RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROCALCITONIN PLASMA LEVEL AND SEVERITY OF INFECTION

Seroka P, Nys M, Clerinx J, Lebru N, Mukherjee LN, Chapuis JP, Demuy P. General Intensive Care Unit, Medical Chemistry Unit, U Leuven Hospital, Leuven, Belgium.

INTRODUCTION. In the context of sepsis and septic shock, it has been shown that procalcitonin (PCT) may be a useful marker of infection. PCT is a more sensitive marker of infection

RESULTS. Infection-induced increases in PCT levels were significantly greater than those in patients without infection. The increase in PCT levels was greater in patients with severe sepsis and septic shock than in patients with community-acquired pneumonia. The increase in PCT levels was also greater in patients with late-onset sepsis than in patients with early-onset sepsis.

CONCLUSION. The results of this study suggest that PCT may be a useful marker of infection in patients with sepsis and septic shock.