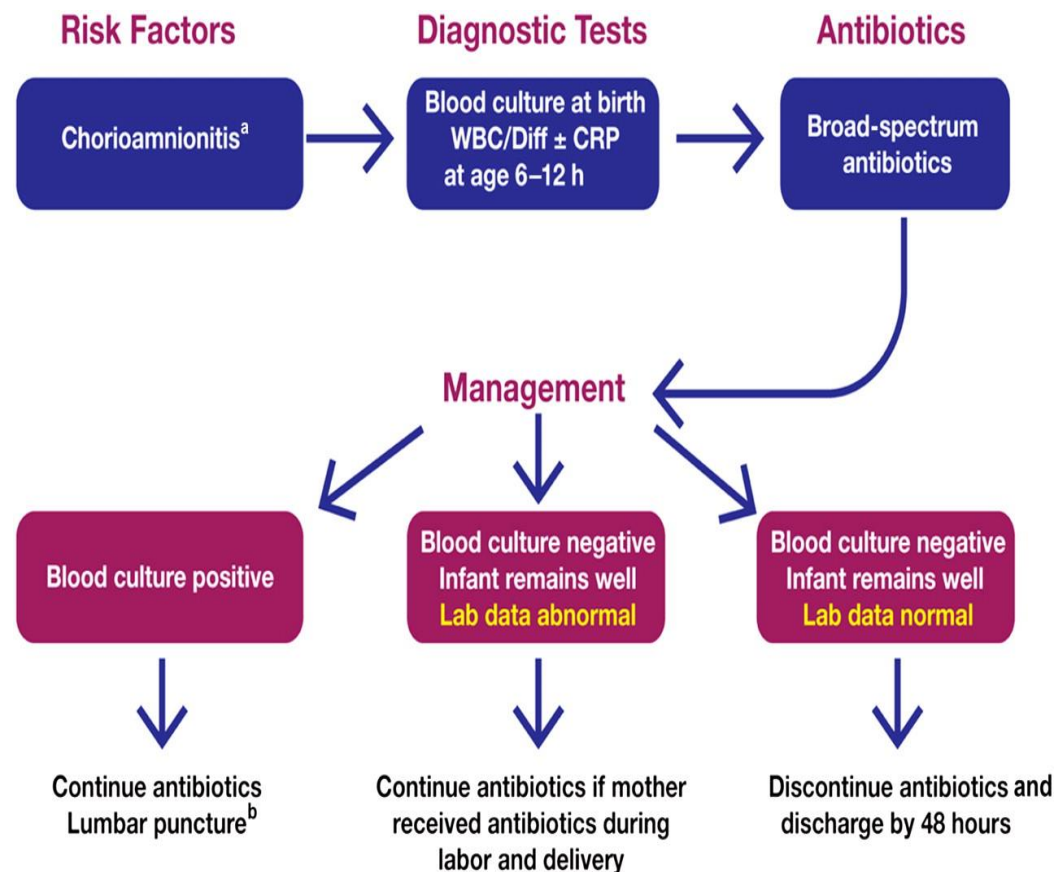


Figure (3)Evaluation of asymptomatic infants ≥ 37 weeks' gestation with risk factors for sepsis [38].

Common bacterial causes of sepsis

Transient bacteriuria can persist for minutes to a few hours, and frequently happens during procedures during manipulation of non-sterile body locations. The use of PCT measurements in the prognosis of systemic bacterial contamination has improved for the reason that mid-1990s. Rapid PCT level assessment would aid in intensive care units to rule out nosocomial infections in newborns [42].

Therapy

Testing blood samples collected from two separate areas are screened for: Made sure that there is proof of infection, trouble clotting, abnormal functions in the liver or kidney, the supply of deficient oxygen, an deficiency of the electrolytes, some tests in laboratories, your doctor will want to run tests for one or more of the following body fluids, based on the symptoms: Urine If your doctor believes you have an infection of the urinary tract, he or she might want to search for signs of bacteria in your urine. Respiratory secretions Where the mucus (phlegm) is caused by a cough, it can be checked to figure out what germs are causing the infection [43].

Imaging Checkups

Your doctor can order one or more of the following imaging tests if the site of the injury is not clear:

The ray of X. X-rays are helpful for the lungs' imaging issues.

Check for computerized tomography (CT). On a CT scan, any appendix or pancreatic inflammation is readily seen. This approach uses x-rays to visualize cross-sectional slices of internal body parts drawn from different angles and merged.

The ultrasonic. To produce convincing pictures on a computer screen, this technology uses sound waves. Ultrasound can be effective, in part, in screening for gallbladder or ovarian infections. Imagery in Magnetic Resonance. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be effective for soft tissue infection detection [44]. In order to create cross-sectional pictures of internal body formations, this technology uses intense radio waves and magnetic waves. Your odds of surviving sepsis are improved by early, aggressive treatment. In a hospital's intensive care unit, patients with sepsis need direct monitoring and medication. Life-saving steps to control ventilation and cardiac rate could be important if you have sepsis or septic shock [45].

Pharmaceutical

For the treatment of toxicity and septic shock, a number of drugs are used. It requires the following: antibiotics. Treatment with an antibiotic should commence immediately. You will initially take wide-spectrum antibiotics that function against a large range of bacteria. After knowing the results of the blood tests, the doctor can modify the antibiotic to treat the same bacteria that cause the infection. Antibiotics are administered via a vein. Fluids with a vein. Within three hours, patients with sepsis frequently administer fluids straight into a vein. Vasodilators. And after getting fluids

from a vein, if the blood pressure is very low, you can be given vasodilators that constrict blood vessels and help to increase blood pressure. Some narcotics that you can receive include low corticosteroid concentrations, insulin to help maintain healthy blood sugar levels, medications that modulate reactions to the immune system, and pain relievers or sedatives [46].

Supportive care

People who have sepsis also get oxygen-included supportive treatment. You can need a pump, depending on the situation, to help you breathe. And you can need dialysis if your kidneys are affected.

Surgery

Surgery may be required for the elimination of causes of infection, such as pus aggregation, contaminated skin, or gangrene.

Evaluation of Neonate with Suspected Sepsis

The approach to neonates with reported sepsis should be continued with a background of risk factors. You should determine the clinical appearance as well. Respiratory dysfunction, growing apnea and bradycardia episodes, feeding intolerance, lethargy, and temperature disturbance are among the signs suggesting a possible neonatal infection. Sepsis studies are conducted and therapy with empirical antibiotics is commenced [47].

Measurement Techniques of PCT

Procalcitonin can be measured with: Fluoroimmuno-assays titration. It is a tissue science close to that in cell chemistry in which fluorinated substance-labeled antibodies are used. You may locate and discover the fluorescent site with an optical microscope or spectrophotometer. The iChroma system uses the previous immunofluorescence concept to measure procalcitonin. This approach is known to be one of the better accepted methods for calculating the amount of procalcitonin PCT in medical laboratories [48].

Pitfalls in PCT Measurement Slips

There are actually claims that PCT levels have not been linked with bacterial infection. Elevated procalcitonin levels were correlated with the Addisonian crisis triggered by adrenal dysfunction. Increased levels of PCT [49].

Medicinal uses

Sepsis

Procalcitonin measurement can be used to detect extreme sepsis caused by bacteria, and its level in the blood is normally proportional to the degree of sepsis, and while its level in the blood is very low, it has a high specificity (85 percent) and a special differentiation (91 percent), making it ideal for patient distinctions. With systemic reactions of sepsis patients and inflammatory syndrome.

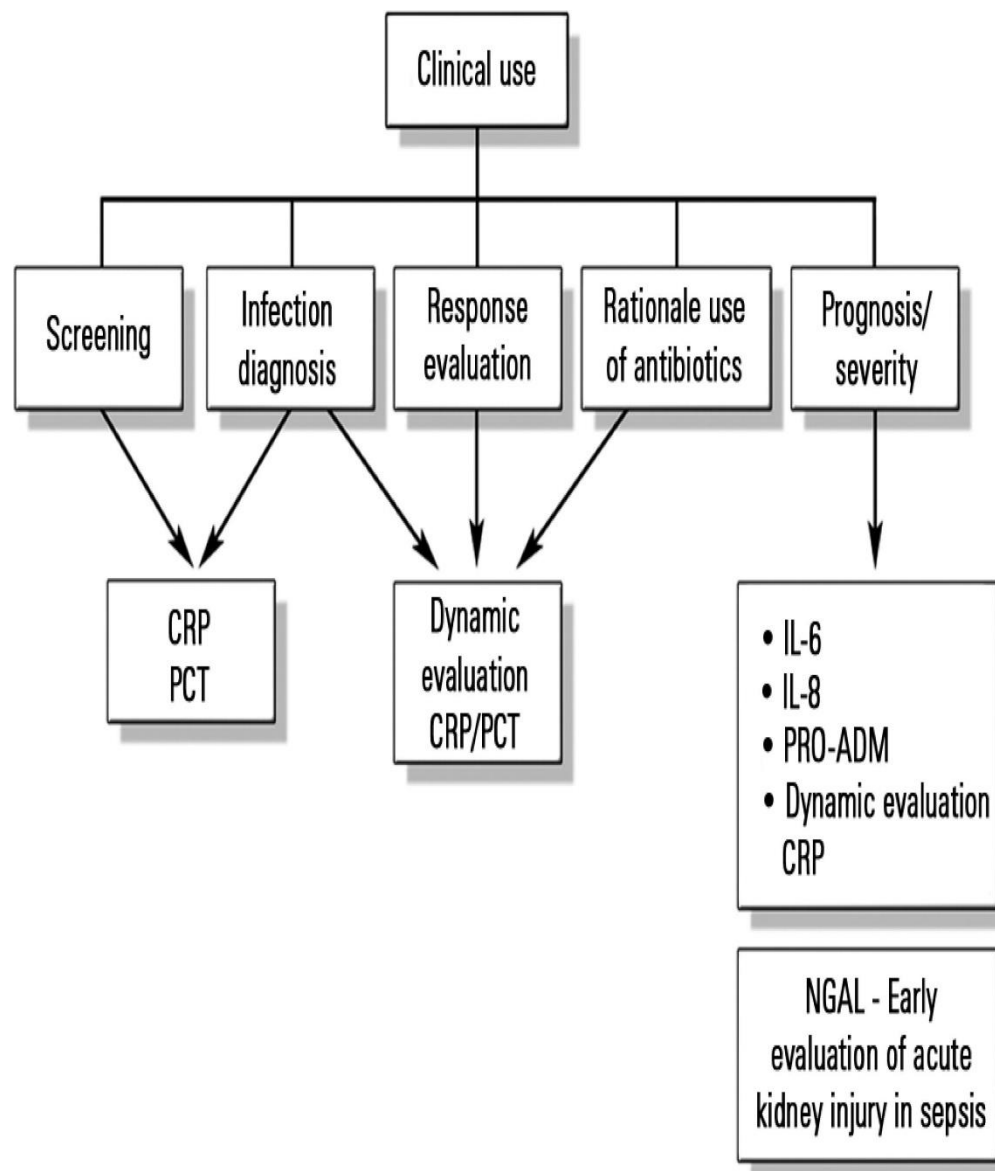


Figure (4) Diagnostic chart for neonatal sepsis [50]

The evidence also suggests that in patients with lower respiratory infection, procalcitonin can minimize excess levels of antibiotics in the blood. Therefore, in

medicinal settings, procalcitonin is now commonly used. And the researchers indicated that he has vulnerability (76%) and specific prejudice (70%) to cases of bacteremia.

Treating pneumonia

A cluster of randomized trials showed that the amount of procalcitonin may help control antibiotic therapy, as this study "discouraged the administration of antibiotics at levels (less than 0.1 mcg / L or less than 0.25 mcg / L) based on blood procalcitonin levels.") While assistance was provided at amounts (0.5 µg / L or 0.25 µg / L). The previous non-randomized research, however, confirmed that the value of procalcitonin is very limited in the treatment of pneumonia [51].

In order to discriminate between bacterial infections and non-bacterial infections, procalcitonin levels may be significant, and studies from 2018-2019 have shown that it may assist care and decrease the use of antibiotics, thus helping to save the antibiotic budget.

Kidney disease

There is also a greater risk of infection in patients with progressive kidney failure or end-stage renal disease, and the role of procalcitonin in these patients that normally have elevated levels has been studied. It is possible to purify procalcitonin, but its amount in the blood depends. The time of hemodialysis for the recipient [52].

CONCLUSION

The previous analysis is reviewed in this review. Gram-positive bacteria is the most frequent vector isolated from newborn sepsis. The death rate increases as the PCT concentration exceeds the phases of extreme sepsis and septic shock. PCT is a more sensitive marker than blood culture, CRP count, and WBS for early diagnosis of ISIS bacterial sepsis. The most effective antibiotics used included gentamicin, tetracycline, vancomycin and ciprofloxacin. The use of PCT has gained mainstream support over the last 15 years in identifying the cause of systemic the notion with which the "organ shutdown" function of extreme sepsis is intrinsically associated. Further studies to explain the function of PCT in sepsis will continue to understand the pathogenesis of sepsis in order to create safer and more reliable treatment regimens.

REFERENCES

1. Adib M, Bakhshiani Z, Navaei F, Fosoul FS, Fouladi S, Kazemzadeh H. Procalcitonin: a reliable marker for the diagnosis of neonatal sepsis. *Iranian journal of basic medical sciences*. 2012 Mar;15(2):777.
2. Ranjan R, Jerupula S, Bhagwani DK. Procalcitonin and CRP markers in neonatal sepsis. *International Journal of Scientific Research*. 2019;8(2)..
3. Rashwan NI, Hassan MH, El-Deen ZM, El-Abd Ahmed A. Validity of biomarkers in screening for neonatal sepsis—a single center—hospital based study. *Pediatrics & Neonatology*. 2019 Apr 1;60(2):149-55.
4. Draz NI, Taha SE, Abou Shady NM, Ghany YA. Comparison of broad range 16S rDNA PCR to conventional blood culture for diagnosis of sepsis in the newborn. *Egyptian Journal of Medical Human Genetics*. 2013 Nov 14;14(4):403-12..
5. Al-Zahrani AK, Ghonaim MM, Hussein YM, Eed EM, Khalifa AS, Dorgham LS. Evaluation of recent methods versus conventional methods for diagnosis of early-onset neonatal sepsis. *The Journal of Infection in Developing Countries*. 2015 Mar 15;9(04):388-93.
6. Ruan L, Chen GY, Liu Z, Zhao Y, Xu GY, Li SF, Li CN, Chen LS, Tao Z. The combination of procalcitonin and C-reactive protein or presepsin alone improves the accuracy of diagnosis of neonatal sepsis: a meta-analysis and systematic review. *Critical Care*. 2018 Dec;22:1-9.
7. Brown JV, Meader N, Wright K, Cleminson J, McGuire W. Assessment of C-reactive protein diagnostic test accuracy for late-onset infection in newborn infants: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA pediatrics*. 2020 Mar 1;174(3):260-8.
8. Qiu X, Zhang L, Tong Y, Qu Y, Wang H, Mu D. Interleukin-6 for early diagnosis of neonatal sepsis with premature rupture of the membranes: A meta-analysis. *Medicine*. 2018 Nov 1;97(47):e13146.
9. Cheesbrough M. *District laboratory practice in tropical countries*, part 2. Cambridge university press; 2006 Mar 2..
10. Hassan HR, Gohil JR, Desai R, Mehta RR, Chaudhary VP. Correlation of blood culture results with the sepsis score and sepsis screen in the diagnosis of

- early-onset neonatal septicemia. *Journal of Clinical Neonatology*. 2016 Jul 1;5(3):193-8.
11. El-Behedy EM, Akeel N, El-Maghraby HM, Shawky A. Serum level and genetic polymorphism of mannose-binding lectin in infants with neonatal sepsis at Zagazig University Hospitals. *Egypt J Immunol*. 2019 Jan 1;26(1):91-9..
 12. Ozkan H, Cetinkaya M, Koksall N, Celebi S, Hacimustafaoglu M. Culture-proven neonatal sepsis in preterm infants in a neonatal intensive care unit over a 7 year period: Coagulase-negative *S taphylococcus* as the predominant pathogen. *Pediatrics International*. 2014 Feb;56(1):60-6..
 13. Simonsen KA, Anderson-Berry AL, Delair SF, Davies HD. Early-onset neonatal sepsis. *Clinical microbiology reviews*. 2014 Jan;27(1):21-47..
 14. Reier-Nilsen T, Farstad T, Nakstad B, Lauvrak V, Steinbakk M. Comparison of broad range 16S rDNA PCR and conventional blood culture for diagnosis of sepsis in the newborn: a case control study. *BMC pediatrics*. 2009 Dec;9:1-8..
 15. Gilfillan M, Bhandari V. Neonatal sepsis biomarkers: where are we now?. *Research and Reports in Neonatology*. 2019 Mar 14:9-20..
 16. Stocker M, Hop WC, van Rossum AM. Neonatal Procalcitonin Intervention Study (NeoPInS): Effect of Procalcitonin-guided decision making on duration of antibiotic therapy in suspected neonatal early-onset sepsis: A multi-centre randomized superiority and non-inferiority Intervention Study. *BMC pediatrics*. 2010 Dec;10:1-8..
 17. ZAHED, PASHA YA, KACHOU M. AHMADPOUR, AHMADI M. HAJI, and Mohsen Haghshenas. "Procalcitonin as a marker of neonatal sepsis." (2009): 117-122..
 18. I. Park IH, Lee SH, Yu ST, Oh YK. Serum procalcitonin as a diagnostic marker of neonatal sepsis. *Korean journal of pediatrics*. 2014 Oct;57(10):451..
 19. LópezSastre JB, Pérez Solís D, RoquésSerradilla V, FernándezColomer B, CotoCotallo GD, Grupo de HospitalesCastrillo@ arrakis. es. Evaluation of procalcitonin for diagnosis of neonatal sepsis of vertical transmission. *BMC pediatrics*. 2007 Dec;7:1-9..

20. Çetinkaya M, Özkan H, Köksal N, Çelebi S, Hacımustafaoğlu M. Comparison of serum amyloid A concentrations with those of C-reactive protein and procalcitonin in diagnosis and follow-up of neonatal sepsis in premature infants. *Journal of Perinatology*. 2009 Mar;29(3):225-31..
21. Hasan F, Khan SA, Maharoof MK, Muhammed N. Role of procalcitonin in early diagnosis of neonatal sepsis. *International Journal of Contemporary Pediatrics*. 2017 Mar;4(2):7..
22. Noor MK, Shahidullah M, Mutanabbi M, Barua C, Mannan MA, Afroza S. Comparison between CRP and IL-6 as early markers of neonatal sepsis. *Mymensingh medical journal: MMJ*. 2008 Jul 1;17(2 Suppl):S72-6..
23. Abdollahi A, Shoar S, Nayyeri F, Shariat M. Diagnostic value of simultaneous measurement of procalcitonin, interleukin-6 and hs-CRP in prediction of early-onset neonatal sepsis. *Mediterranean journal of hematology and infectious diseases*. 2012;4(1)..
24. Carrigan SD, Scott G, Tabrizian M. Toward resolving the challenges of sepsis diagnosis. *Clinical chemistry*. 2004 Aug 1;50(8):1301-14.
25. Lever A, Mackenzie I. Sepsis: definition, epidemiology, and diagnosis. *Bmj*. 2007 Oct 25;335(7625):879-83..
26. Schneider HG, Lam QT. Procalcitonin for the clinical laboratory: a review. *Pathology*. 2007 Aug 1;39(4):383-90..
27. Christ-Crain M, Müller B. Biomarkers in respiratory tract infections: Diagnostic guides to antibiotic prescription prognostic markers and mediators. *Eur Respir J*. 2007;30:556–573.
28. Linscheid P, Seboek D, Nylen ES et al. . In vitro and in vivo calcitonin I gene expression in parenchymal cells: A novel product of human adipose tissue. *Endocrinology*. 2003;144:5578–5584.
29. Simon L, Gauvin F, Amre DK et al. . Serum procalcitonin and C-reactive protein levels as markers of bacterial infection: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2004;39:206–217.
30. Angus DC, Linde-Zwible WT, Lidicker J et al. . Epidemiology of severe sepsis in the United States: Analysis of incidence, outcome, and associated costs of care. *Crit Care Med*. 2001;29:1303–1310.

31. Van Amersfoort ES Van Berkel TJ Kuiper J . Receptors, mediators, and mechanisms involved in bacterial sepsis and septic shock. *Clin Microbiol Rev* . 2003;16:379–414.
32. Dandona P, Nix D, Wilson MF, Aljada A, Love J, Assicot M, Bohuon CL. Procalcitonin increase after endotoxin injection in normal subjects. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. 1994 Dec 1;79(6):1605-8..
33. Rowther FB Rodrigues CS Deshmukh MS et al. . Prospective comparison of eubacterial PCR and measurement of procalcitonin levels with blood culture for diagnosing septicemia in intensive care unit patients. *J Clin Microbiol* . 2009;47:2964–2969.
34. Jacquot A Labaune JM Baum TP Putet G Picaud JC . Rapid quantitative procalcitonin measurement to diagnose nosocomial infections in newborn infants. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed* . 2009;94:F345–F348.
35. de Jager CP de Wit NC Weers-Pothoff G et al. . Procalcitonin kinetics in *Legionella pneumophila pneumonia*. *Clin Microbiol Infect* . 2009;15:1020–1025.
36. Kristoffersen KB Sjøgaard OS Wejse C et al. . Antibiotic treatment interruption of suspected lower respiratory tract infections based on a single procalcitonin measurement at hospital admission—A randomized trial. *Clin Microbiol Infect* . 2009;15:481–487.
37. Manual I. article number: 825.050: Immunofluorescent assay for the determination of PCT (procalcitonin) in human serum and plasma. BRAHMS PCT sensitive KRYPTOR. 2008.
38. Caruhel P Mazier C Kunde J et al. . Homogeneous time-resolved fluoroimmunoassay for the measurement of midregional proadrenomedullin in plasma on the fully automated system B.R.A.H.M.S. KRYPTOR. *Clin Biochem* . 2009;42:725–728.
39. Becker KL Snider R Nylen ES . Procalcitonin assay in systemic inflammation, infection, and sepsis: Clinical utility and limitations. *Crit Care Med* . 2008;36:941–952.
40. Uzzan B Izri A Durand R et al. . Serum procalcitonin in uncomplicated falciparum malaria: A preliminary study. *Travel Med Infect Dis* . 2006;4:77–80.
41. Braun N Marfo Y Von Gärtner C et al. . CTLA-4 positive T cells in contrast to procalcitonin plasma levels discriminate between severe and uncomplicated

- Plasmodium falciparum malaria in Ghanaian children. Trop Med Int Health . 2003;8:1018–1024.
42. Baylan O Balkan A Inal A et al. . The predictive value of serum procalcitonin levels in adult patients with active pulmonary tuberculosis. Jpn J Infect Dis . 2006;59:164–167.
43. Nyamande K Lalloo UG . Serum procalcitonin distinguishes CAP due to bacteria, Mycobacterium tuberculosis and PJP. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis . 2006;10:510–515.
44. Mendonca Coelho MC Tannuri U Aoun Tannuri AC et al. . Is procalcitonin useful to differentiate rejection from bacterial infection in the early postoperative period of liver transplantation in children? Pediatr Transplant . 2008; Nov18.
45. Madershahian N Wittwer T Strauch J et al. . Kinetic of procalcitonin in the early postoperative course following heart transplantation. J Card Surg . 2008;23:468–473.
46. Schumm J Pfeifer R Ferrari M et al. . An unusual case of progressive shock and highly elevated procalcitonin level. Am J Crit Care . 2009; Mar19. [Epub ahead of print].
47. LópezSastre JB, FernándezColomer B, CotoCotallo GD, Ramos Aparicio A. Trends in the epidemiology of neonatal sepsis of vertical transmission in the era of group B streptococcal prevention. Acta Paediatrica. 2005 Apr;94(4):451-7..
48. Oddie S, Embleton ND. Risk factors for early onset neonatal group B streptococcal sepsis: case-control study. Bmj. 2002 Aug 10;325(7359):308..
49. Hodge G, Hodge S, Haslam R, McPhee A, Sepulveda H, Morgan E, Nicholson I, Zola H. Rapid simultaneous measurement of multiple cytokines using 100 µl sample volumes— association with neonatal sepsis. Clinical & Experimental Immunology. 2004 Aug;137(2):402-7..
50. Enguix A, Rey C, Concha A, Medina A, Coto D, Diéguez MA. Comparison of procalcitonin with C-reactive protein and serum amyloid for the early diagnosis of bacterial sepsis in critically ill neonates and children. Intensive care medicine. 2001 Jan;27:211-5..
51. Vazzalwar R, Pina-Rodrigues E, Puppala BL, Angst DB, Schweig L. Procalcitonin as a screening test for late-onset sepsis in preterm very low birth weight infants. Journal of perinatology. 2005 Jun;25(6):397-402..

- 52.LópezSastre JB, Pérez Solís D, RoquésSerradilla V, FernándezColomer B, CotoCotallo GD, Krauel Vidal X, et al. Procalcitonin is not sufficiently reliable to be the sole marker of neonatal sepsis of nosocomial origin. BMC pediatrics. 2006 Dec;6:1-7..