

# SEPSIS

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# Case 1

A young woman arrives in the medical admissions unit with several days' history of diarrhoea.

She also has:

- a macular rash
- a temperature of 38.9 C
- systolic BP - 70 mmHg
- pulse 130 bpm.
- elevated urea and creatinine
- low platelets.

What is your immediate management?

# Relative incidence of sepsis:

## USA

Per 100,000 population

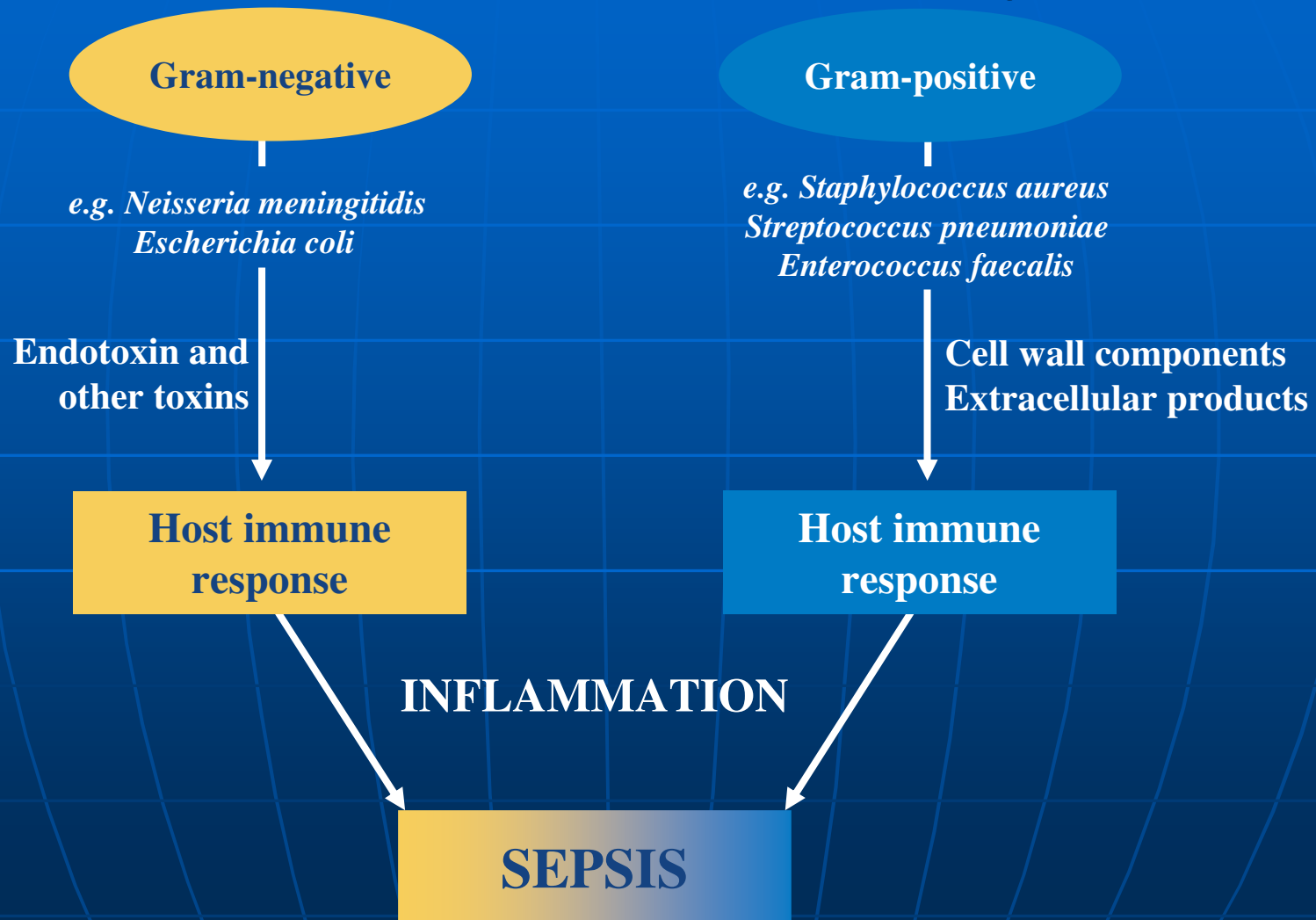
•AIDS	17
•Colon cancer	50
•Breast cancer	110
•Congestive heart failure	130
•Sepsis	300

## UK

- 33% of all ICU admissions are due to severe sepsis.

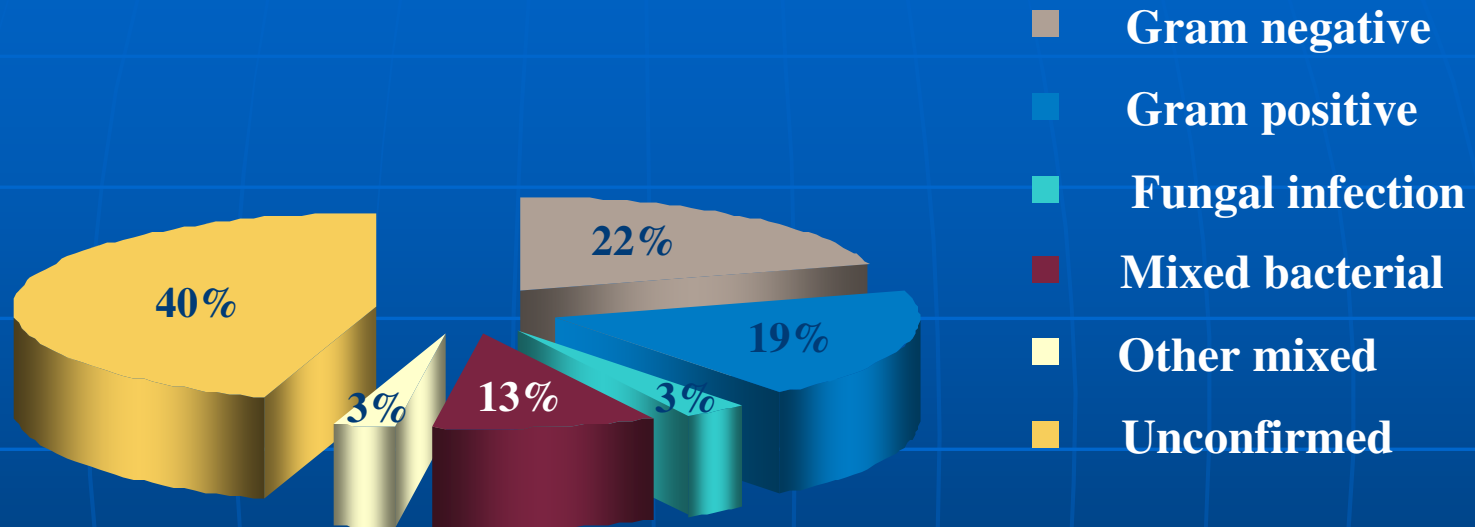
# Bacterial pathogens in sepsis

## *A final common pathway?*



# Pathogens involved in sepsis

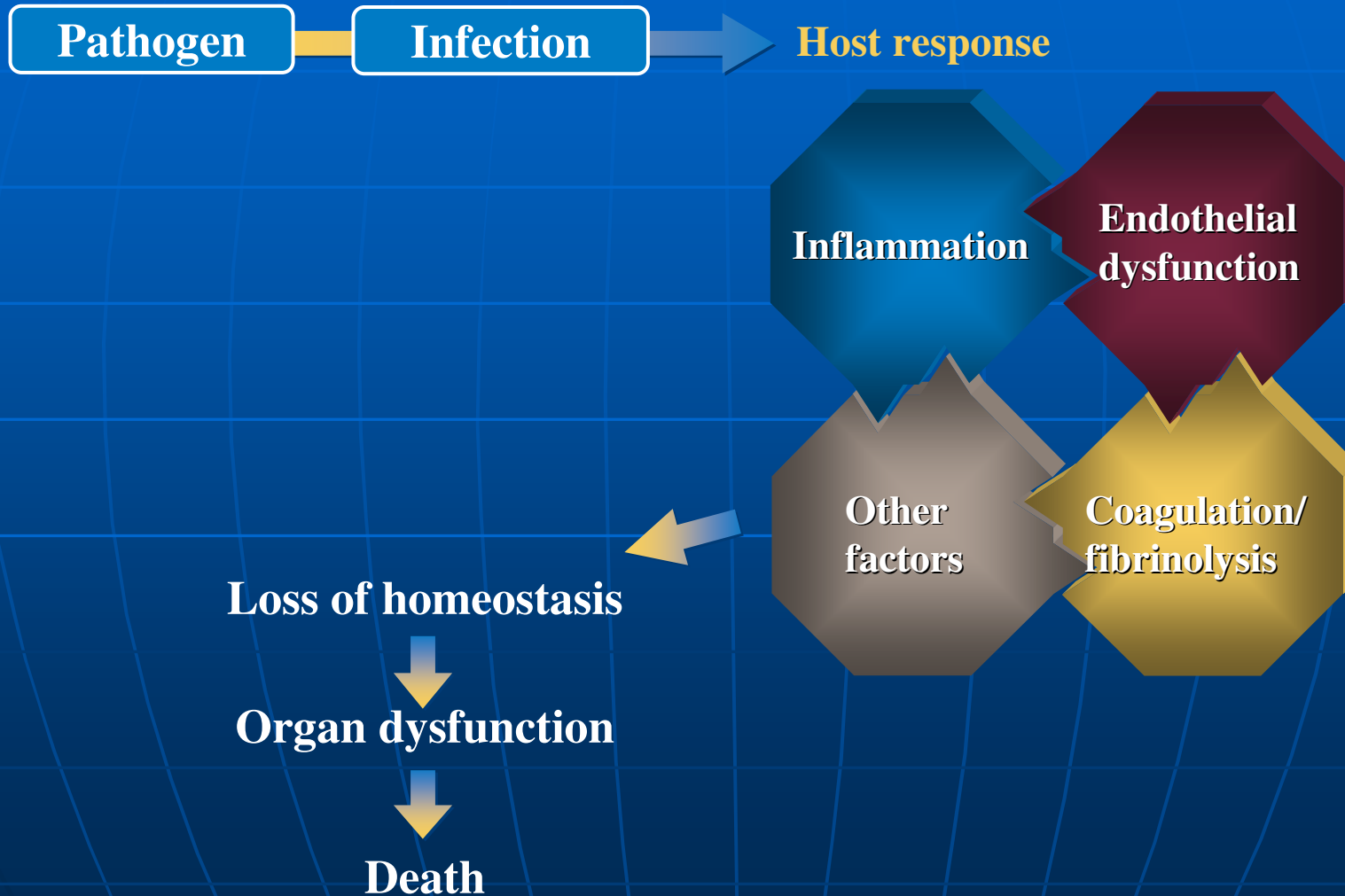
## *An overview*



- Only 60% of severe sepsis/septic shock cases are associated with confirmed infection
- The most common infection sites are: the lung, abdomen or urinary tract.

# Pathogenesis of sepsis

## *An overview*

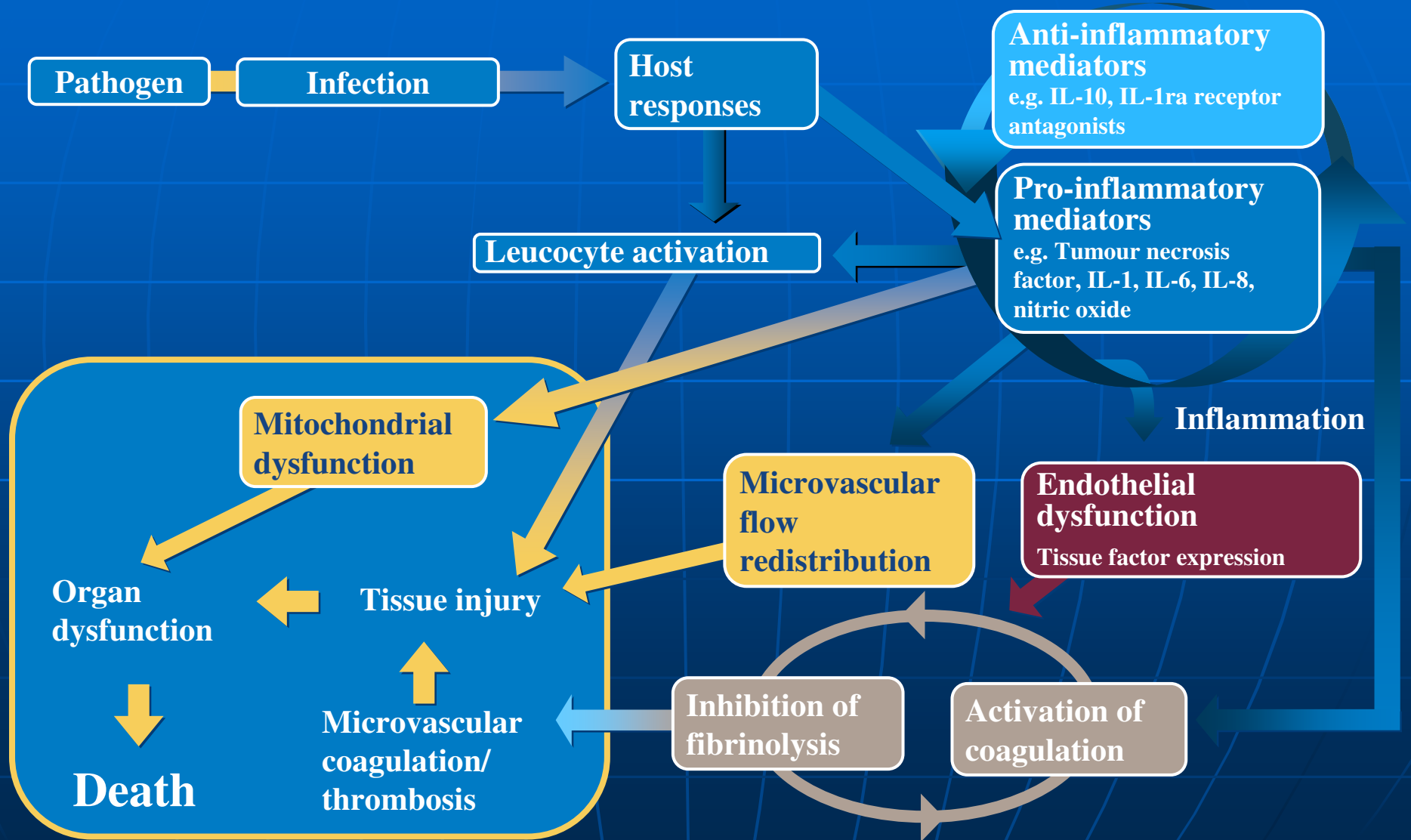


# Pathogenesis of sepsis

- Initial response to any pathogens is the release of pro-inflammatory mediators
  - *to allow WBC to reach the infected area.*
- Subsequently, an anti-inflammatory response
  - *attempt to regain homeostasis and prevent "leaking capillary syndrome".*
- The ability to activate and then eventually downregulate the inflammatory response to infection is a vital immune process and it is this ability that is lost in sepsis and severe sepsis.

# Pathogenesis of sepsis

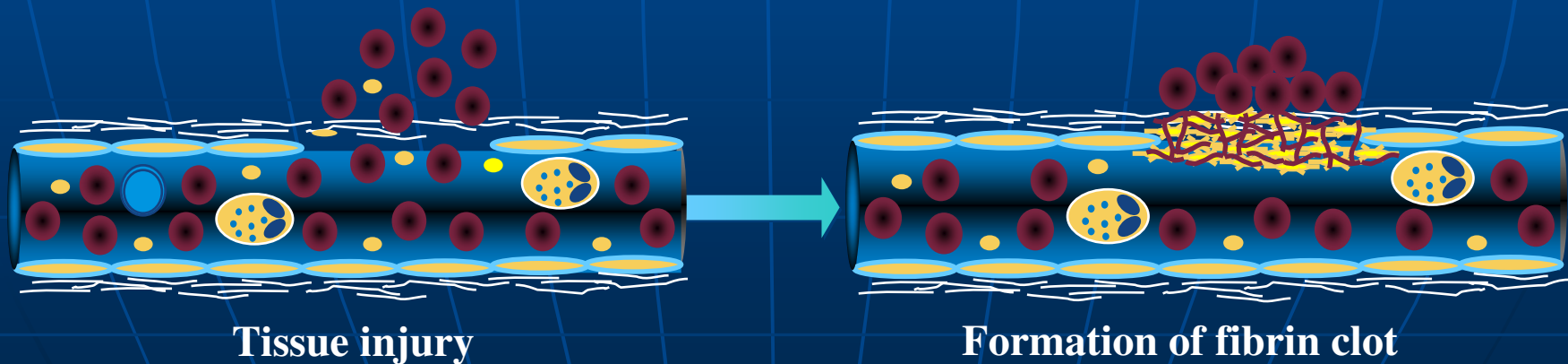
## *An overview*





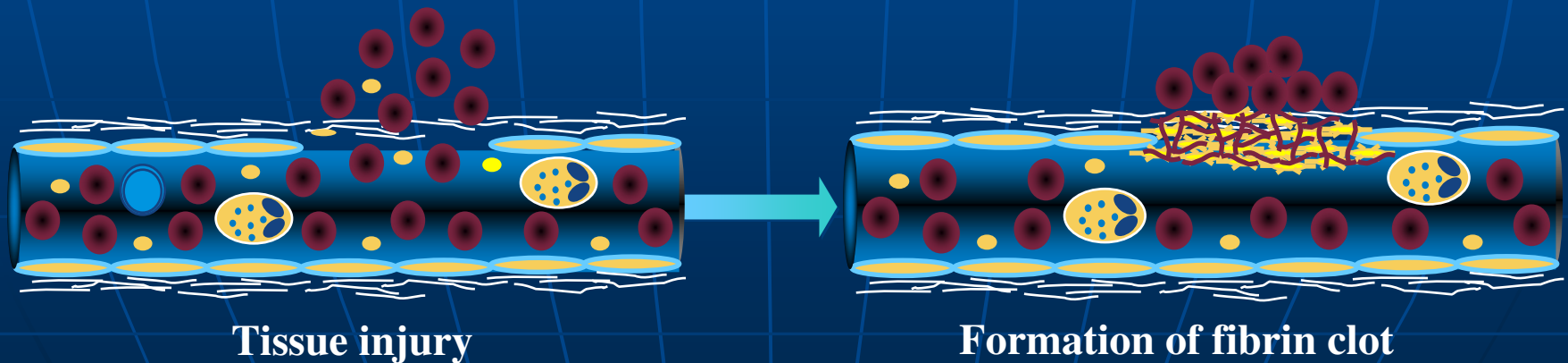
# The role of the endothelium

- Release of mediators of vasodilatation and/or vasoconstriction
- Release of cytokines and inflammatory mediators
- Allows leucocytes to access infection sites
- Plays an important role in the coagulation cascade, maintaining the physiological equilibrium between coagulation and fibrinolysis

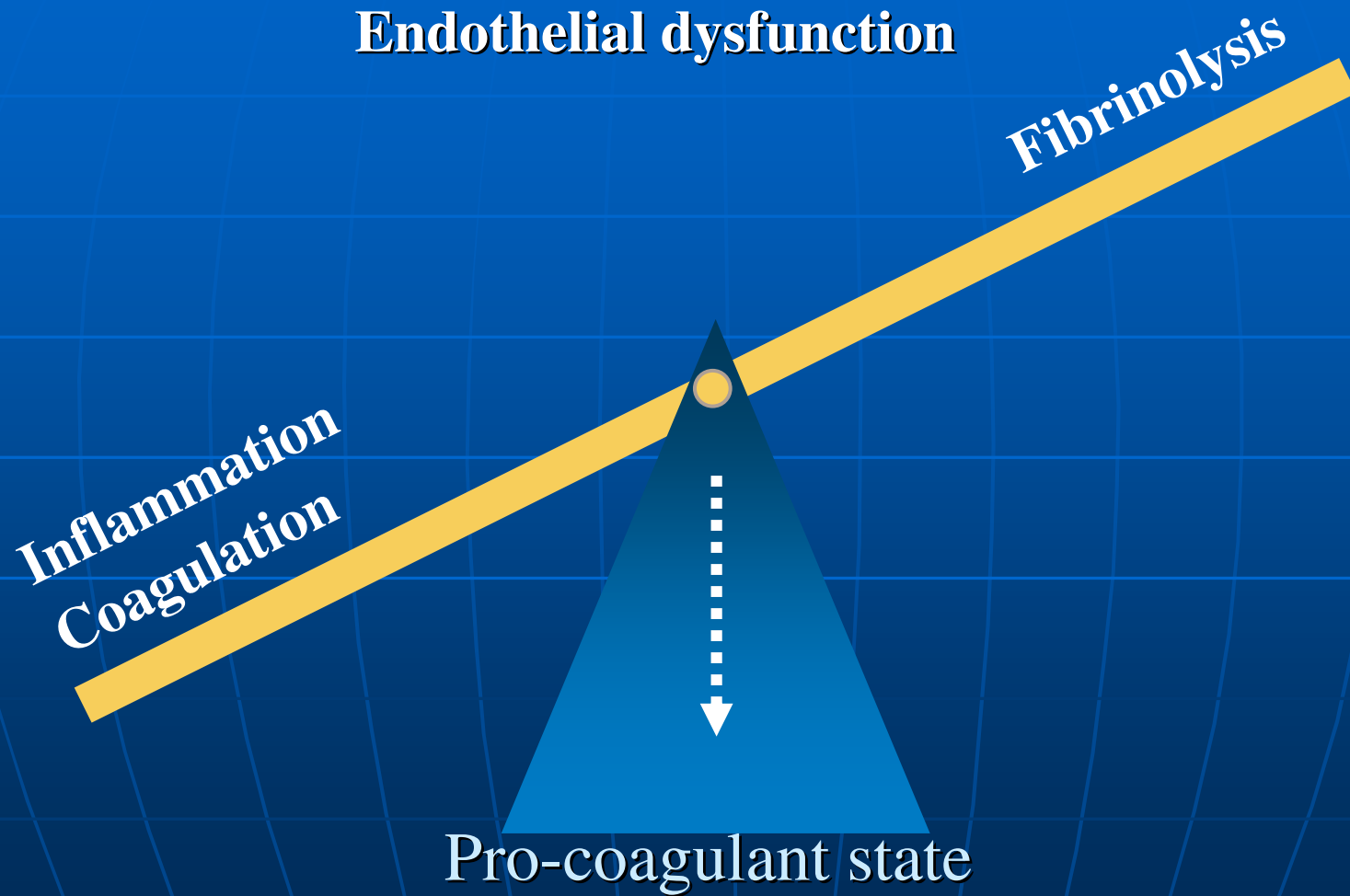


# The role of the endothelium

- In sepsis, the regulatory function of the endothelium fails, leading to:
  - Excessive vasodilation and relative hypovolaemia
  - Leaking capillaries and generalised tissue damage
  - Tissue factor (TF) release initiates **procoagulant state**
  - Micro-thrombus formation compromising blood supply and leading to tissue necrosis
  - Inactivation of Protein C and suppression of fibrinolysis



# Loss of homeostasis in sepsis



# Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

DIC can cause:

- bleeding
- large vessel thrombosis
- haemorrhagic tissue necrosis
- microthrombi leading to organ failure.

Widespread clotting causes consumption of:

- platelets,
- clotting factors
- fibrinogen

*As a result, bleeding risk increases*

# Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

## Testing for DIC:

- APTT and INR are raised.
- platelets count low.
- fibrinogen level low.

After the increased coagulation and fibrin formation,  
*fibrinolysis* results in:

- raised FDP (fibrin degradation products)
- raised D-Dimer

# Action of Activated Protein C

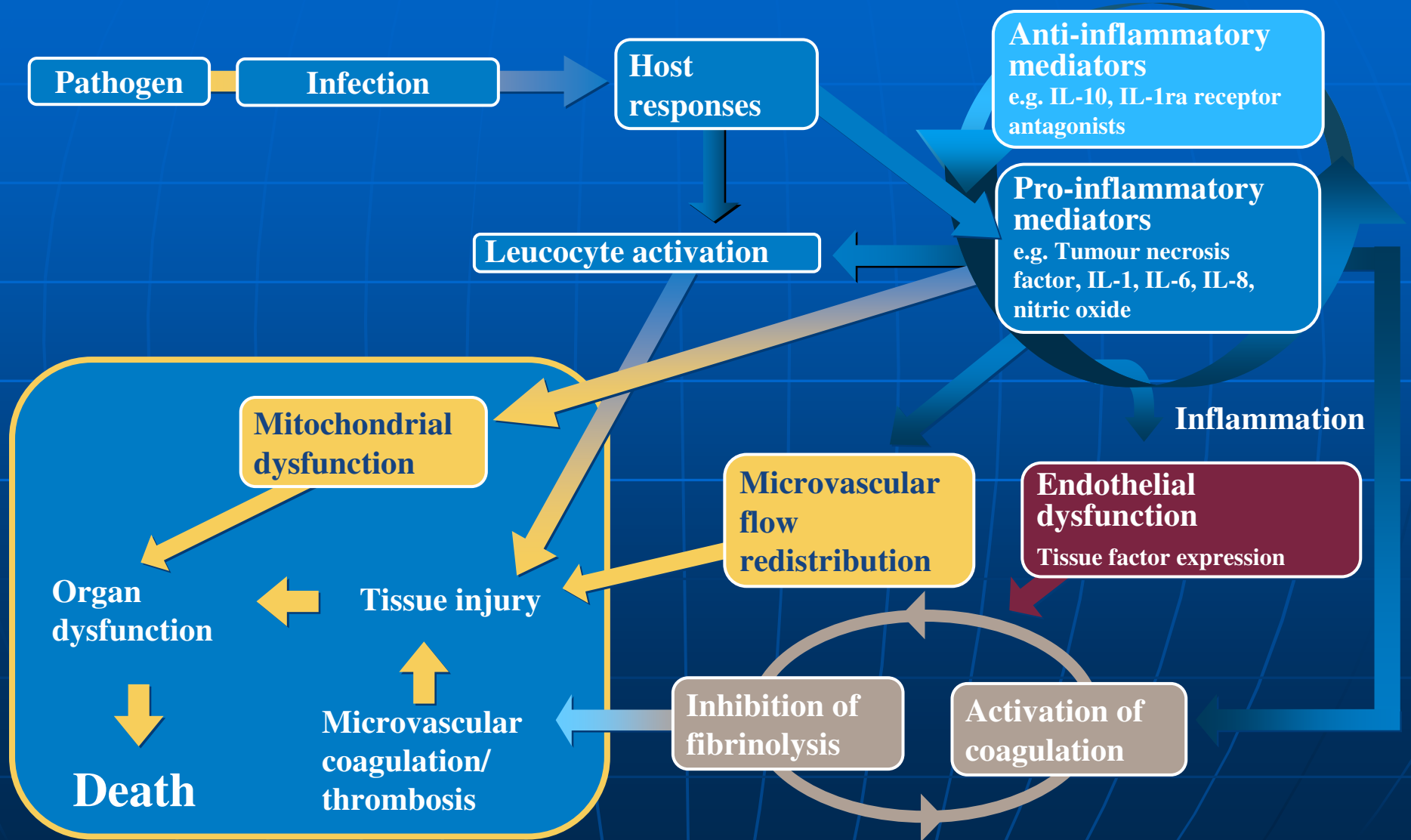
Activated protein C:

- Inactivates cofactors Va and VIIIa impeding the clotting process
- Enhancing fibrinolysis by neutralising PAI-1\* and accelerating clot breakdown
- Direct anti-inflammatory effect, decreasing cytokine production
- Inhibiting leukocyte attachment to endothelium

\***P**lasminogen **A**ctivator **I**nhibitor-1

# Pathogenesis of sepsis

## *An overview*



# Mitochondrial dysfunction in sepsis

- Mitochondrial inhibition is likely to have a role in organ dysfunction
- Organs may sometimes fail despite adequate perfusion with oxygenated blood
- Oxygen utilization at a cellular level may be impaired in sepsis – 'dysoxia'
- Mitochondrial function impaired by:
  - cytokines
  - nitric oxide
  - other reactive species



# SSC -The disease continuum

Infection

SIRS

Sepsis

Severe  
sepsis

Death

- In **1991** The American College of Chest Physicians and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (ACCP/SCCM) at a Consensus Conference developed clear clinical definitions for the **disease continuum**.
- These groups developed three terms for the progression of clinical symptoms: SIRS, *sepsis*, *severe sepsis* and *septic shock*.
- It is important to realise that these stages do not necessarily imply an increasing severity of infection, but rather an increasingly severe systemic response to infection.

# Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS)

Infection

SIRS

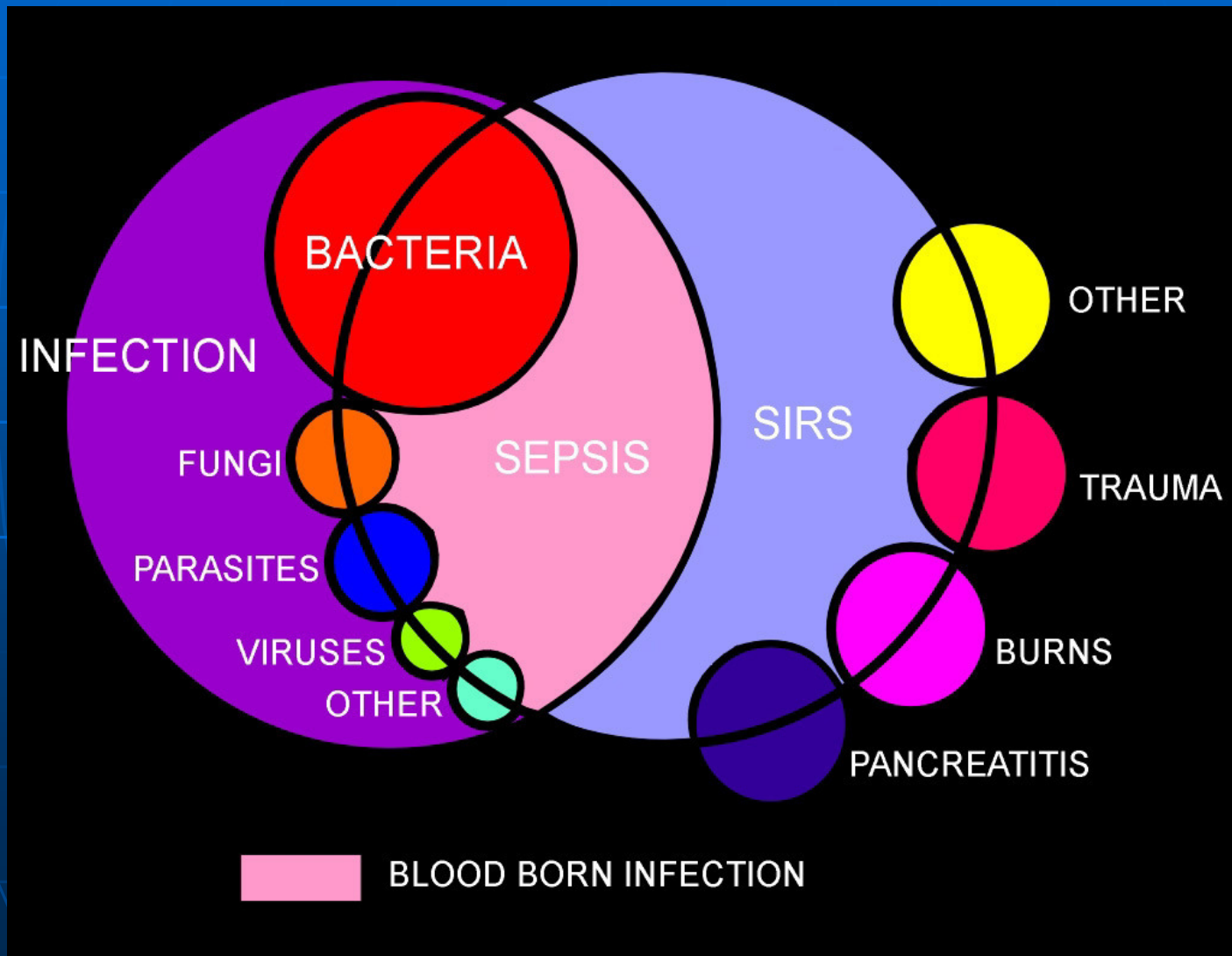
Sepsis

Severe  
sepsis

Death

- SIRS (systemic inflammatory response syndrome) represents the clinical presentation of the widespread inflammation that results from a variety of insults and can also be caused by **trauma, burns, pancreatitis and other insults...**
- The conference defined an initial **SIRS**, that requires evaluation of:
  - temperature,
  - heart rate,
  - respiratory rate and
  - white blood cell count.

# Systemic inflammatory response syndrome



# Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome

Diagnosis comprises **2 or more** of the following:

- Tachycardia >90 bpm
  - Core temperature <36°C or >38°C
  - Tachypnoea >20 bpm or  $P_a\text{CO}_2$  <4.2 kPa
  - WCC >12,000 or <4,000 or >10% immature neutrophils
  - Hyperglycaemia in the absence of Diabetes Mellitus
- NB: The term '*Signs and Symptoms of Infection*' (SSI) is appearing in the context of sepsis, but means essentially the same thing

# Clinical Progression

Infection ➡ SIRS ➡ Sepsis ➡ Severe Sepsis ➡ MOF ➡ Death

## Sepsis :

- 1) - two or more of SIRS, plus
- 2) - documented or suspected infection  
(presence of commonly recognised signs of infection without an identifiable pathogen being isolated)

# Possible sites of a new infection

- Pneumonia or empyema
- Urinary tract infection
- Acute abdominal infection
- Meningitis
- Skin/soft tissue inflammation
- Bone/joint infection
- Catheter or device infection
- Endocarditis
- Wound infection\*

\*May also be known as *Surgical Site Infection (SSI)* – confusingly!

# Modified Early Warning Score (MEWS)

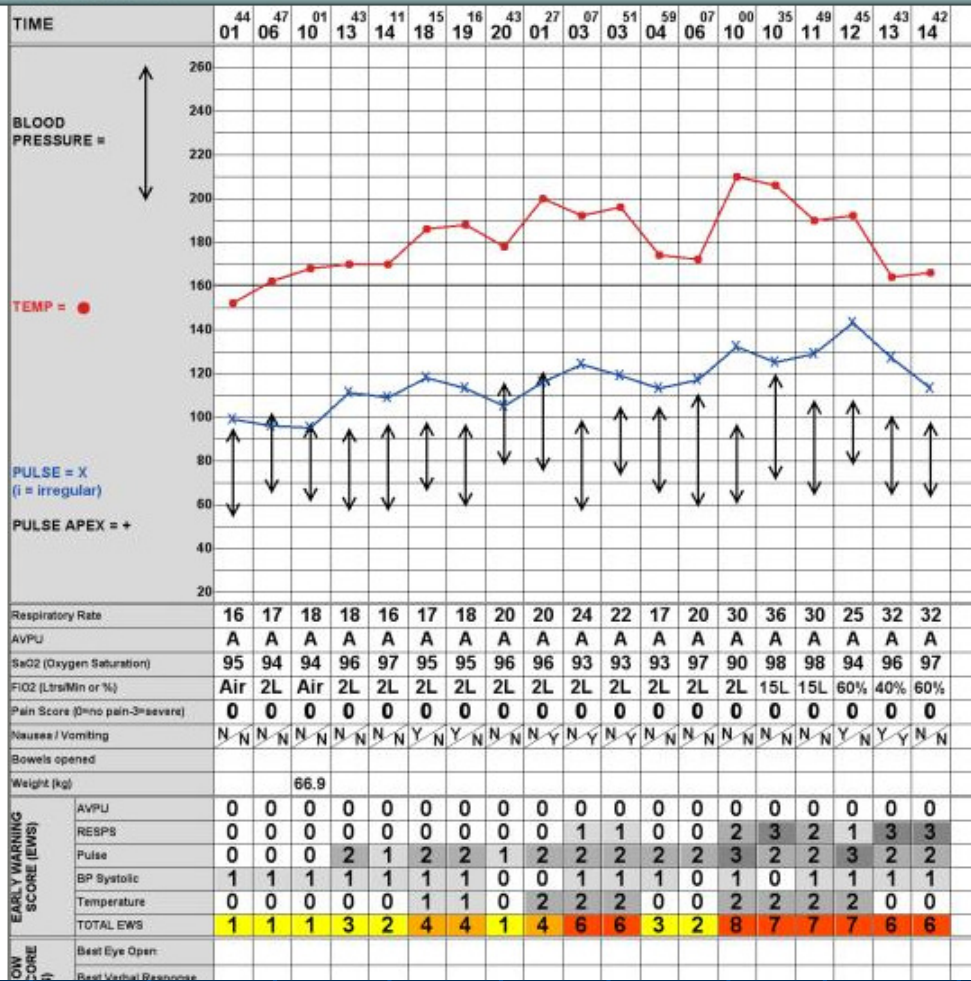
Score	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Central nervous system		Confused or agitated		Alert	Respond to Voice	Respond to Pain	<b>U</b> : No response
Respiratory rate (breaths/min)	<8			8-20	21-30		>30
Heart rate (beats/min)	<40		40-50	51-100	101-110	111-130	>130
Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg)	<70	71-80	81-100	101-180	181-200	201-220	>220
Temperature (°C)	<34	34.0-35.0		35.1-37.5	37.6-38.5	38.6-40.0	>40

*A score of 3 in any one category or a score of 4 overall should prompt a search for infection*

# What is VitalPAC?

VitalPAC<sup>®</sup> CLINICAL

- Patients
- Clinical trends
  - Summary
  - TPR chart
  - EWS chart
  - Specialty chart
  - Custom chart
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Past admissions
- Listening service
- Patient details
- PatientFlow



42"  
41"  
40"  
39"  
38"  
37"  
36"  
35"  
34"  
33"

Target weight: not set

Height: 1.78m.  
(14/06/2009 10:01)

Weight: 66.9kg.  
(14/06/2009 10:01)

BMI: 21.1.

**Key**

OW = Off ward  
Uc = Unmeas. condition  
Ue = Unmeas. equipment  
U = Other unmeasurable  
R = Refused

**AVPU Key**

A = Alert  
V = Voice  
P = Pain  
U = Unresponsive





# Clinical Progression

Infection → SIRS → Sepsis → Severe Sepsis → MOF → Death

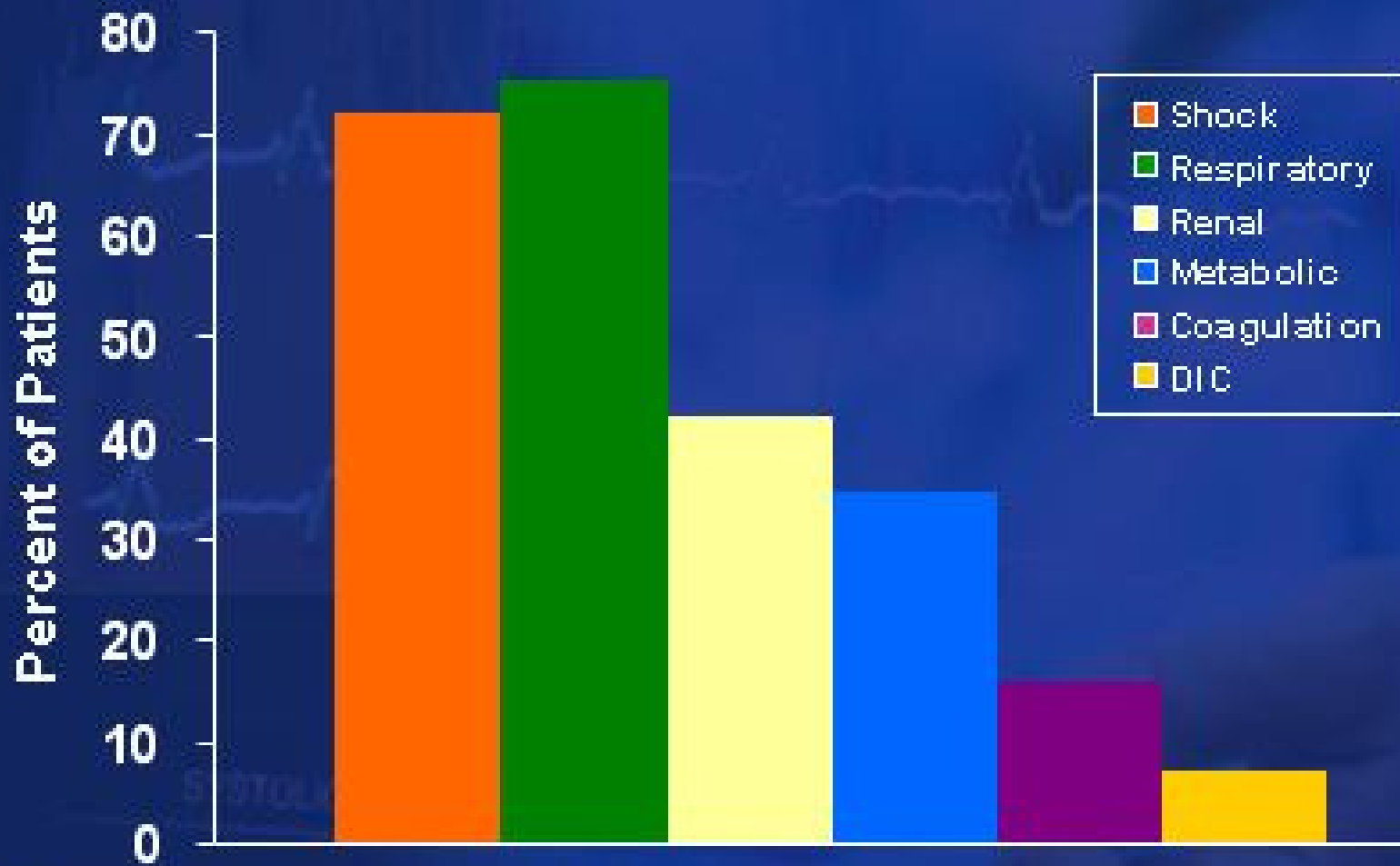
**Severe sepsis:** sepsis + one organ dysfunction

- Circulatory failure
- Respiratory failure
- Renal failure
- Haematological failure
- Hepatic failure
- "Brain failure"

# Severe sepsis – organ failures

- Circulatory      Systolic BP <90mmHg or MAP <65mmHg or reduction in SBP 40 mmHg from baseline
- Respiratory      O<sub>2</sub> saturation <90% on air or oxygen or P<sub>a</sub>O<sub>2</sub>:F<sub>i</sub>O<sub>2</sub> <40 kPa
- Renal              Urine output <0.5 ml/kg/hr for >2 hrs or Creatinine >176 µmol/l acutely
- Haematological      Platelets <100x10<sup>9</sup> or INR >1.5 or APTT >60s
- Hepatic              Plasma lactate >4 mmol/l or Bilirubin >34 µmol/l
- Mental              Acute alteration in mental status

# Organ Dysfunctions at Time of Severe Sepsis Recognition



Bernard G et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2001;344:699-709.

# Clinical Progression

Infection → SIRS → Sepsis → Severe Sepsis → MOF → Death  
Septic Shock

**Septic shock:** Acute circulatory failure unexplained by other causes.

Circulatory failure is defined as:

*persistent arterial hypotension* (SBP < 90 mmHg, MAP < 65, or a reduction in SBP 40 mmHg from baseline) *despite adequate volume resuscitation.*

# Septic Shock

***Initially*** is suggested by evidence of end organ hypoperfusion:

- haemodynamic instability
- mottled skin
- decreased urine output
- altered level of consciousness
- lactic and metabolic acidosis

***Later*** - circulatory failure leading to multi-organ failure:

- reduced SVR, leaking capillaries
- slightly increased and then decreased Cardiac Output
- coagulopathy with thrombocytopenia.
- ARDS, ARF, liver failure, hypoglycaemia,

*Although most patients in shock will be hypotensive, some patients will have preserved systolic pressure early in shock as a result of excessive catecholamine release.*

# Case 2

- A 50-year-old lady was seen in ED and treated for urinary tract infection on the basis of symptoms and a positive urine dipstick. She was discharged home the same day.
- The next day she returned having collapsed. On arrival her observations were as follows:
  - alert
  - pulse 150bpm
  - temperature 38°C
  - BP 80/50 mmHg,
  - RR 20 per minute
  - $S_aO_2$  94% on air,
  - urine output normal.

What is your diagnosis, management and what other immediate tests do you perform?

# Goal directed therapy in Sepsis

Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines  
2004 – 2007

Guidelines on Intravenous Fluid Therapy for Adult  
Surgical Patients  
GIFTASUP 2008

# Trial of Early Goal-Directed Therapy

- 263 pts presented to ED with sepsis
- Randomized into two groups:
  - I - Early Goal Directed Therapy Group (EGDT)
  - II - Control Group (similar, excluding  $S_{cv}O_2$  data)
- Initial resuscitation was performed in ED over the first 6 hour period then transferred to in-patient bed or ICU
- Evaluated for a further 72 hours

*Rivers et al., New Eng J Med 2001, 345*



# EGDT - What are the goals?

- To ensure the presumptive diagnosis is made within 2 hours of admission
- Fluid resuscitation 20 mls/kg within the recommended target of 6 hours from presentation
- Early CVP monitoring and central venous oxygen saturation measurement ( $S_{cv}O_2$ )
- Vasopressors given earlier after initial fluid resuscitation
- Cultures drawn before antibiotics administered
- Antibiotics within 3 hours of a presumptive diagnosis of a severe sepsis in ED, or 1 hour if patient already in hospital

# EGTD: What are the end points?

- Aims to avoid or reverse impaired perfusion and oxygen delivery ( $DO_2$ ) and prevent vital organ failure:
  - Indicators of adequate perfusion:
    - CVP 8-12 mmHg
    - MAP >65 mmHg
    - UO >0.5 ml/kg/hr
  - Indicators of  $DO_2$  insufficiency:
    - $S_{cv}O_2 < 70\%$
    - Lactate >4.0 mmol/L

# Trial results

- The EGDT group received significantly more iv fluids (4.5l vs 3.0l), blood products and inotropic support at the end of the 6 hour period
- After 6 hrs, the EGDT group had:
  - higher blood pressure
  - higher  $S_{cv}O_2$
  - lower Base Deficit (BE)
- By the end of 72 hrs both group had received the same volume of fluid and amount of inotropic support
  - In-hospital mortality 30% vs 46%
  - 60 day mortality 50% vs 70%

# Surviving Sepsis Campaign

## Phase 1 Barcelona declaration 2002

Collaboration between US and European Critical Care Societies  
(Definitions, Studies and Trials)

## Phase 2 Evidence based guidelines 2004-07

- Resuscitation bundles – for the first 6 hours
- Management bundles – for the first 24 hours

## Phase 3 Implementation and education

# Surviving Sepsis Campaign

## Goals of the SSC:

- Build awareness of sepsis
- Improve diagnosis
- Increase the use of appropriate treatment
- Educate healthcare professionals
- Improve post-ICU care
- Develop guidelines of care
- Facilitate data collection for the purposes of audit and feedback

# Surviving Sepsis Campaign

6 hour bundle  
(Resuscitation bundle)

24 hour bundle  
(Management bundle)

# Bundles

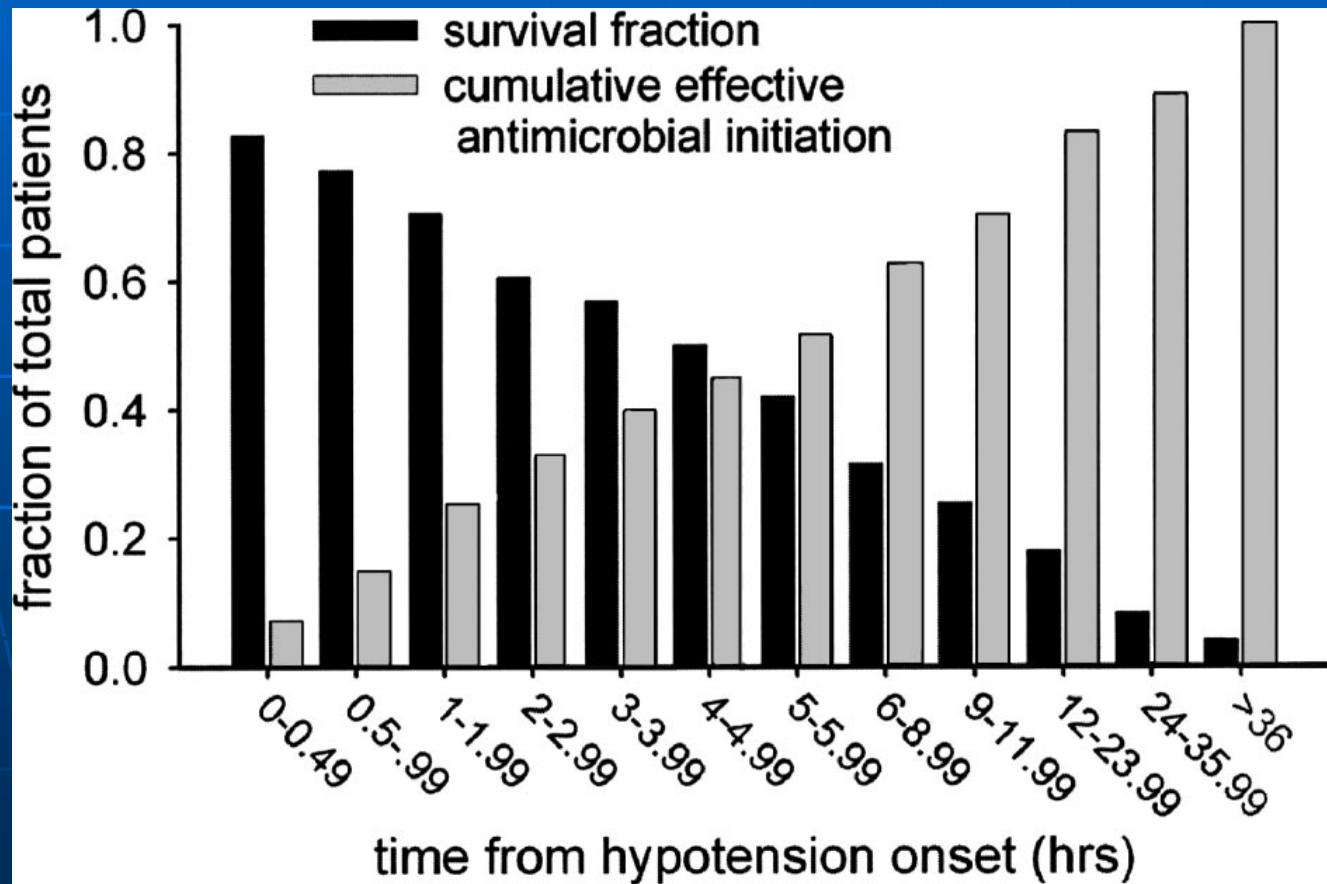
- Definition:
  - A "bundle" is a group of therapies for a given disease that, when implemented together, may result in better outcomes than if implemented individually
- Individual elements are evidence-based
- All elements must be completed to be 'compliant' with the bundle for measurement purposes by organizations (eg DoH, SSC, etc)
- They are NOT a substitute for physician decision-making

# 6 Hour Sepsis Bundle

- Immediate **fluid resuscitation** using crystalloids or colloids
- Obtain **blood cultures and lactate** ASAP after diagnosis of sepsis
- **Antibiotics** administered within **3 hours (1 hour** if inpatient) of presumptive diagnosis
- Obtain **CVP** if bp is not responsive to fluids or if serum lactate is elevated
- Repeated boluses of crystalloid/colloid (250-500 ml) every 30 min until **CVP >8mmHg (>12 mmHg if ventilated)**
- **Vasopressors** via central line if MAP < 65 mm Hg during and after adequate fluid resuscitation - eg Noradrenaline or Dopamine
- If  $S_{cv}O_2 < 70\%$  after fluid replacement and Noradrenaline - start **inotropes** (Dobutamine or Adrenaline infusion via central line) and/or give **RBC's** (to keep Hb above 10g/dl)



# Initiation of Antibiotic Therapy in Severe Sepsis



Kumar A, Roberts D, Wood KE, et al.: *Crit Care Med.* 2006 , **34**:1589-1596

# 24 Hour Sepsis Bundle (Management Bundle)

- Applies to patients in Critical Care
- Consider use of Recombinant human **Activated Protein C** using local guidelines
- **Low dose steroids** (Hydrocortisone 200-300mg/day i.v.) for adult septic shock patients requiring continued use of vasopressors
- **Glucose** control (<10 mmol/l)
- For ventilated patients – **inspiratory peak airway pressure <30 cmH<sub>2</sub>O**

# Case 3

- A 29 year old lady arrives in the Resuscitation room. She is drowsy, with the following vital signs:

- bp: 80/50 mmHg
- pulse 130 bpm
- RR 28 per minute
- Temp. 38.5°C
- SaO<sub>2</sub> 95% on 10 l/min O<sub>2</sub> via a reservoir bag mask
- 

	<u>ABG:</u>
pH	7.31
PaO <sub>2</sub>	35.5 kPa
PaCO <sub>2</sub>	3.5 kPa
Bicarb	12.7mmol/l
BE	-10.0mmol/l

- She has a petechial rash on her trunk.
- She responds to voice and there is no neck stiffness.
- Her bedside glucose measurement is 6.2 mmol/L

What is your management?

# Questions