

There's something about Sepsis...

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Introduction

Sepsis affects around 55,000 Australians and averages 8700 deaths annually.

It is often junior doctors who are the first to assess the deteriorating patients.

There is no data exploring whether Australian medical schools adequately educate their students about the disease process.

Research objectives

- ✦ Junior doctors have reduced awareness of the importance of sepsis as a time-critical illness.
- ✦ Whether this deficiency is a consequence of insufficient training on sepsis in medical schools is unknown.
- ✦ This study evaluated the knowledge of sepsis in Adult and Paediatric patients.

Methods

- ✦ A prospective cross-sectional study using an online survey-link.
- ✦ Undergraduate and graduate students across all year levels in Queensland.
- ✦ 16 questions with A total of 549 students were surveyed across 2 educational institutions.

Results

Significant gaps in Knowledge!

1. 27% of students could correctly identify the current definition of sepsis
2. 30% of students understood the definition of septic shock.
3. Majority of students were able to recognise symptoms of sepsis
4. Only 46% identified the need for early treatment.

Limitations

1. Small Subset of the population
2. Opt in bias

Discussion

- ✦ Study shows major gaps in medical student's knowledge
- ✦ Large variability between institutions on Sepsis education (86% from university A v 44% from university B; $P < 0.001$)
- ✦ Provides a platform for policy makers to make a targeted change.

Conclusion

The majority of medical students are underprepared for the recognition and management of septic patients.

Study replication at other universities is warranted to investigate the potential for knowledge deficits nationally. Our data suggests the need for a standardised curriculum with dedicated sepsis education.

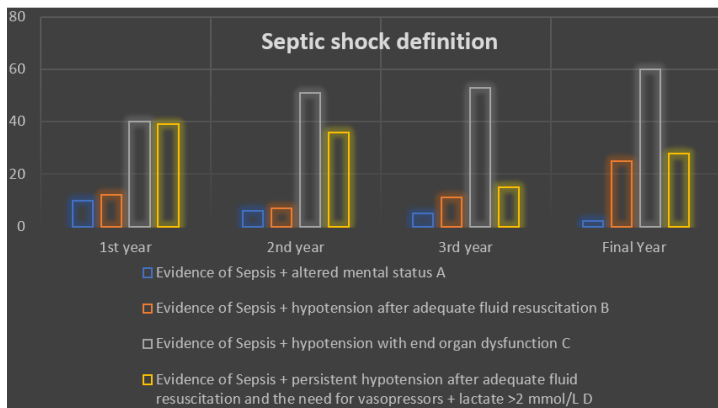


Fig. 1; Graph for results of question 1. Range of answers given by the participants for current definition of Sepsis Shock.