

# Presepsin and Prognostic Nutritional Index are predictors of septic acute kidney injury, renal replacement therapy initiation in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic acute kidney injury patients: a pilot study

Yuichiro Shimoyama (✉ [shimocchiliebefreud512@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:shimocchiliebefreud512@yahoo.co.jp))

Osaka Medical College

**Osamu Umegaki**

Osaka Medical College: Osaka Ika Daigaku

**Noriko Kadono**

Osaka Medical College: Osaka Ika Daigaku

**Toshiaki Minami**

Osaka Medical College: Osaka Ika Daigaku

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## Research article

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# Abstract

## Background

Sepsis is the most common cause of acute kidney injury (AKI) among critically ill patients. This study aimed to determine whether presepsin is a predictor of septic acute kidney injury, renal replacement therapy initiation (RRTi) in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients.

## Methods

Presepsin values were measured immediately after ICU admission (baseline) and on Days 2, 3, and 5 after ICU admission. Glasgow Prognostic Score (GPS), neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet to lymphocyte ratio, Prognostic Index, and Prognostic Nutritional Index (PNI) were measured at baseline. Total scores were calculated (hereafter, “inflammation-presepsin scores [iPS]”) for category classification. Presepsin values, inflammation-based prognostic scores, and iPS were compared between patients with and without septic AKI or RRTi and between survivors and non-survivors.

## Results

Receiver operating characteristic curve analyses identified the following variables as predictors of septic AKI and RRTi in sepsis patients: presepsin on Day 1 (AUC: 0.73) and Day 2 (AUC: 0.71) for septic AKI, and presepsin on Day 1 (AUC: 0.71), Day 2 (AUC: 0.9), and Day 5 (AUC: 0.96),  $\Delta$ presepsin (Day 2 – Day 1) (AUC: 0.84),  $\Delta$ presepsin (Day 5 – Day 1) (AUC: 0.93), and PNI (AUC: 0.72) for RRTi. Multivariate logistic regression analyses identified presepsin on Day 2 as a predictor of prognosis in septic AKI patients.

## Conclusions

Presepsin and PNI were found to be predictors of septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients.

## Background

Sepsis is the main cause of mortality in critically ill intensive care unit (ICU) patients [1], and new sepsis criteria were established in 2016 [2]. Sepsis is the most common cause of acute kidney injury (AKI) among critically ill patients [3]. Early treatment with appropriate antibiotics improves the prognosis and survival of severe sepsis and septic shock patients [4–6].

Procalcitonin (PCT) is the main biomarker used to diagnose sepsis [7], but its values increase in non-sepsis pathologies as well [8–10]. Presepsin is a subtype of soluble CD14 (CD14-ST) [11], and is an accurate biomarker for diagnosing sepsis. Presepsin has a higher specificity for sepsis diagnosis

compared with PCT and IL-6 [12], and thus could be useful for the prognosis of sepsis and monitoring the course of the disease [13]. Another advantage of presepsin is that it can be measured in less than 17 minutes with a compact fully automated immunoanalyzer (PATHFAST®; Mitsubishi Chemical Medience Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) [14].

The Glasgow Prognostic Score (GPS; based on serum C-reactive protein (CRP) and albumin levels), neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet to lymphocyte ratio (PLR), Prognostic Nutritional Index (PNI; based on albumin and lymphocyte counts), and the Prognostic Index (PI; based on serum CRP and white blood cell counts), are inflammation-based prognostic scores which are useful prognostic biomarkers for many types of cancer [15]. However, no study has investigated the association of septic acute kidney injury (AKI), renal replacement therapy initiation (RRTi), and prognosis of septic AKI with presepsin values alone or in combination with the above-mentioned inflammation-based prognostic scores in septic ICU patients.

The present study aimed to prove the following hypotheses: 1) presepsin can predict septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis ICU patients, and prognosis in septic AKI ICU patients; and 2) the ability of presepsin to predict the above are superior to inflammation-based prognostic scores and can be improved by combining presepsin values with inflammation-based prognostic scores.

## Methods

### Patients and study design

The study design, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and definition of “inflammation-presepsin scores [iPS]” used in the present study were published previously [16]. Septic AKI was defined as stage  $\geq 1$  kidney disease according to the Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) classification [17]. Presepsin values, inflammation-based prognostic scores, iPS, and changes ( $\Delta$ ) in presepsin values relative to baseline values at each sampling point were compared between patients with and without septic AKI or RRTi and between survivors and non-survivors.

### Laboratory assessments

Presepsin concentration was measured by PATHFAST® (Mitsubishi Chemical Medience Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) [14]. Threshold values were as follows: (a) 300 to 500 pg/ml: “systemic infection (sepsis) possible”; (b) 500 to 1000 pg/ml: “significant risk of systemic infection progression (severe sepsis), increased risk of unfavorable outcome”; and (c)  $\geq 1000$  pg/ml: “High risk of systemic infection progression (severe sepsis/septic shock). High risk for mortality after 30 day comparable with a SOFA score  $\geq 8$ ” [18, 19].

### Statistical analysis

Categorical data are reported as percentages and compared using Fisher’s exact test. Continuous data are reported as medians with inter-quartile ranges and compared using the Mann-Whitney U test. ROC

curves were generated for presepsin values, inflammation-based prognostic scores, iPS, and  $\Delta$ presepsin, and areas under the curve (AUCs), cut-off values, sensitivities, and specificities were calculated. For all values of presepsin, inflammation-based prognostic scores, iPS, and  $\Delta$ presepsin, Kaplan-Meier curves were constructed for each mortality category, and the log-rank test was performed. Presepsin values on Day 1 and Day 2, inflammation-based prognostic scores, and iPS were examined further by multivariate logistic regression analysis for septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. JMP software version 11.00 (SAS Institute Inc., NC, USA) was used for all statistical analyses.

## Results

Baseline characteristics of 83 adult patients diagnosed with sepsis according to the Sepsis-3 definition and admitted to the ICU are shown in Table 1. Median age was 74 years (range: 65.5–78.5). No significant differences were observed in age and sex in septic AKI patients and RRTi patients (Table 2).

There were 38 septic AKI patients defined as stage  $\geq 1$  according to the KDIGO classification, and 6 patients who underwent RRTi after ICU admission. ROC curve analyses revealed the following cut-off values (Table 3): AKI: 708.0 (pg/ml) for presepsin on Day 1 (AUC, 0.73; sensitivity, 81.6%; specificity, 58.5%) and 985.0 (pg/ml) for presepsin on Day 2 (AUC, 0.71; sensitivity, 65.5%; specificity, 64.3%); RRTi: 2014.0 (pg/ml) for presepsin on Day 1 (AUC, 0.71; sensitivity, 66.7%; specificity, 83.3%), 2867.0 (pg/ml) for presepsin on Day 2 (AUC, 0.90; sensitivity, 75.0%; specificity, 91.7%), 3014.0 (pg/ml) for presepsin on Day 5 (AUC, 0.96; sensitivity, 100.0%; specificity, 92.9%), 507.0 (pg/ml) for  $\Delta$ presepsin (Day 2 – Day 1) (AUC, 0.84; sensitivity, 75.0%; specificity, 80.0%), 2385.0 (pg/ml) for  $\Delta$ presepsin (Day 5 – Day 1) (AUC, 0.93; sensitivity, 100.0%; specificity, 93.3%), and 19.5 for PNI (AUC, 0.72; sensitivity, 66.7%; specificity, 93.5%). Regarding prognosis in septic AKI patients, the results of ROC curve analyses, Log-rank test, and univariate analysis are shown in Tables 4, 5, and 6, respectively.

We also performed multivariate logistic regression analyses to identify independent predictors of septic AKI, RRTi in septic patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients (Table 7). Multivariate logistic regression analyses revealed that presepsin on Day 2 is a predictor of prognosis in septic AKI patients.

## Discussion

Sepsis involves lethal organ dysfunction due to the activation of both pro- and anti-inflammatory responses [20], and is modified by non-immunologic pathways, including cardiovascular, neuronal, autonomic, hormonal, bioenergetic, metabolic, and coagulation pathways [21–23]. Severe sepsis is associated with a mortality rate of  $> 50\%$  [24], and the most common cause of AKI among critically ill patients is sepsis [3]. PCT has the highest specificity among diagnostic markers for sepsis, but can yield false positive results since its levels increase in various non-sepsis contexts (e.g., severe trauma, invasive surgical procedure, critical burn injuries) [8–10]. Presepsin, another diagnostic marker for sepsis, is secreted from granulocytes in response to infectious stimuli in an animal sepsis model [25]. According to

Liu et al., presepsin was the best predictor of early stage sepsis in emergency department patients [26]. Presepsin values have also been reported to be associated with organ dysfunction, coagulation disorders, and ICU mortality [27].

In the present study, presepsin cut-off values for predicting septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients were higher than those previously reported as predicting severe sepsis and septic shock [18, 19] (Tables 3, 4). Moreover, presepsin values for predicting RRTi had a higher cut-off value and specificity relative to those for predicting septic AKI. A significant negative correlation was previously reported between presepsin levels and estimated glomerular filtration rate in both non-sepsis and sepsis patients [28]. Increases in presepsin levels in hemodialysis (HD) patients may not be related to renal dysfunction, but rather the activation of neutrophils and/or monocytes, since HD activates monocytes and/or neutrophils, which in turn leads to presepsin release from monocytes [29]. Presepsin levels in HD patients without infection were reported to be 783–2,360 pg/ml [30]. Nakamura et al. retrospectively examined presepsin values in ICU patients with or without sepsis, and reported that presepsin values were markedly high in patients with renal failure and end-stage kidney disease. Presepsin values in those with sepsis ranged from 2,632 to 20,000 pg/ml, while patients without sepsis had presepsin values of 2,134 to 19,633 pg/ml [28]. In the present study, presepsin cut-off values for predicting RRTi were similar to these previously reported levels. Our results suggest the need to adopt a higher presepsin cut-off value for predicting septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients.

Cut-off values for predicting septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients on Day 2 or later after ICU entry were higher than those on Day 1 (Tables 3, 4). Multivariate logistic regression analyses identified presepsin on Day 2 to be a predictor of prognosis in septic AKI patients (Table 7). Presepsin levels measured at the time of ICU admission may not be at an optimal level for predicting septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients. Indeed, several studies have reported that presepsin levels increase as the severity of sepsis increases [31–33]. For instance, Masson et al. reported that an increase in presepsin levels from Day 1 to Day 2 after ICU admission can predict higher ICU and 90-day mortality [34]. Our findings suggest the importance of not only measuring presepsin levels at the time of ICU admission, but also monitoring its temporal changes after ICU admission in order to better predict the onset of septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients.

The AUC, sensitivity, and specificity of PNI for predicting RRTi were 0.72, 66.7%, and 93.5%, respectively, with a higher specificity than that for presepsin alone on Days 1, 2, and 5. The corresponding median PNI values (inter-quartile range) were 18.4 (14.6–30.0) in RRTi patients and 28.9 (22.7–34.1) in non-RRTi patients. These findings suggest that a lower PNI can predict RRTi in sepsis patients and may serve as an easy “rule in” test at the time of ICU admission. PNI can be obtained at low cost and rapidly in clinical settings where presepsin values cannot be easily measured, and provides information necessary for interventions in sepsis patients within the first few hours of ICU admission. Our findings also suggest that hypoalbuminemia and lymphocytopenia (albumin and lymphocyte counts are used to calculate PNI) are

important variables for predicting RRTi in sepsis patients. Serum albumin levels are significantly correlated with presepsin levels [30]. Zahorec et al. found a correlation between severity of the clinical course and extent of lymphocytopenia in oncological ICU patients following major surgery, sepsis, and septic shock [35].

This study has several limitations. First, the present study was conducted at a single center with a small sample size. Second, we used a single biomarker, and no comparisons were made with other biomarkers.

## Conclusions

Presepsin and PNI were found to be predictors of septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients. Cut-off values and specificities for predicting septic AKI and RRTi on Day 2 or later were higher than those on Day 1. Further studies aimed at understanding the exact role of presepsin values and PNI in predicting septic AKI, RRTi in sepsis patients, and prognosis in septic AKI patients are warranted.

## Abbreviations

GPS: Glasgow Prognostic Score, CRP: C-reactive protein, NLR: neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio, PLR: platelet to lymphocyte ratio, PNI: Prognostic Nutritional Index, PI: Prognostic Index, SOFA: Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, qSOFA: quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, ROC: Receiver operating characteristic, AUC: area under the curve; RRTi: renal replacement therapy initiation; AKI: acute kidney injury, HD: hemodialysis

## Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate: The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Osaka Medical College (#2206; Osaka, Japan). Written Informed consent was obtained from all patients enrolled in this study or their families.

Consent for publication: Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials: The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Authors' contributions: YS designed the study, collected the data, performed the statistical analysis, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. OU, NK, and TM designed the study and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## Tables

Table 1. Baseline demographic characteristics		
Variable	n=83	
Age (years)	74.0	(65.5-78.5)
Sex (male) (%)	51.0	(61.4)
Cancer (%)	40.0	(48.2)
Coronary artery disease (%)	4.0	(4.8)
Diabetes mellitus (%)	10.0	(12.0)
Hypertension (%)	21.0	(25.3)
Albumin (g/dL)	2.3	(1.8-3.0)
CRP (mg/dL)	10.4	(3.7-17.5)
WBC ( $\times 10^9 \Gamma^{-1}$ )	10.9	(5.4-15.4)
Neutrophil count ( $\times 10^9 \Gamma^{-1}$ )	8.7	(3.56-13.29)
Lymphocyte count ( $\times 10^9 \Gamma^{-1}$ )	0.5	(0.299-0.927)
Plt count ( $\times 10^4 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ )	17.8	(11.5-26.5)
Fibrinogen (mg/dL)	609.0	(378-711)
Survival (dead) (%)	26.0	(31.3)
AKI (%)	38.0	(45.8)
ARDS (%)	13.0	(15.7)
Shock (%)	48.0	(57.8)
DIC (%)	30.0	(36.1)
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	1051.5	(569-1819.3)
Presepsin on Day 2 (ng/mL)	1016.5	(538-2156)
Presepsin on Day 3 (ng/mL)	802.0	(480.5-1825)
Presepsin on Day 5 (ng/mL)	1043.0	(480-1616)
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	-21.50	(-246.5-274.75)
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	-38.50	(-748.5-304)
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	-59.50	(-745.75-635.5)
GPS	1.0	(1-2)
NLR	12.6	(4.53-26.35)
PLR	321.9	(195.63-543.69)
PI	1.0	(1-2)
PNI	26.6	(21.26-33.72)
SOFA	8.0	(5-11)
qSOFA	2.0	(1-3)
CRP, C-reactive protein; WBC, white blood cell; AKI, acute kidney injury; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; DIC, disseminated intravascular coagulation; GPS, Glasgow Prognostic Score; NLR, neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; PLR, platelet to lymphocyte ratio; PI, Prognostic Index; PNI, Prognostic Nutritional Index; SOFA, Sequential Organ Failure Assessment; qSOFA, quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment		

Table 2. Predictors of septic AKI and RRT initiation

Variable	AKI (n=38)	RRT initiation (n=6)
	Univariate analysis <i>P</i> - value	Univariate analysis <i>P</i> - value
Age	0.402	0.108
Sex	0.930	0.670
Cancer	0.236	0.383
Coronary artery disease	0.621	none
Diabetes mellitus	0.005	0.620
Hypertension	0.010	0.368
Albumin	0.851	0.137
CRP	0.023	0.773
WBC	0.253	0.606
Neutrophil	0.315	0.564
Lymphocytes	0.631	0.127
Platelet count	0.081	0.127
Fibrinogen	0.427	0.088
Survival	0.052	0.333
ARDS	0.069	0.035
Shock	0.080	0.641
DIC	0.000	0.206
Presepsin on Day 1	0.001	0.149
Presepsin on Day 2	0.009	0.019
Presepsin on Day 3	0.143	0.905
Presepsin on Day 5	0.185	0.053
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1	0.810	0.032
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1	0.530	0.811
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1	0.408	0.053
GPS	0.232	0.832
NLR	0.969	0.837
PLR	0.032	0.458
PI	0.220	0.575
PNI	0.696	0.091
iPS-GPS	0.024	0.528
iPS-NLR	0.203	0.217
iPS-PLR	0.877	0.242
iPS-PI	0.025	0.782
iPS-PNI	0.172	0.718
SOFA	0.024	0.200
qSOFA	0.102	0.726

AKI, acute kidney injury; RRT, renal replacement therapy; CRP, C-reactive protein; WBC, white blood cell; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; DIC, disseminated intravascular coagulation; GPS, Glasgow Prognostic Score; NLR, neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; PLR, platelet to lymphocyte ratio; PI, Prognostic Index; PNI, Prognostic Nutritional Index; iPS, inflammation-presepsin score; SOFA, Sequential Organ Failure Assessment; qSOFA, quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment

Table 3. Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis					
Variable	AUC	Cut-off	P value	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
AKI					
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.73	708.00	P<0.001	81.6	58.5
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.71	985.00	0.002	65.5	64.3
RRT initiation					
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.71	2014.00	0.155	66.7	83.3
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.90	2867.00	P<0.001	75.0	91.7
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.96	3014.00	P<0.001	100.0	92.9
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.84	507.00	0.002	75.0	80.0
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.93	2385.00	P<0.001	1.0	93.3
PNI	0.72	19.51	0.145	66.7	93.5

AUC, area under the curve; AKI, acute kidney injury; RRT, renal replacement therapy; PNI, Prognostic Nutritional Index

Table 4. Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis

Variable	AUC	Cut-off	P value	Sensitivity	Specificity
28-day mortality					
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.77	1373.00	0.004	0.82	0.77
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.83	1581.00	0.000	0.86	0.68
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.91	1819.00	0.000	1.00	0.82
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	1.00	3014.00	0.000	1.00	1.00
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.76	507.00	0.059	0.71	0.86
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.91	-10.00	0.000	1.00	0.76
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.79	2385.00	0.176	0.75	1.00
iPS-PLR	0.75	1.00	0.002	0.91	0.46
60-day mortality					
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.70	1373.00	0.063	0.75	0.76
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.73	1581.00	0.052	0.75	0.67
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.75	1819.00	0.134	0.80	0.81
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.80	3014.00	0.134	0.80	1.00
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.74	507.00	0.045	0.63	0.86
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.85	-10.00	0.000	0.80	0.75
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.72	2385.00	0.238	0.60	1.00
iPS-PLR	0.70	1.00	0.024	0.83	0.44
90-day mortality					
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.65	1373.00	0.142	0.64	0.74
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.65	1581.00	0.190	0.60	0.63
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.74	1545.00	0.085	0.83	0.73
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.79	1399.00	0.082	0.83	0.73
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.69	507.00	0.092	0.50	0.84
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.87	-10.00	0.000	0.83	0.80
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.74	244.00	0.108	0.67	0.82
180-day mortality					
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.65	1336.00	0.121	0.67	0.68
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.68	1581.00	0.093	0.64	0.67
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.80	1545.00	0.019	0.86	0.79
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.77	1313.00	0.063	0.86	0.70
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.73	507.00	0.022	0.55	0.89
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.91	-10.00	0.000	0.86	0.86
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.76	-23.00	0.051	0.71	0.80

AUC, area under the curve; iPS, inflammation-presepsin score; PLR, platelet to lymphocyte ratio

Table 5. Log-rank test	
Variable	P value
28-day mortality	
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.00
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.086
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.126
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.002
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.014
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.093
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.008
PNI	0.001
iPS - PLR	0.036
60-day mortality	
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.007
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.170
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.367
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.003
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.026
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.223
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.009
PNI	0.003
90-day mortality	
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.056
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.788
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.212
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.226
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.090
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.091
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.072
180-day mortality	
Presepsin on Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.079
Presepsin on Day 2 (pg/mL)	0.798
Presepsin on Day 3 (pg/mL)	0.128
Presepsin on Day 5 (pg/mL)	0.265
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.038
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.029
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1 (pg/mL)	0.057
PNI, Prognostic Nutritional Index; iPS, inflammation-presepsin score; PLR, platelet to lymphocyte ratio	

Table 6. Predictors of mortality in sepsis patients (univariate analysis)

Variable	28-day mortality	60-day mortality	90-day mortality	180-day mortality
	<i>P</i> -value	<i>P</i> -value	<i>P</i> -value	<i>P</i> -value
Age	0.4744	0.6260	0.3081	0.4572
Sex	0.7277	1.0000	1.0000	0.7341
Cancer	0.1691	0.3193	0.4979	0.7384
Coronary artery disease	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Diabetes mellitus	0.2293	0.2204	0.4339	0.2616
Hypertension	0.4657	0.2863	0.7379	0.5144
Albumin	0.1570	0.4257	0.2720	0.5150
CRP	0.1579	0.0535	0.1068	0.1417
WBC	0.4156	0.4654	0.9625	0.8406
Neutrophil	0.4252	0.3468	0.8510	0.9753
Lymphocytes	0.3352	0.7212	0.7541	0.9261
Platelet count	0.1183	0.2699	0.3721	0.3147
Fibrinogen	0.0019	0.0019	0.0026	0.0043
ARDS	0.1249	0.0486	0.1322	0.2578
Shock	0.7217	0.7110	0.7351	0.7235
DIC	0.2847	0.4912	1.0000	1.0000
Presepsin on Day 1	0.0115	0.0556	0.1368	0.1257
Presepsin on Day 2	0.0093	0.0570	0.1909	0.1105
Presepsin on Day 3	0.0122	0.0986	0.0868	0.0305
Presepsin on Day 5	0.0032	0.0578	0.0562	0.0637
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 2 - Day 1	0.0415	0.0454	0.1033	0.0366
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 3 - Day 1	0.0122	0.0208	0.0102	0.0028
$\Delta$ Presepsin Day 5 - Day 1	0.0894	0.1706	0.1078	0.0790
GPS	0.5179	0.2002	0.5073	0.7101
NLR	0.3030	0.1194	0.3638	0.4036
PLR	0.7649	0.7952	0.8756	0.5990
PI	0.1751	0.1579	0.6093	0.9329
PNI	0.0911	0.4362	0.3014	0.5777
iPS-GPS	0.1270	0.3206	0.3377	0.3436
iPS-NLR	0.1220	0.2898	0.2913	0.4036
iPS-PLR	0.0100	0.0365	0.0840	0.1932
iPS-PI	0.2891	0.5490	0.3714	0.2989
iPS-PNI	0.7178	0.1765	0.4710	0.5194
SOFA	0.8806	0.6250	0.3067	0.4653
qSOFA	0.8457	0.5805	0.2173	0.4010

CRP, C-reactive protein; WBC, white blood cell; AKI, acute kidney injury; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; DIC, disseminated intravascular coagulation; GPS, Glasgow Prognostic Score; NLR, neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; PLR, platelet to lymphocyte ratio; PI, Prognostic Index; PNI, Prognostic Nutritional Index; iPS, inflammation-presepsin score; SOFA, Sequential Organ Failure Assessment; qSOFA, quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment

Table 7. Multivariate logistic regression analysis				
Variable (examined explanatory variable)	Odds ratio	95% CI		<i>P</i> value
28-day mortality (Presepsin on Day 1, Presepsin on Day 2)				
Presepsin on Day 1	0.9989	0.9974	1.0003	0.120
Presepsin on Day 2	1.0018	1.0002	1.0034	0.027
28-day mortality (Presepsin on Day 1, iPS-PLR)				
Presepsin on Day 1	1.0004	0.9998	1.0010	0.182
iPS-PLR	3.1006	0.7548	12.7370	0.116
60-day mortality (Presepsin on Day 1, Presepsin on Day 2)				
Presepsin on Day 1	0.9989	0.9975	1.0003	0.132
Presepsin on Day 2	1.0015	1.0001	1.0028	0.039
60-day mortality (Presepsin on Day 1, iPS-PLR)				
Presepsin on Day 1	1.0003	0.9998	1.0009	0.217
iPS-PLR	2.1516	0.5980	7.7414	0.241
90-day mortality (Presepsin on Day 1, Presepsin on Day 2)				
Presepsin on Day 1	0.9991	0.9978	1.0004	0.172
Presepsin on Day 2	1.0011	0.9998	1.0023	0.086
180-day mortality (Presepsin on Day 1, Presepsin on Day 2)				
Presepsin on Day 1	0.9987	0.9972	1.0002	0.078
Presepsin on Day 2	1.0015	1.0001	1.0029	0.037

CI, confidence interval; iPS, inflammation-presepsin Score; PLR, platelet to lymphocyte ratio