McCabe score as a strong determinant of septic shock-related mortality

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Introduction / objectives
Septic shock is associated with a high mortality. However, we suspected that hospital mortality may be influenced by the predicted outcome of comorbidities and by the origin of the infection.

Methods
We analysed hospital-related mortality of all patients with a septic shock consecutively admitted in our 32-beds mixed university ICU from 2005 to 2008, according to both the origin (community-acquired or nosocomial) and to the underlying McCabe and Johnson score (non fatal, fatal within 5 years, fatal within 6 months). Data are extracted from the clinical information system and combined with a database on case-mix used following discharge, diagnostic are prospectively validated by the attending physician and further imported in the institution datawarehouse after final crosschecking.

Results
A total of 8979 patients, accounting for 9641 stays were admitted from January 2005 to December 2008. A septic shock was diagnosed in 910 cases, community-acquired and nosocomial in 551 and 358 cases (39.3%), respectively. The McCabe score was nonfatal, fatal within 5 years and fatal within 6 months, in 44.6%, 38.5% and 16.9% of stays, respectively. Overall hospital mortality was 37.0%, 31.1% and 46.0% for all episodes, for community-acquired and nosocomial septic shock, respectively. It was 23.9%, 36.9% and 73.1% for McCabe nonfatal, fatal within 5 years and fatal within 6 months, respectively. Mortality decreased significantly from 73% if nosocomial in patients with an underlying condition scored as potentially fatal within the next 6 months to 20% when community-acquired in a patient with non fatal underlying disease.

Conclusion
The McCabe/Johnson score and the origin (community-acquired or nosocomial) are strong determinant of the outcome of septic shock.

Disclosure of interest
None declared.

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