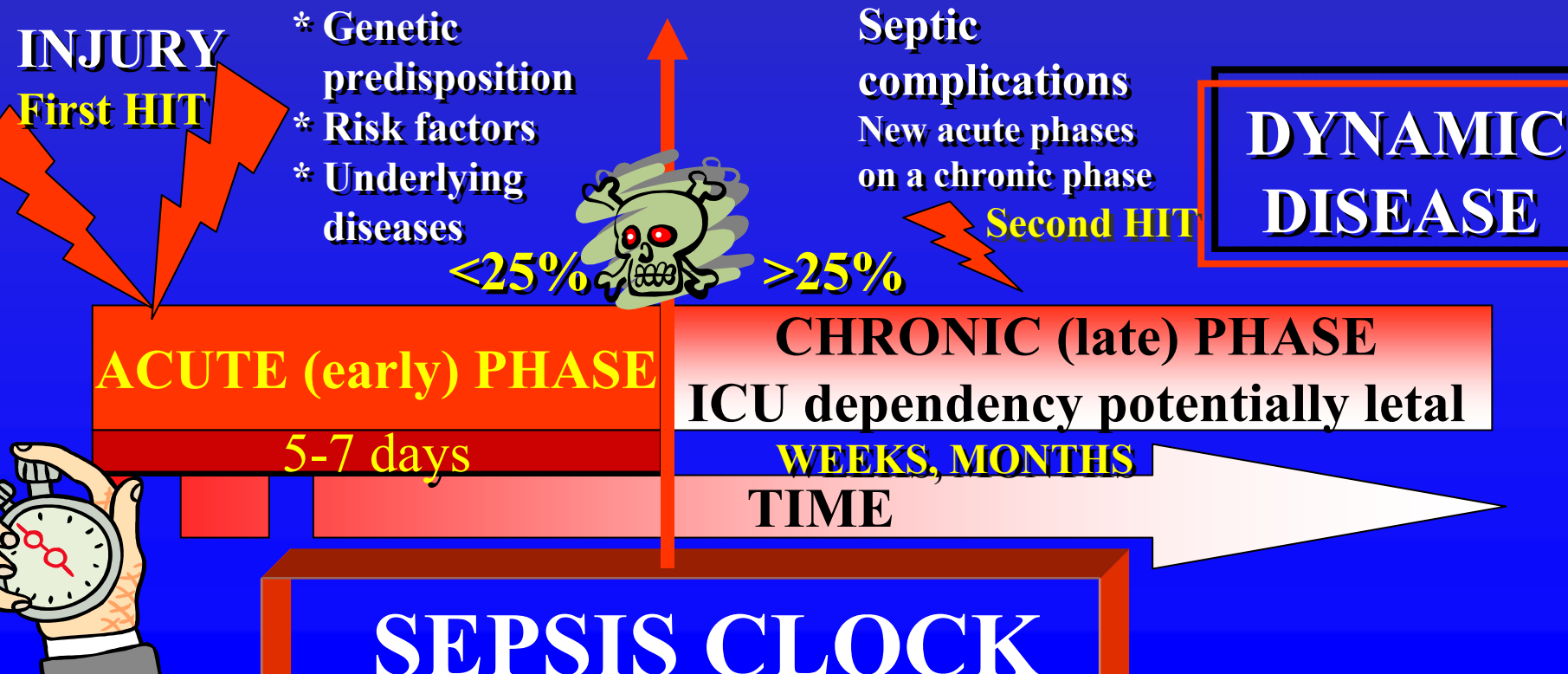


**Biological Therapies and Onset of
Sepsis, Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock:
*What Kind of Evidence?***

Giorgio Tulli M.D. 2008

Critical Illness (e.g. Severe Sepsis) is any condition requiring **SUPPORT** of failing vital organ systems without which **DEATH** would ensue.

This condition is an ultimate example of acute, severe, physical stress. If onset of recovery does not follow within hours or few days (5-7d ?) of Intensive Care, Critical Illness often becomes prolonged and organ systems support is frequently needed for several weeks, months



Localizing the site of infection

A clinical approach

Biomarkers

Gene expression profiling

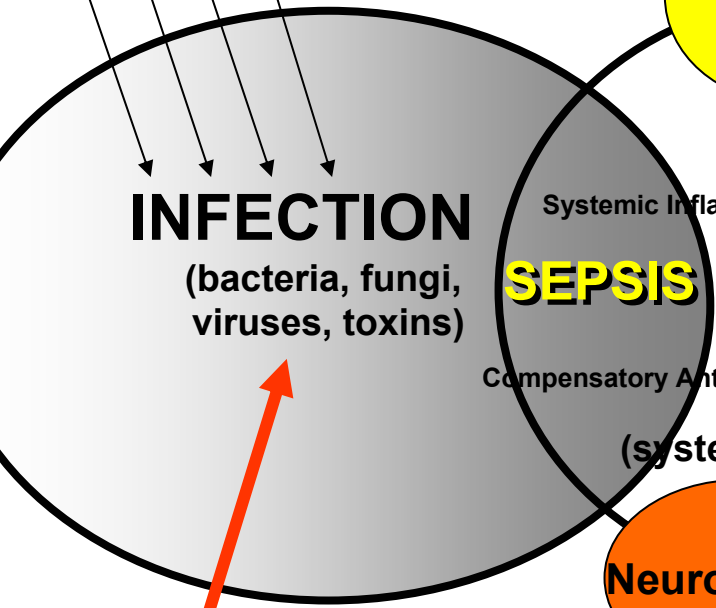
- Surgery/trauma/burns
- Hematoma/venous thrombosis
- Myocardial/pulmonary infarction
- Transplant rejection
- Pancreatitis
- Erythroderma

- Thyroid storm
- Acute adrenal insufficiency

- Blood products
- Cytokines, especially GM-CSF
- Anaesthetic related malignant hyperpyrexia, especially halothane
- Neuroleptic malignant syndrome, for example caused by haloperidol
- Opiates/benzodiazepines

- Hypernephroma/lymphoma
- Tumor lysis syndrome

- Subarachnoid hemorrhage



Tissue injury

Metabolic

Therapy related

Malignancy

Neurological

SIRS

Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome

Or

CARS

Compensatory Anti-inflammatory Response Syndrome

(systemic host response)

Interpreting the microbiological findings

Distinguishing colonization from infection

Prior antibiotic therapy

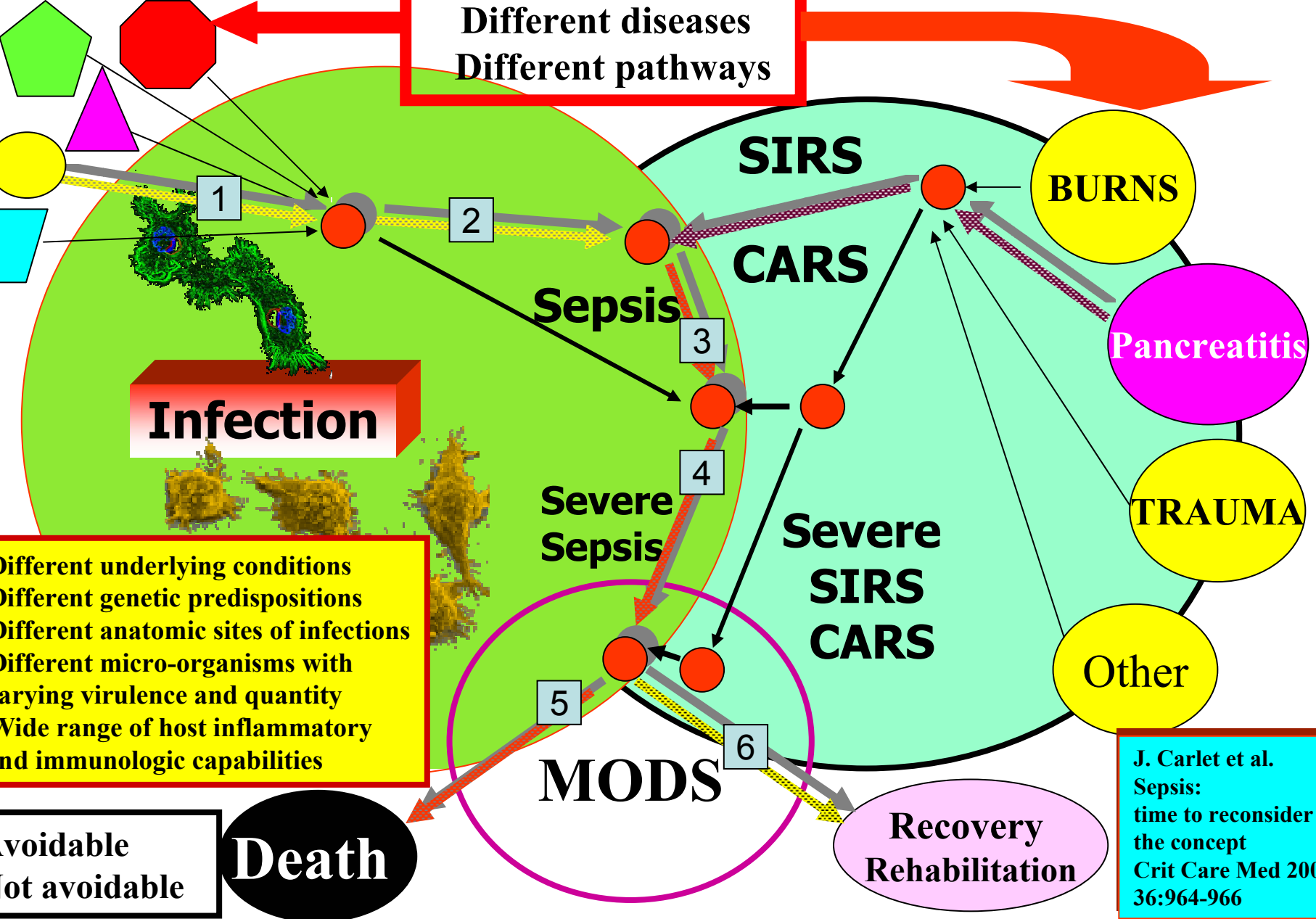
Correctly identifying unfamiliar organisms

Determining the significance of mixed culture results

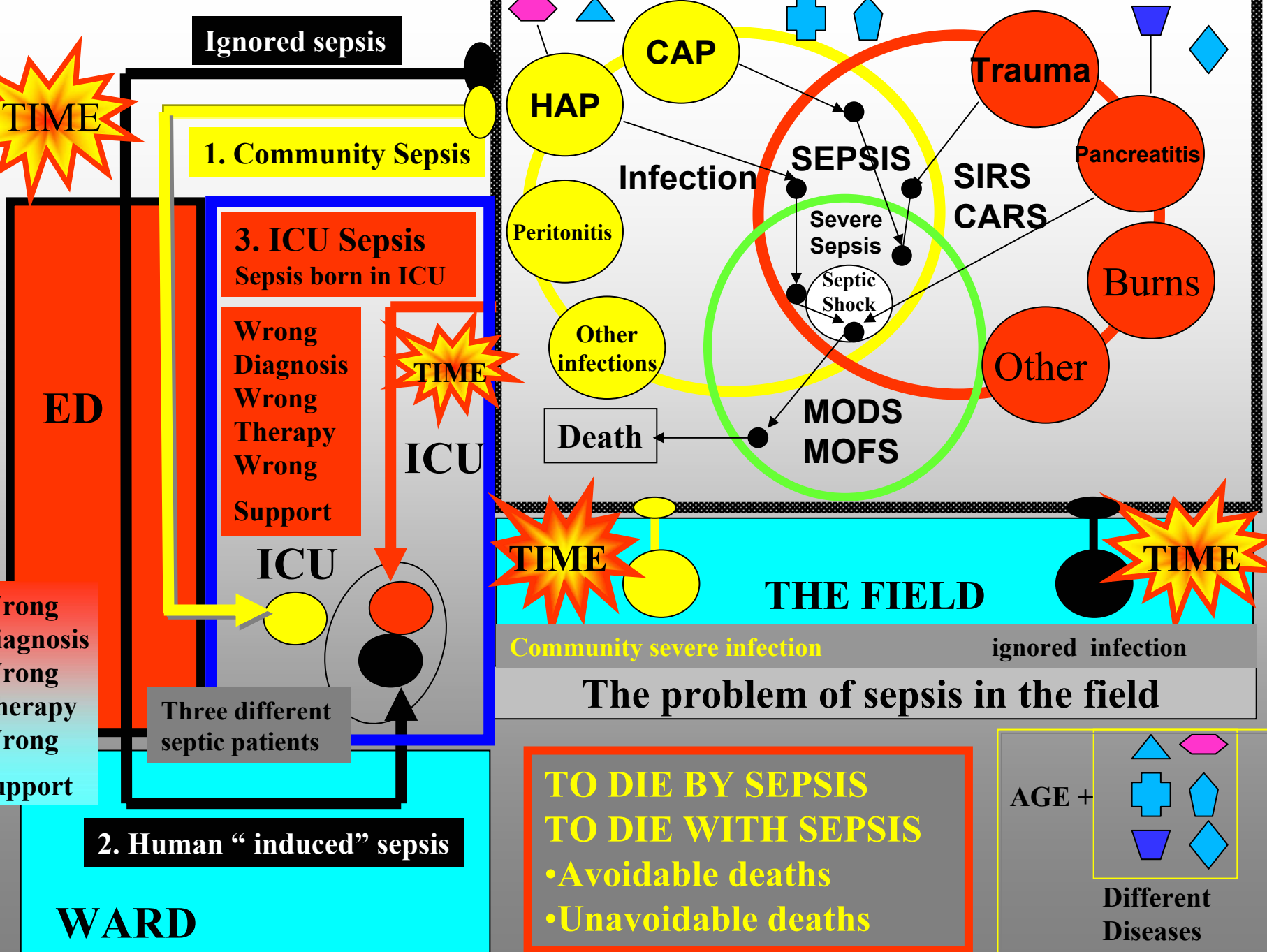
Interpreting the importance of organisms normally of low virulence

Poor sensitivity
Delay of up to 48 hr

SIRS vs SEPSIS
Differential diagnosis



**SEPSIS IS A CONCEPT THAT DELINEATES A GROUP OF DISEASES
SEPSIS IS NOT A SINGLE DISEASE. IT IS A CATEGORY**



Systemic inflammatory response syndrome

Two or more of the following:

- Body temperature $>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $<35.0^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Heart rate >90 beats per minute
- Respiratory rate >20 breaths per minute or arterial CO_2 tension <32 mm Hg or need for mechanical ventilation
- White blood cell count $>12\,000/\text{mm}^3$ or $<4000/\text{mm}^3$ or immature forms $>10\%$

Sepsis

Systemic inflammatory response syndrome and documented infection (culture or gram stain of blood, sputum, urine, or normally sterile body fluid positive for pathogenic microorganism; or focus of infection identified by visual inspection—eg, ruptured bowel with free air or bowel contents found in abdomen at surgery, wound with purulent discharge)

Severe sepsis

Sepsis and at least one sign of organ hypoperfusion or organ dysfunction:

- Areas of mottled skin
- Capillary refilling time ≥ 3 s
- Urinary output <0.5 mL/kg for at least 1 h or renal replacement therapy
- Lactates >2 mmol/L
- Abrupt change in mental status or abnormal electroencephalogram
- Platelet counts $<100\,000/\text{mL}$ or disseminated intravascular coagulation
- Acute lung injury—acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Cardiac dysfunction (echocardiography)

Septic shock

Severe sepsis and one of:

- Systemic mean blood pressure <60 mm Hg (<80 mm Hg if previous hypertension) after 20–30 mL/kg starch or 40–60 mL/kg serum saline, or pulmonary capillary wedge pressure between 12 and 20 mm Hg
- Need for dopamine >5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ per min or norepinephrine or epinephrine <0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ per min to maintain mean blood pressure above 60 mm Hg (80 mm Hg if previous hypertension)

Refractory septic shock

Need for dopamine >15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ per min or norepinephrine or epinephrine >0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ per min to maintain mean blood pressure above 60 mm Hg (80 mm Hg if previous hypertension)

The Sepsis Continuum

TIME IS THE ISSUE TIME IS THE TISSUE - TIME IS ORGAN

TIME

SIRS

Sepsis

Severe Sepsis

Septic Shock

A clinical response arising from a nonspecific insult, with ≥ 2 of the following:

- $T > 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$
- $\text{HR} > 90$ beats/min
- $\text{RR} > 20/\text{min}$
- $\text{WBC} > 12,000/\text{mm}^3$ or $< 4,000/\text{mm}^3$ or $> 10\%$ bands

SIRS with a presumed or confirmed infectious process

Sepsis with organ failure

Refractory hypotension

Recovery

MODS/MOF

DEATH

Roger Bone et al. Chest 1992;101:1644.

Infection (defined as a pathological process induced by a micro-organism) (documented or suspected)

and some of the following:

General parameters:

- Fever (core temperature $> 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Hypothermia (core temperature $< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Heart rate > 90 bpm or > 2 SD above the normal value for age
- Tachypnea > 30 bpm
- Altered mental status
- Significant edema or positive fluid balance (≥ 20 ml/Kg over 24 hours)
- Hyperglycemia (plasma glucose > 110 mg/dl or 7.7 mM/l) in the absence of diabetes

Inflammatory parameters

- Leukocytosis (white blood cell count $> 12,000/\mu\text{l}$)
- Leukopenia (white blood cell count $< 4,000/\mu\text{l}$)
- Normal white blood cell count with $> 10\%$ immature forms
- Plasma C reactive protein > 2 SD above the normal value
- Plasma procalcitonin > 2 SD above the normal value

CRP
PCT

Hemodynamic parameters

- Arterial hypotension (values above 70% are normal in children –normally 75-80%– and should therefore not be used as a sign of sepsis in newborns or children) (SBP < 90 mmHg, MAP < 70 , or SBP decrease > 40 mmHg in adults or < 2 SD below normal for age)
- Mixed venous oxygen saturation $> 70\%$
- Cardiac index > 3.5 l $\text{min}^{-1}\text{m}^{-2}$ (values of 3.5-5.5 are normal in children and should therefore not be used as a sign of sepsis in newborns or children)

Organ dysfunction parameters

- Arterial hypoxemia ($\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 < 300$)
- Acute oliguria (urine output < 0.5 ml $\text{Kg}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$ or 45 mM/l for at least 2h)
- Creatinine increase ≥ 0.5 mg/dl
- Coagulation abnormalities (INR > 1.5 or aPTT > 60 sec)
- Ileus (absent bowel sounds)
- Thrombocytopenia (platetel count $< 100,000/\mu\text{l}$)
- Hyperbilirubinemia (plasma total bilirubin > 4 mg/dl or 70 mmol/l)

$\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$
RIFLE (Cystatin C and NGAL)
DIC SCORE
PROTEIN C

Tissue perfusion parameters

- Hyperlactatemia (≥ 3 mmol/l)

LACTATE

DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR SEPSIS
2001 SCCM/ESICM/ACCP/ATS/SIS
International Sepsis Definitions Conference
Intensive Care Med (2003)
29: 530-538

DIAGNOSIS
24 items

Simplified Organ Failure Assessment SOFA Score

Organ system /Score	1	2	3	4
CNS GCS	13-14	10-12	6-9	<6
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM Pa/FiO ₂ (mmHg)	< 400	< 300	< 200 with support	< 100
CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM Hypotension	MAP < 70 mmHg	Dopa < 5 o Dobutamin	Dopa > 5 o Adr < 0,1 o Noradr < 0,1	Dopa > 15 Adr > 0,1 Noradr > 0,1
COAGULATION Platelets (10 ³ /mm ³)	< 150	<100	<50	<20
LIVER Bilirubin(mg/dl)	1,2-1,9	2,0-5,9	6,0-11,9	>12
RENAL SYSTEM Creat(mg/dl) o Diur	1,2-1,9	2,0-3,4	3,5-4,9 o < 500 ml/24h	> 5,0 < 200 ml/24 H

TIME IS ORGAN

“Errors are not in the art but in the artificers”

Newton’s PRINCIPIA

**DEFINITION
DIAGNOSIS**



“We ought to spend more time to search for an accurate diagnosis rather than search for the Magic Bullet for the treatment of Sepsis”

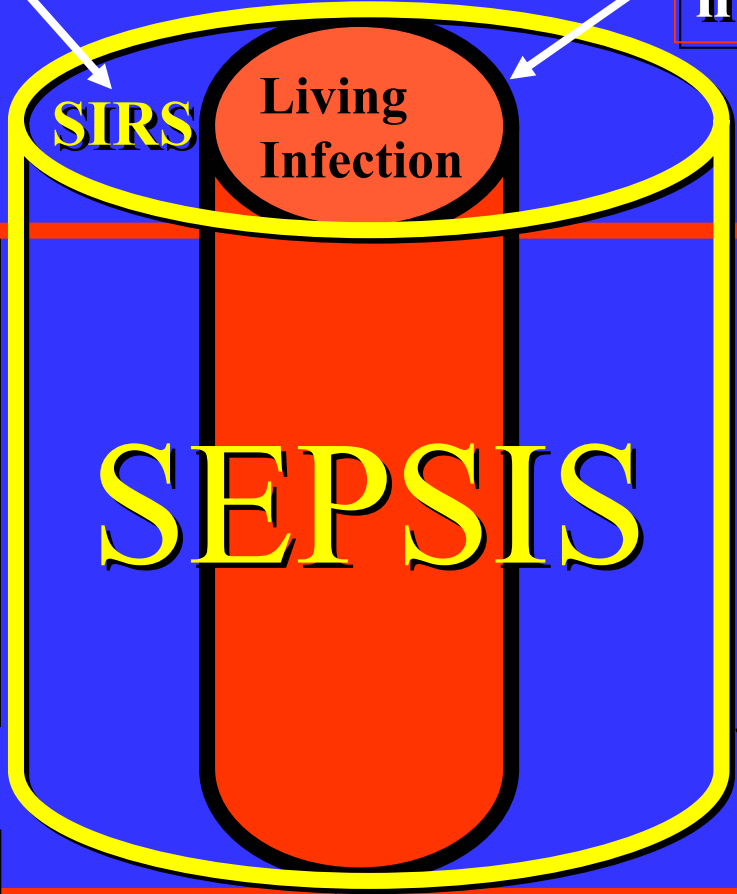
Early diagnosis of Sepsis

It has been estimated that as many as 60% of critically ill patients develop SIRS manifested by tachycardia, tachypnea, fever and/or leukocytosis

Is there a living infection?

Is there a living infection?

- History
- Examination
- Clinical diagnosis of suspected living infection
- Biomarkers (procalcitonin, endotoxin) Septifast/VYOO
- Clinical diagnosis of probable living infection
- Appropriate cultures (always before antibiotics)
- 6 hours BUNDLE**
- Clinical diagnosis of certain living infection

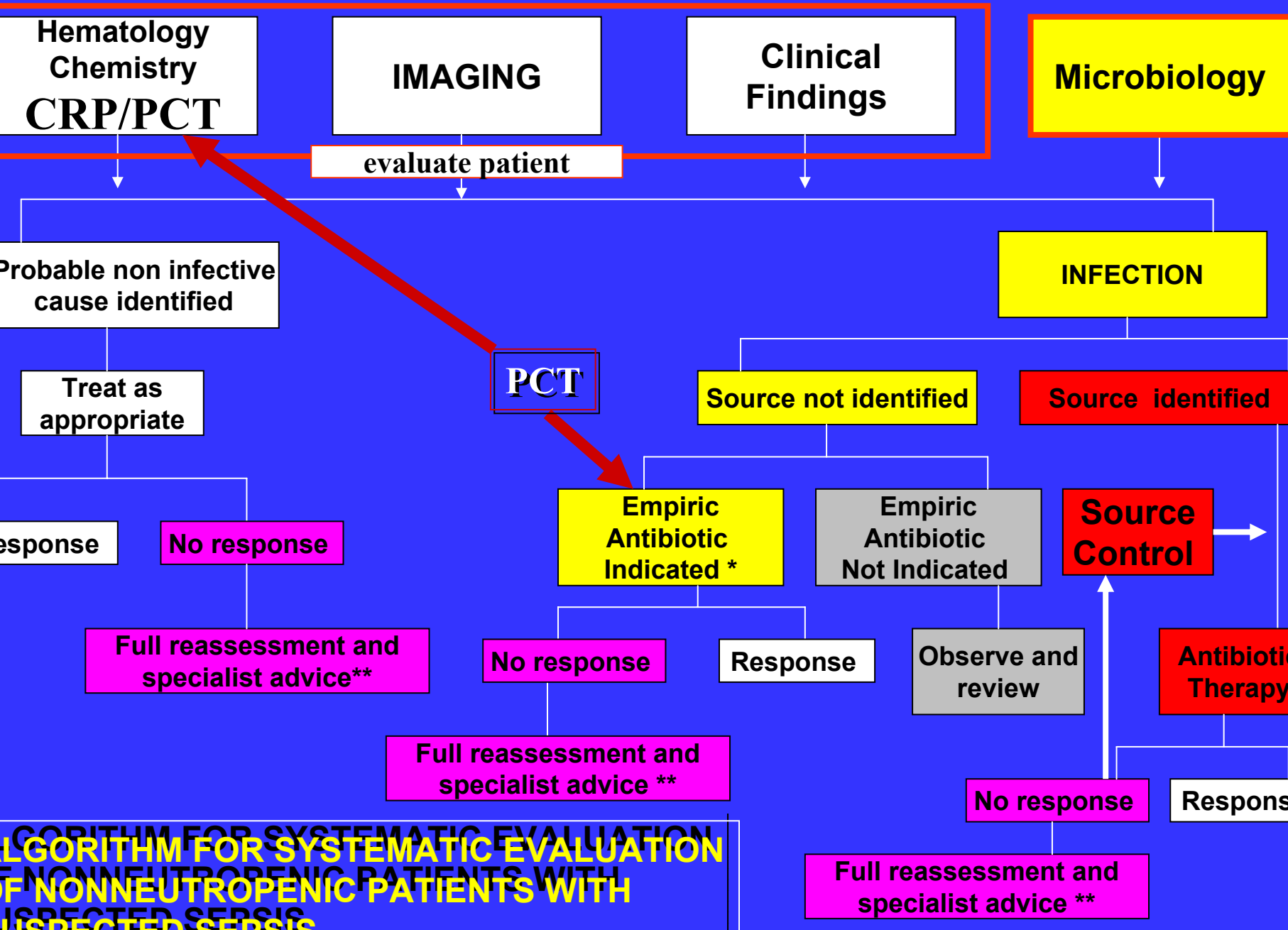


The first 6 hours

24/48 hr

The problem of the early diagnosis of a living infection

PROCESS ANALYSIS IN THE TIME DOMAIN

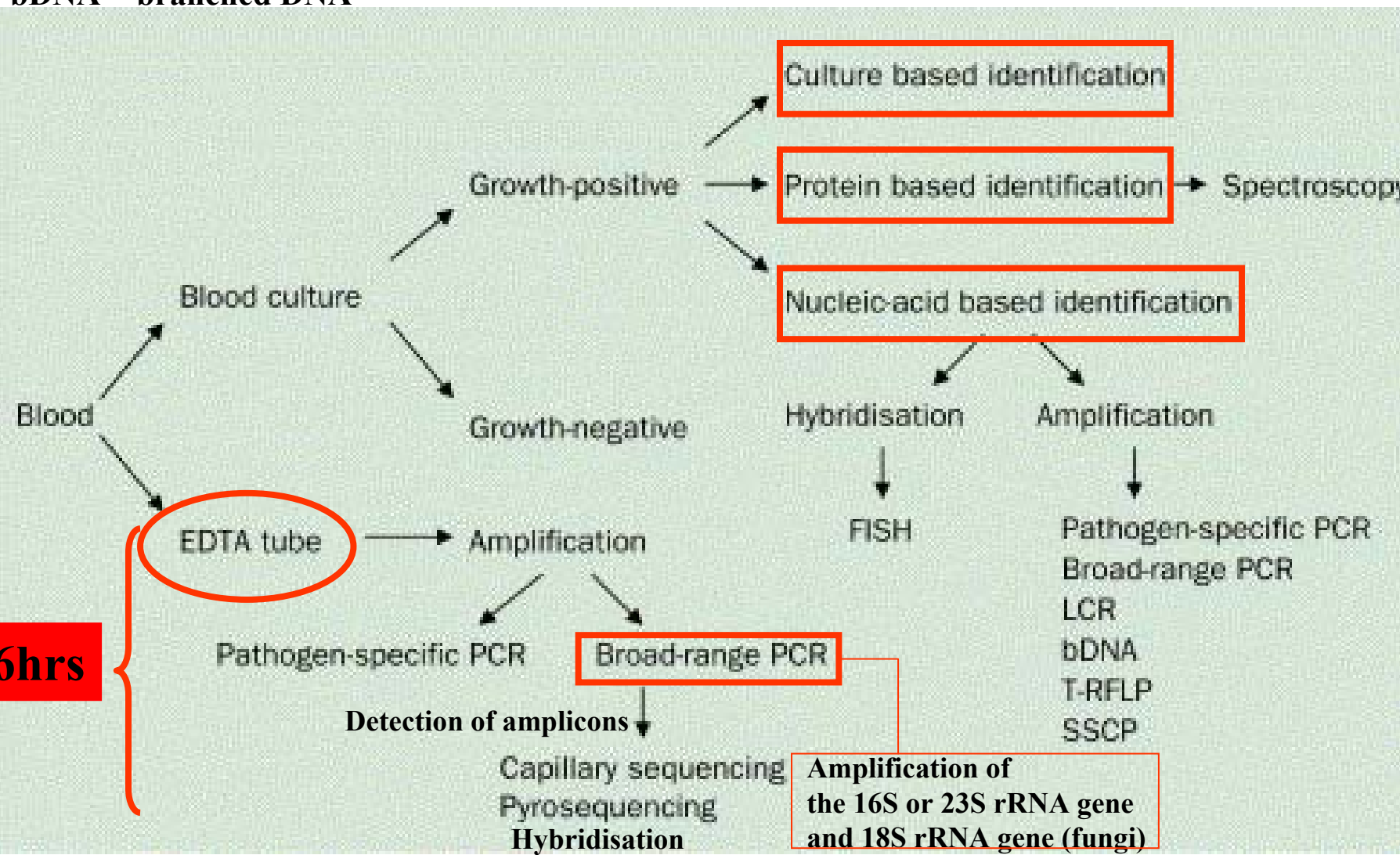


**ALGORITHM FOR SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION
OF NONNEUTROPENIC PATIENTS WITH
SUSPECTED SEPSIS**

Techniques for laboratory detection of bloodstream infections

- FISH = fluorescent in situ hybridisation
- LCR = ligase chain reaction
- bDNA = branched DNA

- T-RFLP = terminal restriction fragment length polymorphism
- SSCP = single strand conformation polymorphism



6hrs

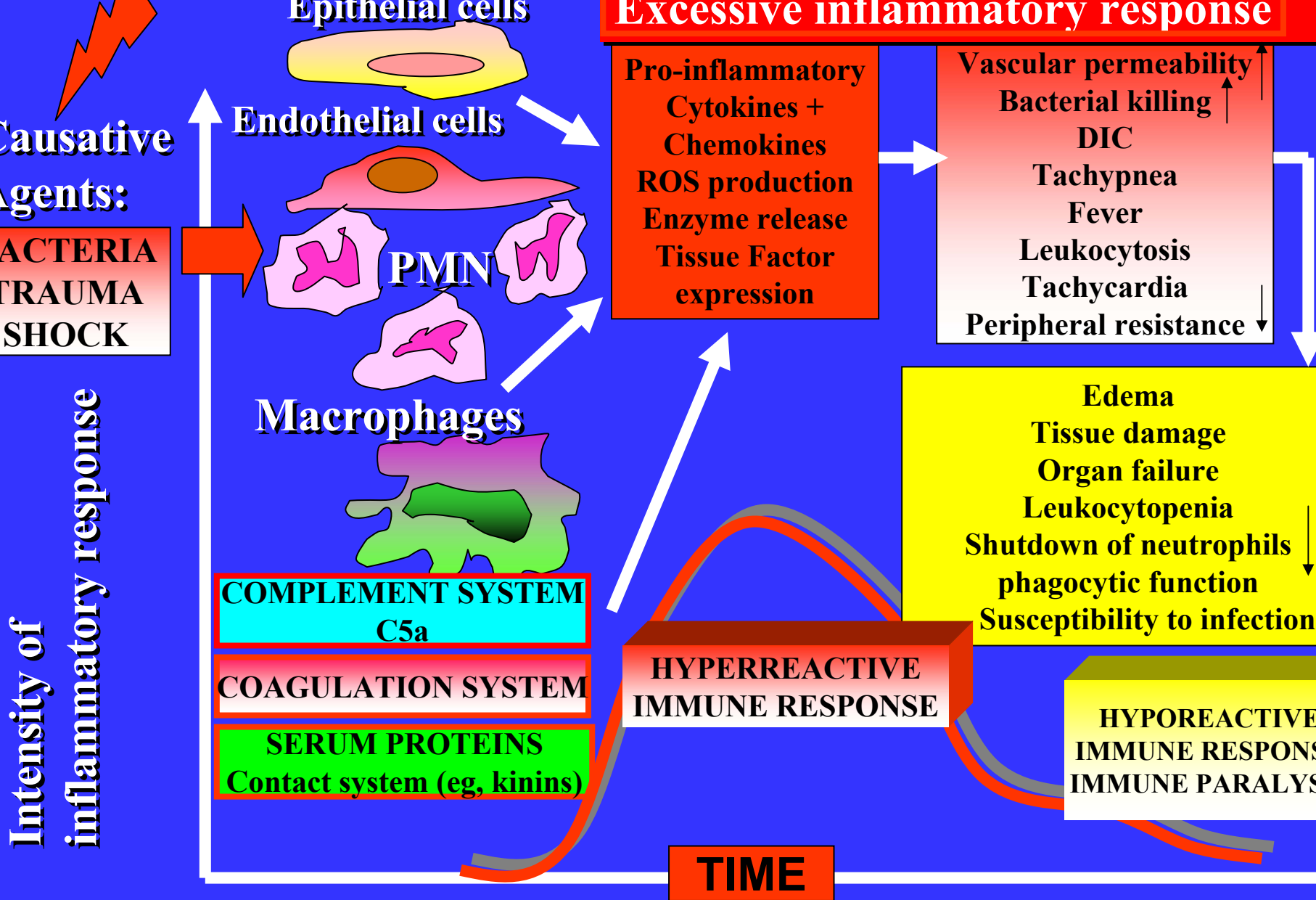
Sepsis:

a disorder due to uncontrolled inflammation

In 1972, Lewis Thomas described Sepsis in the following way:

“ It is our response to the micro-organisms presence that makes the disease. Our arsenals for fighting off bacteria are so powerful... that we are more in danger from them than the invaders”

Lewis Thomas Germs N Engl J Med 1972; 287:553-555



Dynamic time-course of the inflammatory response during Sepsis

Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns

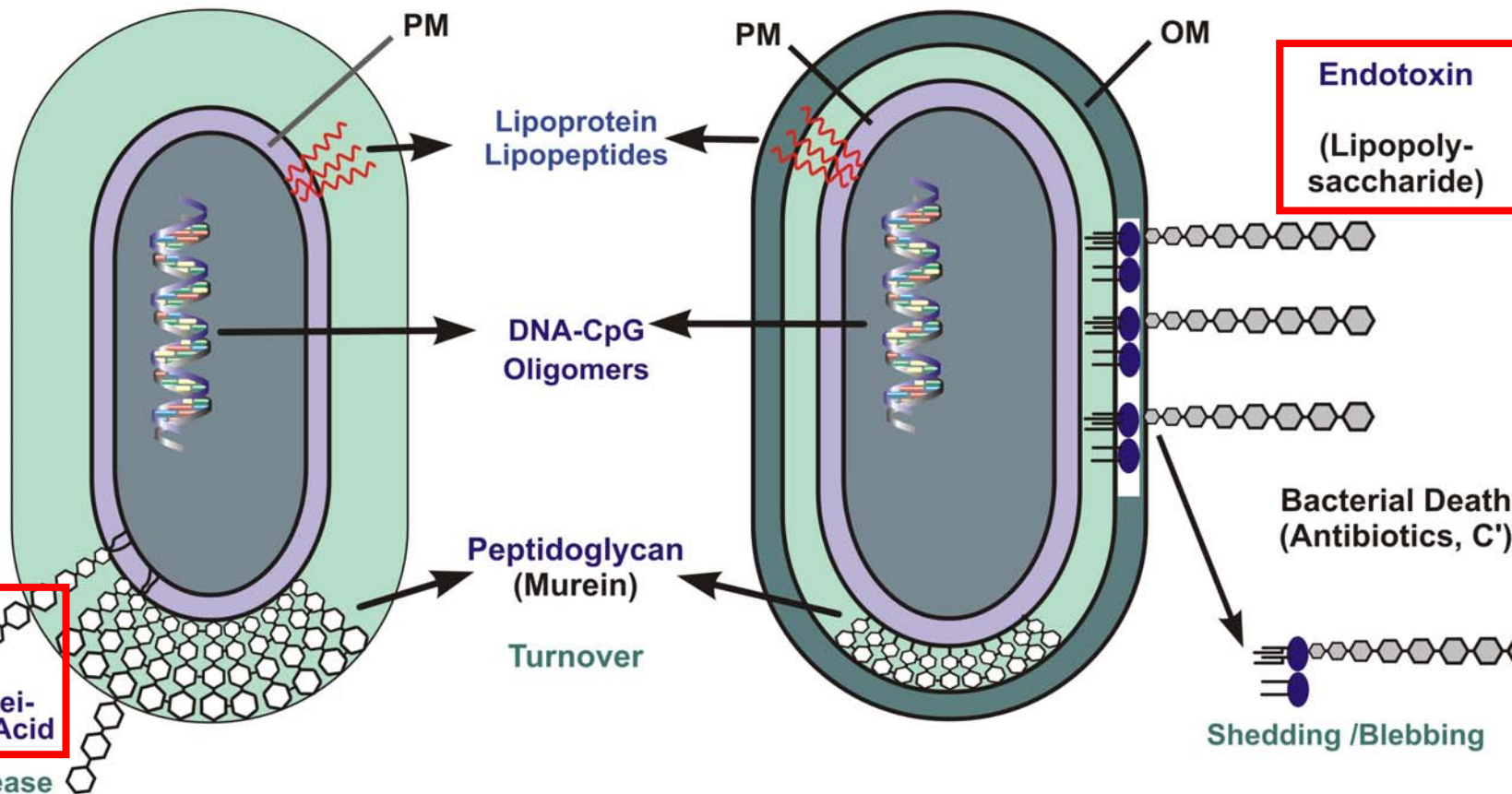
PAMPs of Gram-positive and Gram-negative Bacteria

Gram - positive Bacteria

Gram - negative Bacteria

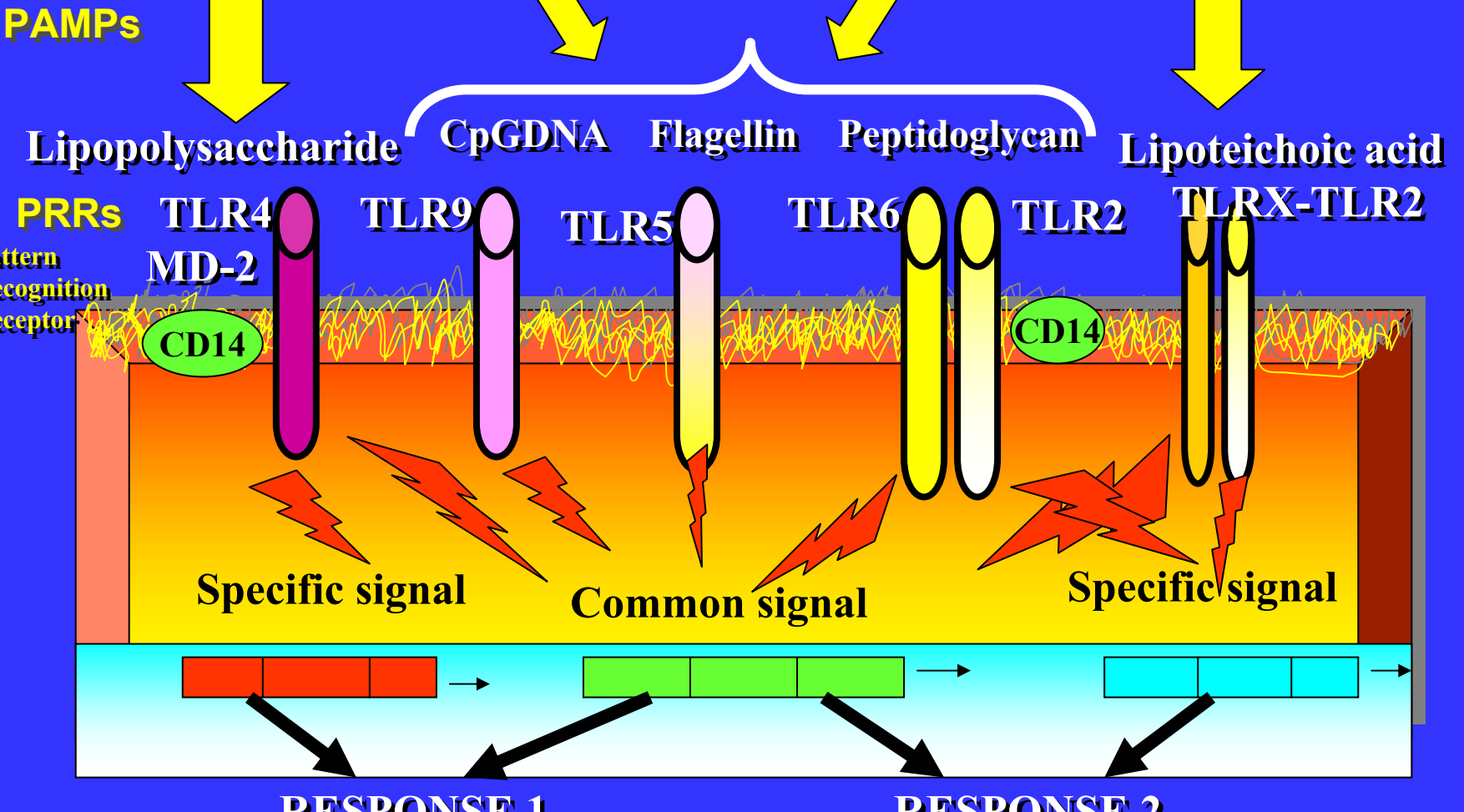
Staphylococcus aureus

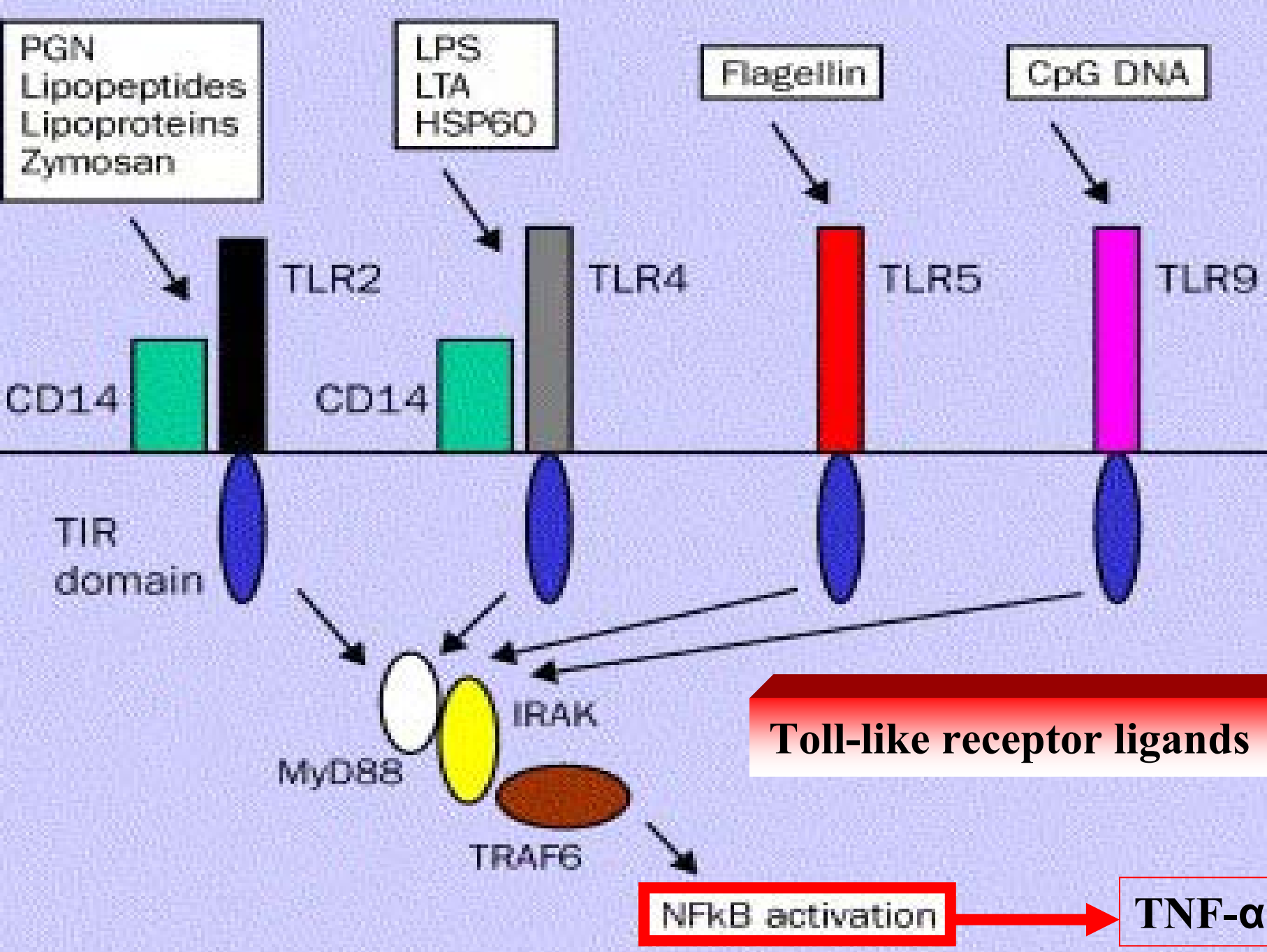
Escherichia coli



Gram negative bacteria

Gram positive bacteria



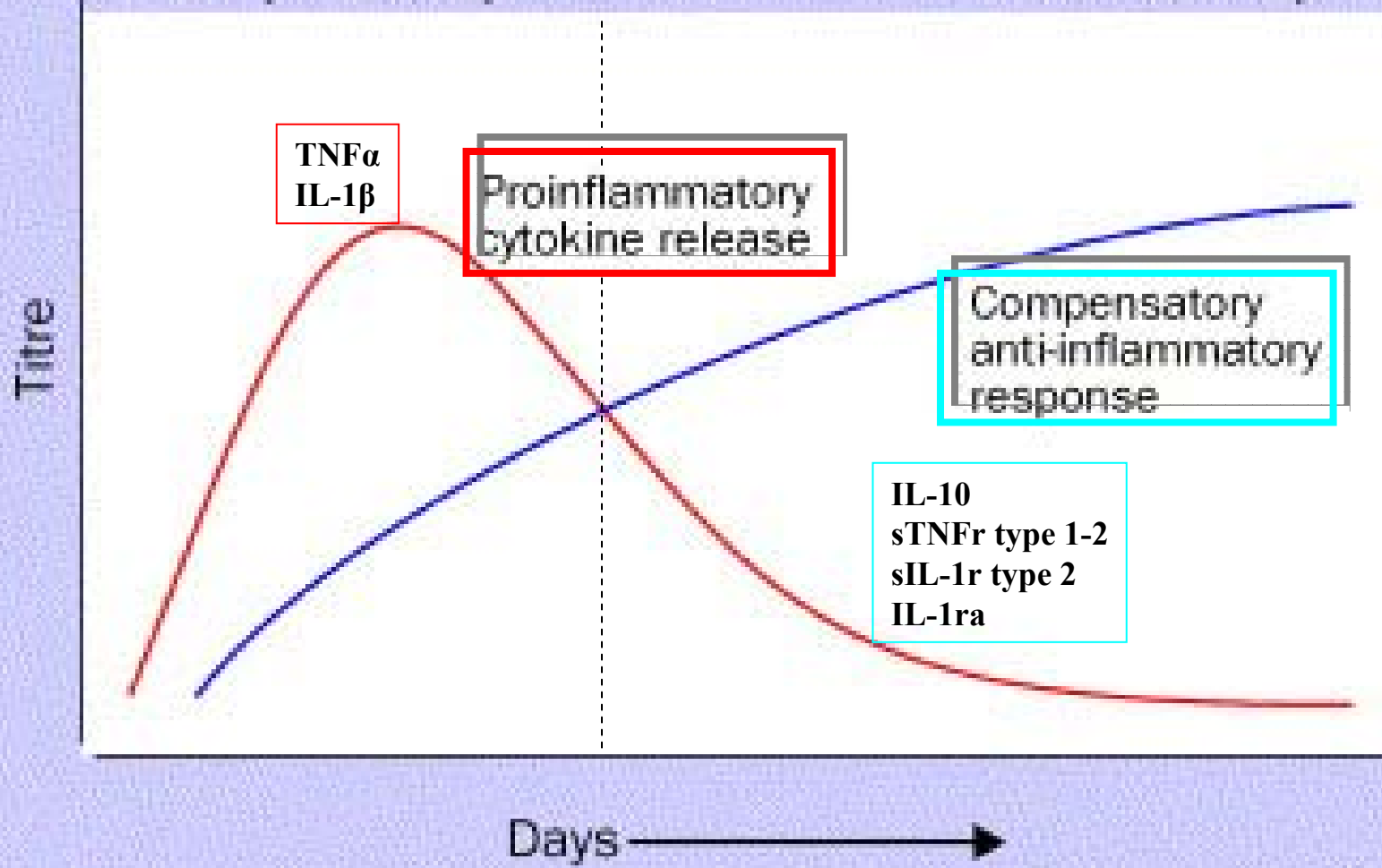


Excessive systemic inflammation

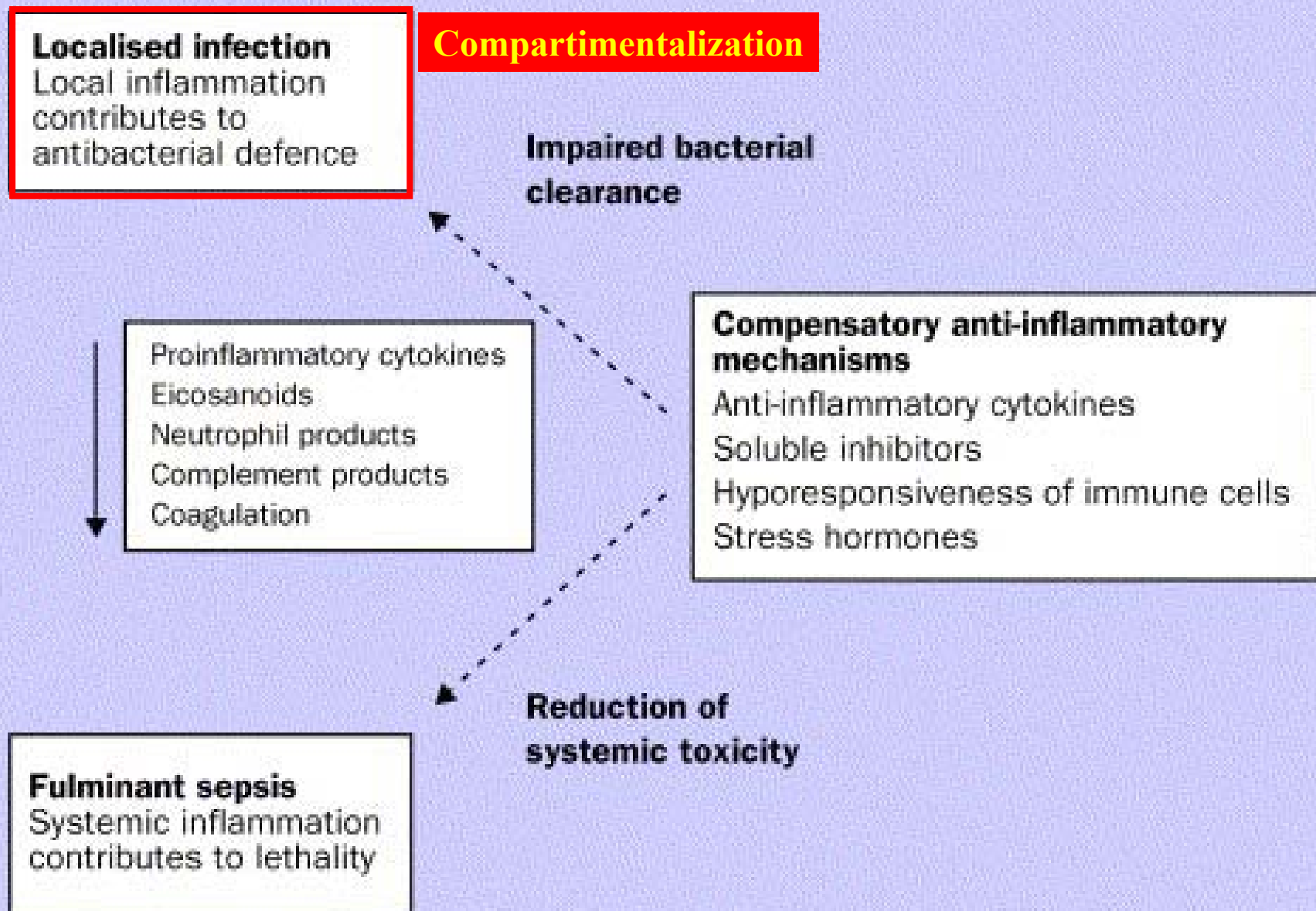
Immunoparalysis

Fulminant sepsis
Early mortality

Nosocomial infections
Late mortality

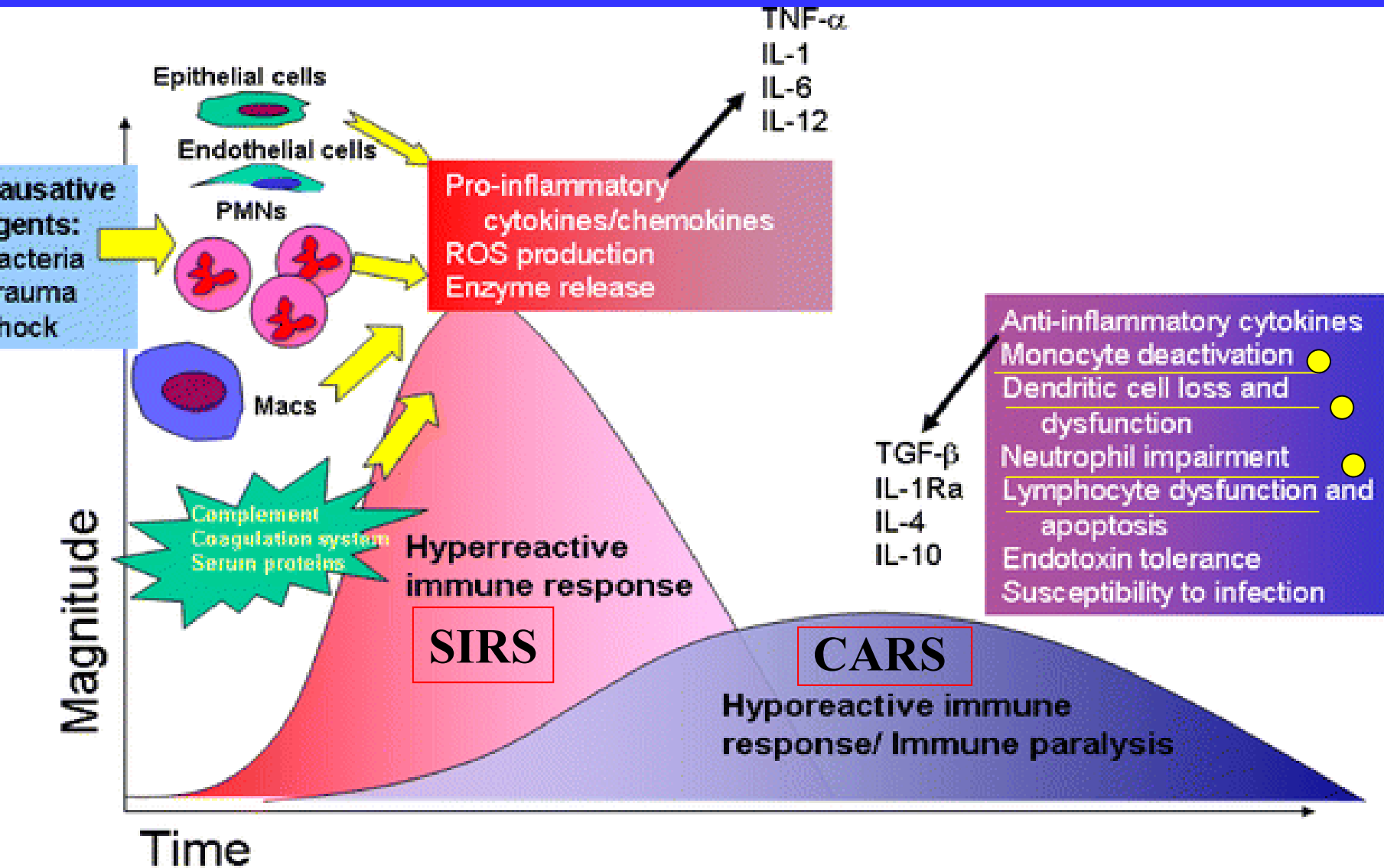


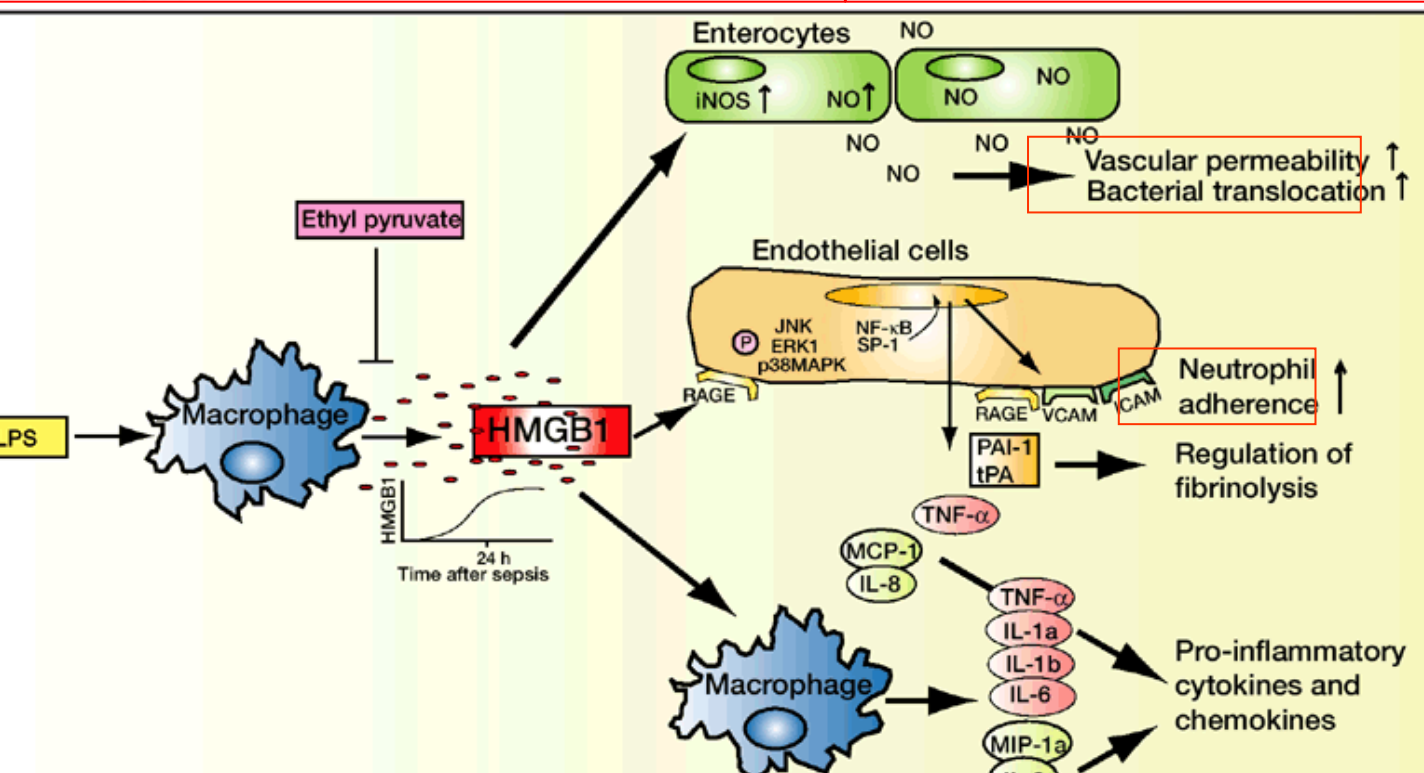
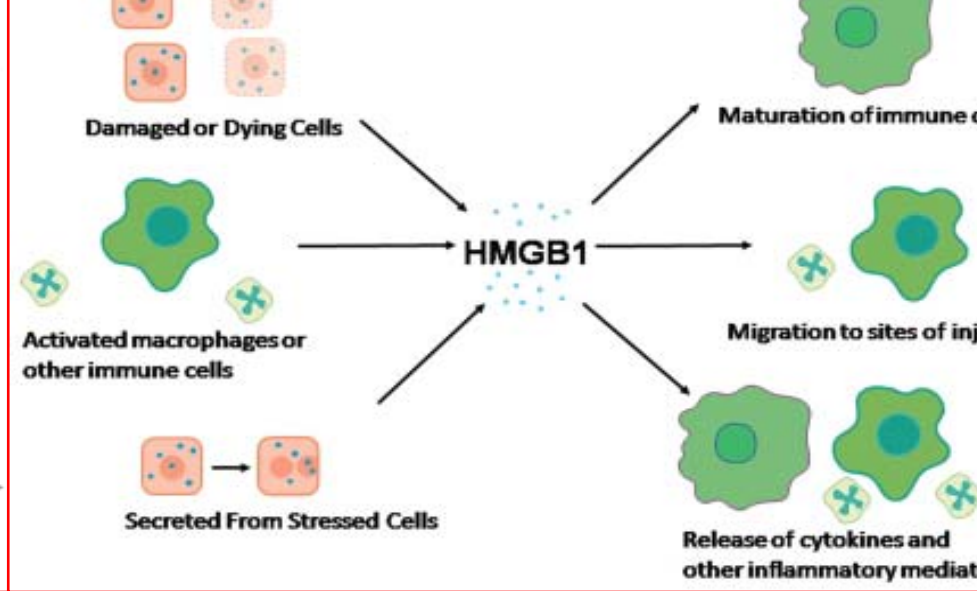
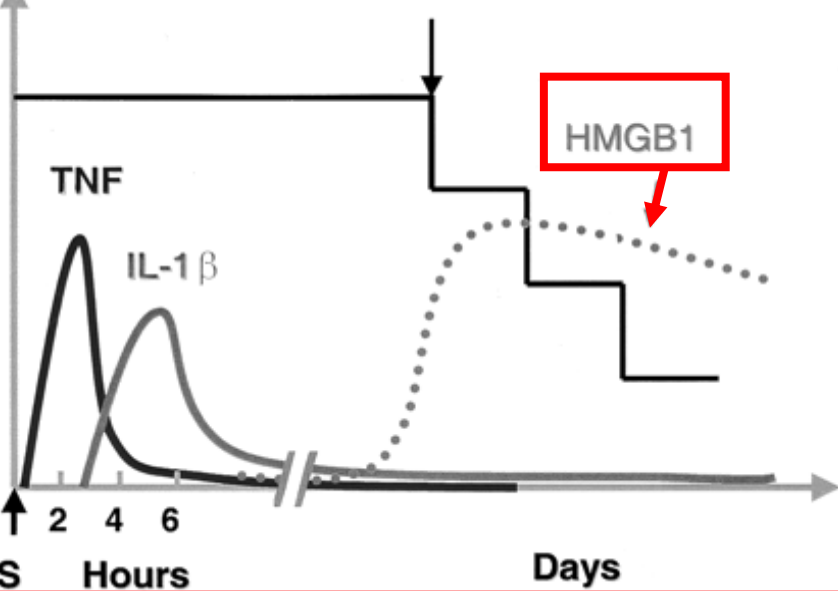
Proinflammatory and anti-inflammatory mechanisms during localised and systemic infection



Dynamic of the septic inflammatory response

The immunologic response to sepsis over time



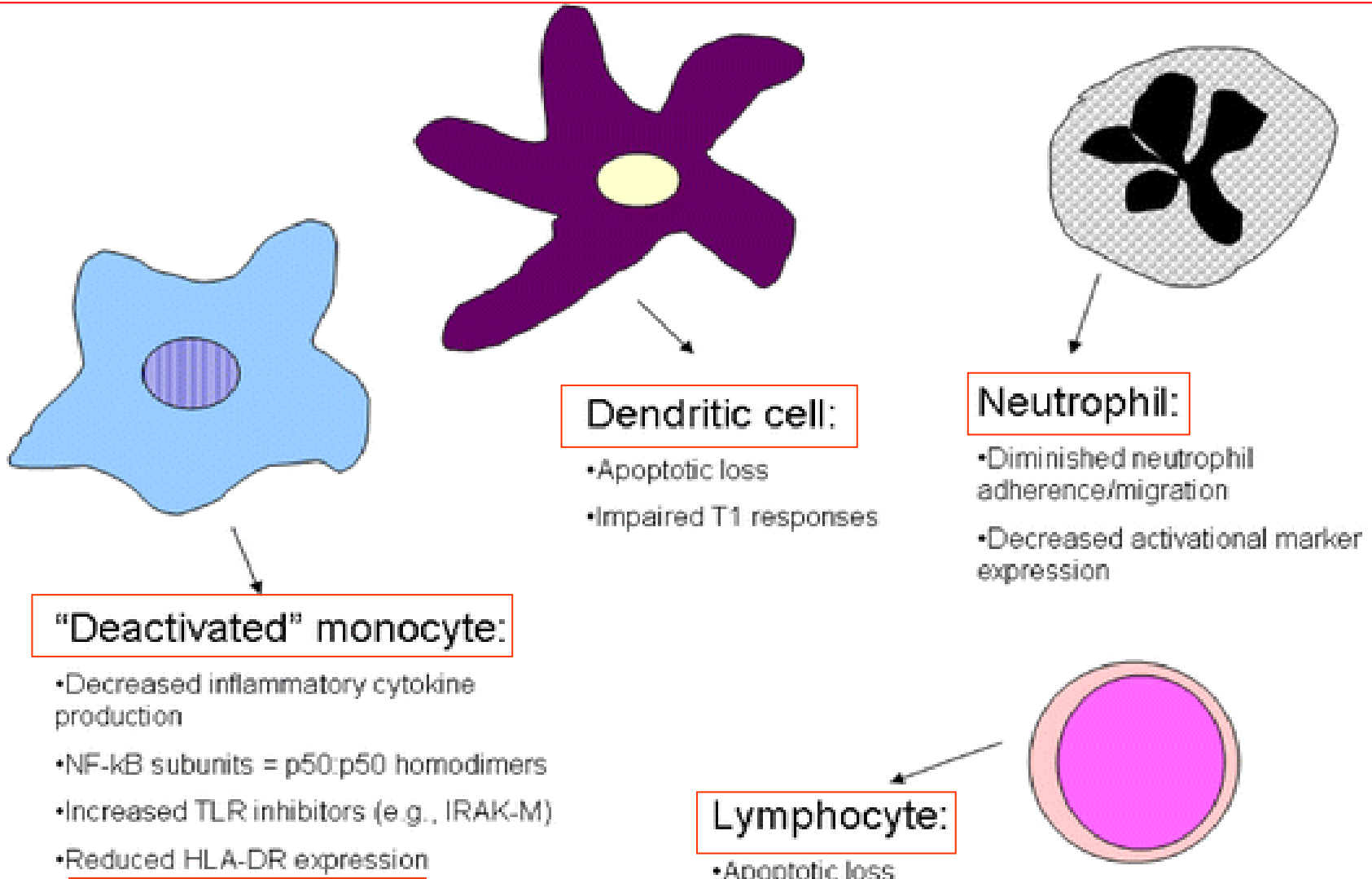


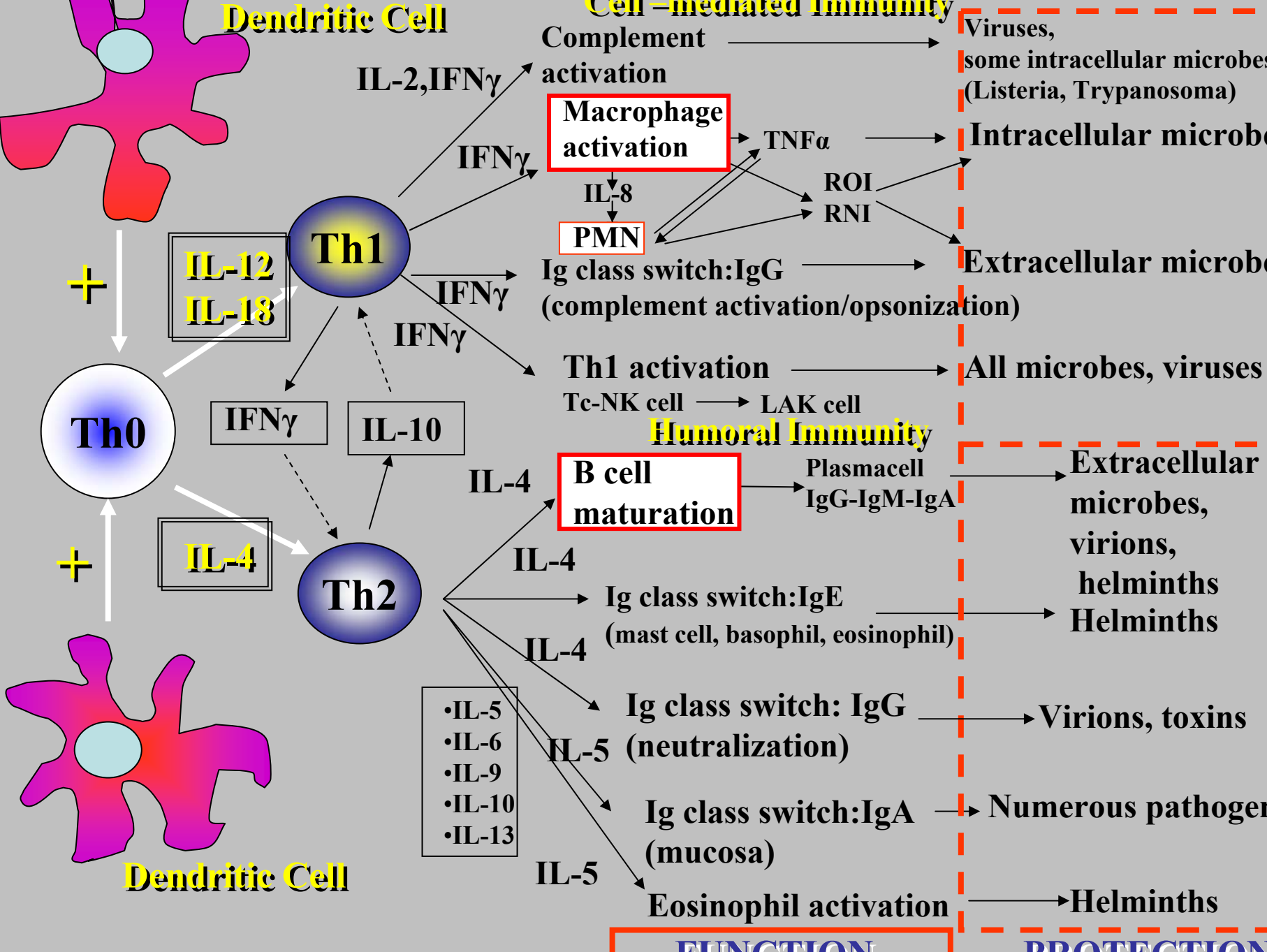
HMGB1

Mechanisms of sepsis induced immunosuppression

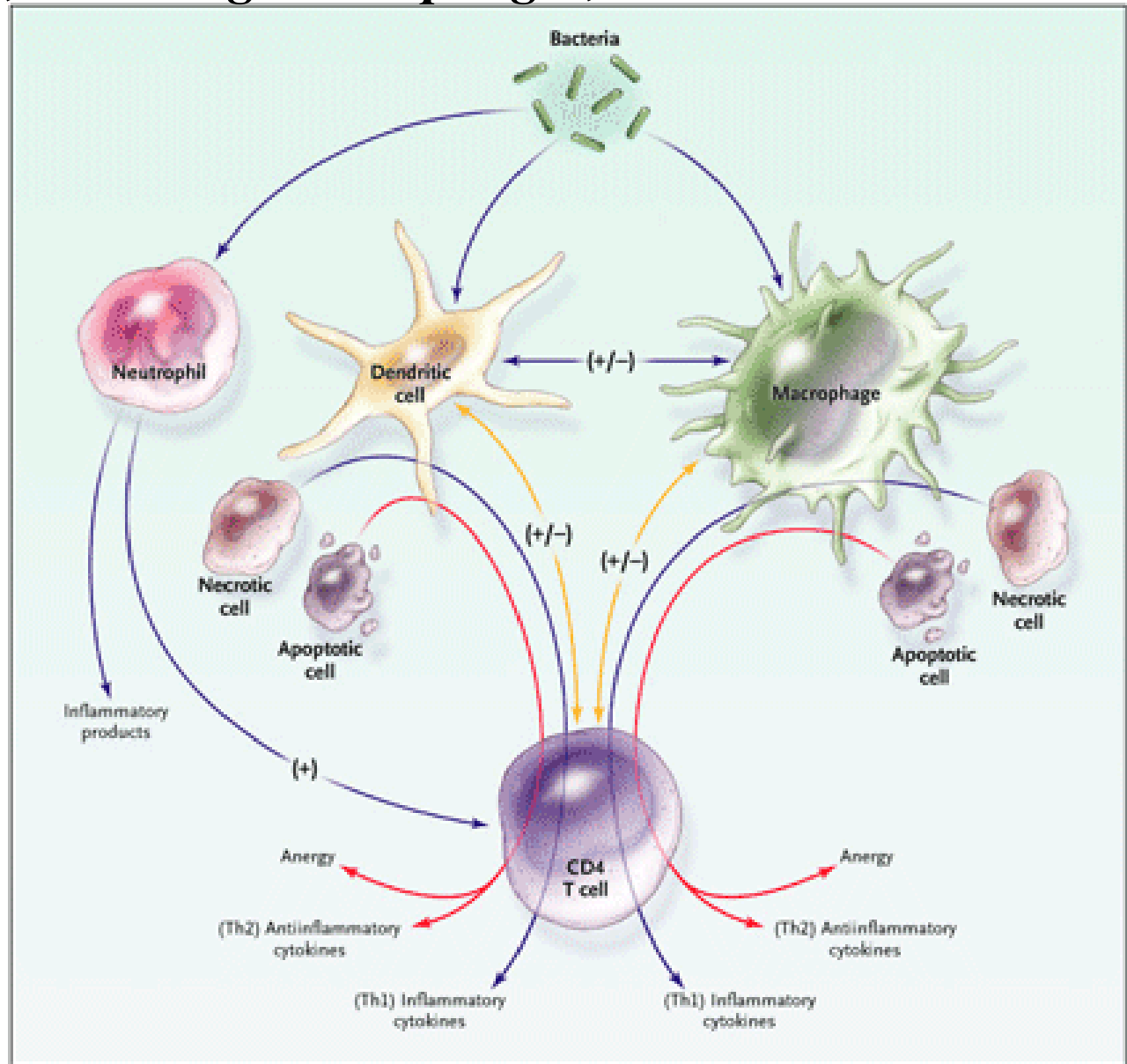
Sepsis-induced alterations in immune cell function.

In septic patients, multiple aspects of leukocyte function are disrupted, leading to susceptibility to secondary infections among survivors of sepsis





The response to pathogens, involving "cross-talk" among many immune cells, including Macrophages, Dendritic Cells and CD4 T cells



Potential Mechanisms of Immune Suppression in Patients with Sepsis.*

Shift from an inflammatory (Th1) to an antiinflammatory (Th2) response

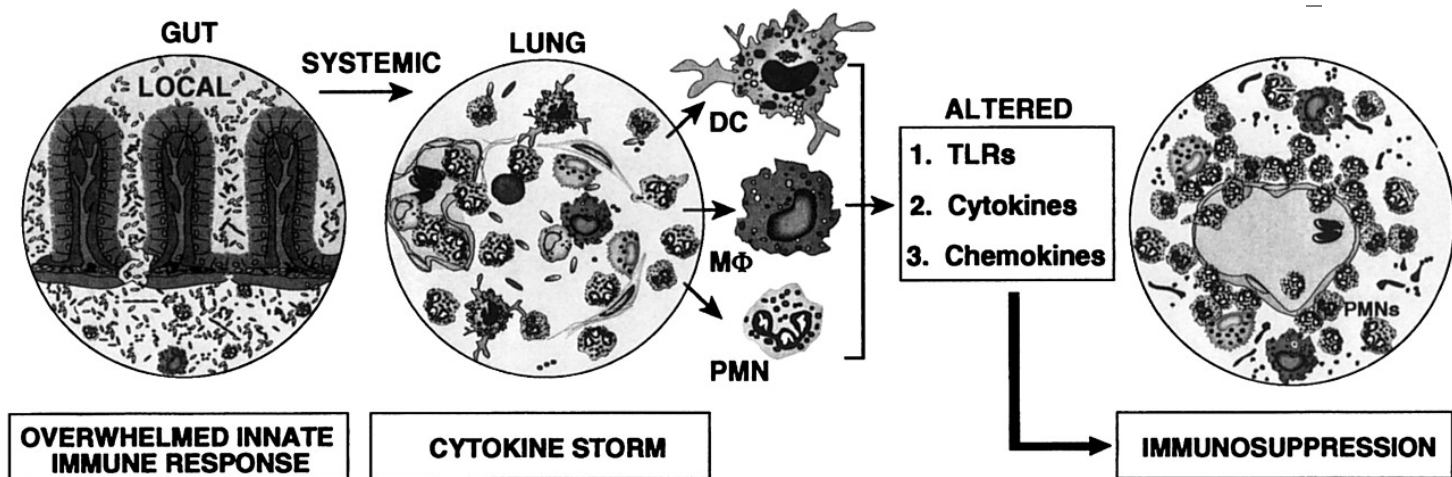
Anergy

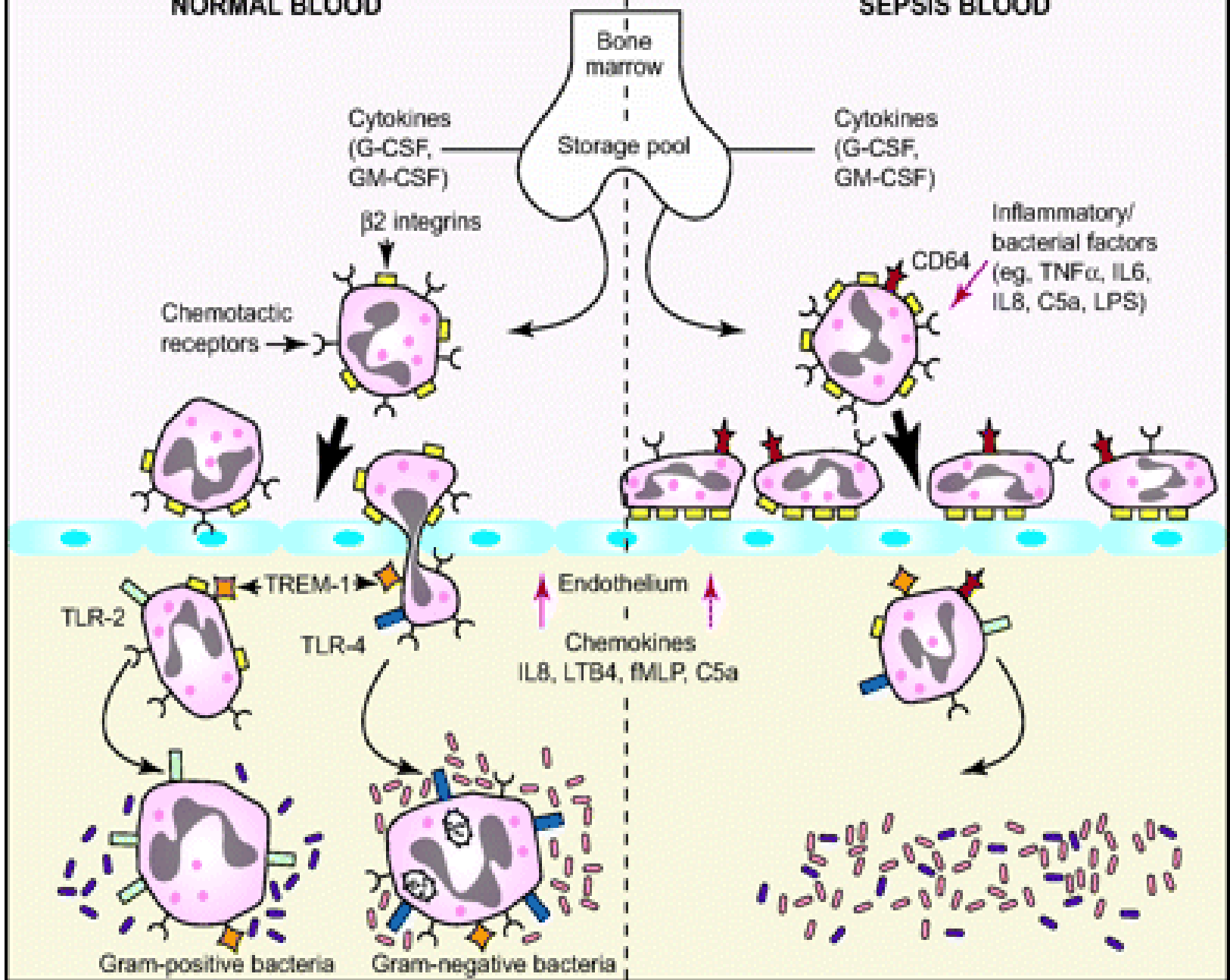
Apoptosis-induced loss of CD4 T cells, B cells, and dendritic cells

Loss of macrophage expression of major-histocompatibility-complex class II and costimulatory molecules

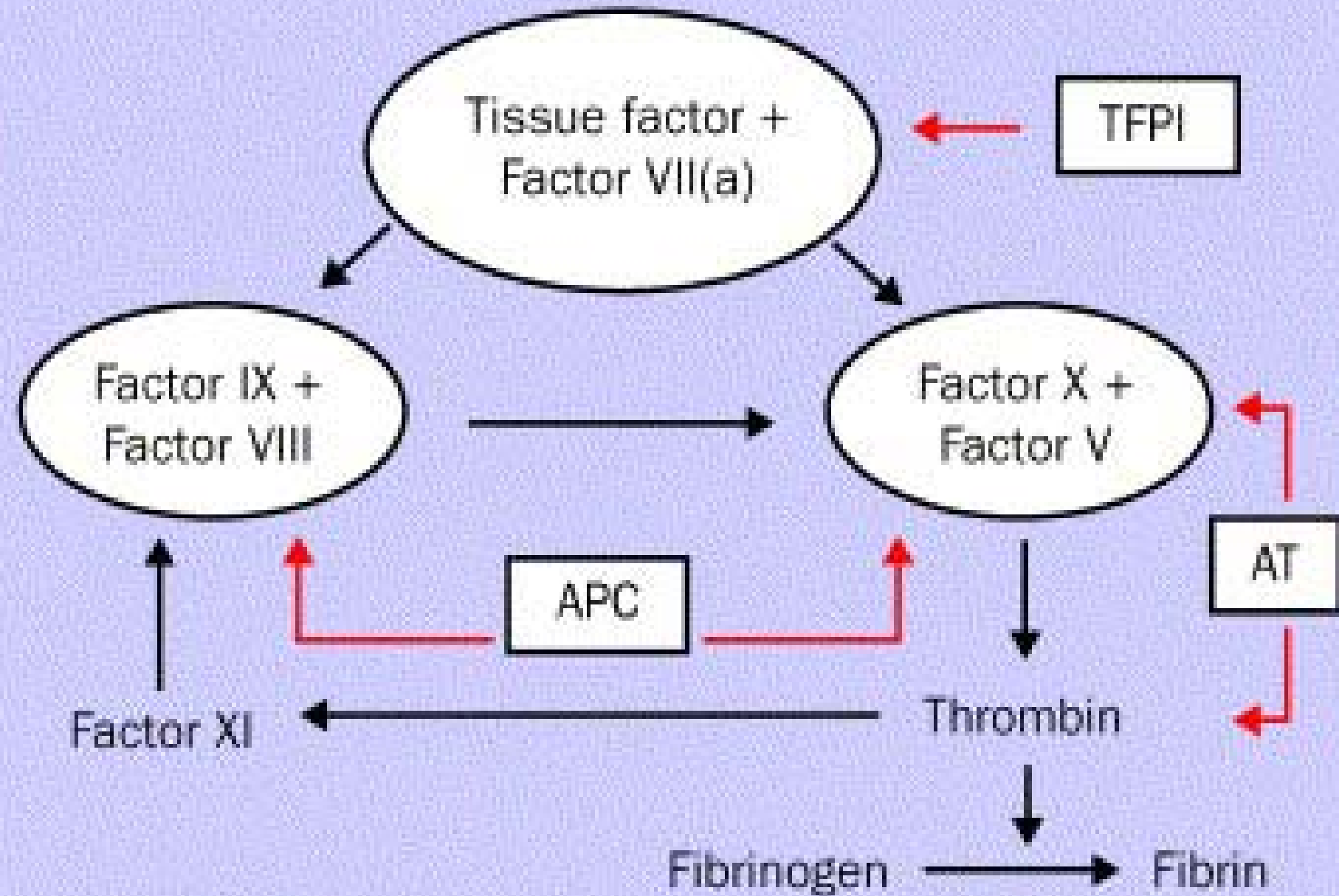
Immunosuppressive effect of apoptotic cells

* Th1 denotes type 1 helper T cell, and Th2 type 2 helper T cell.

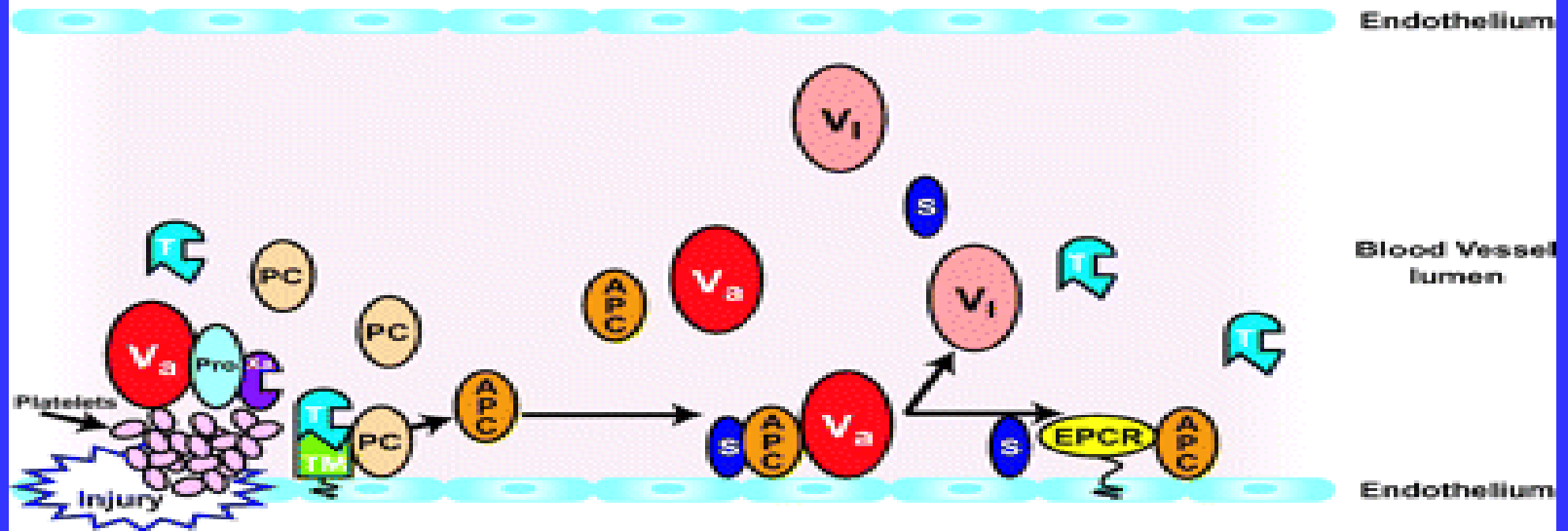




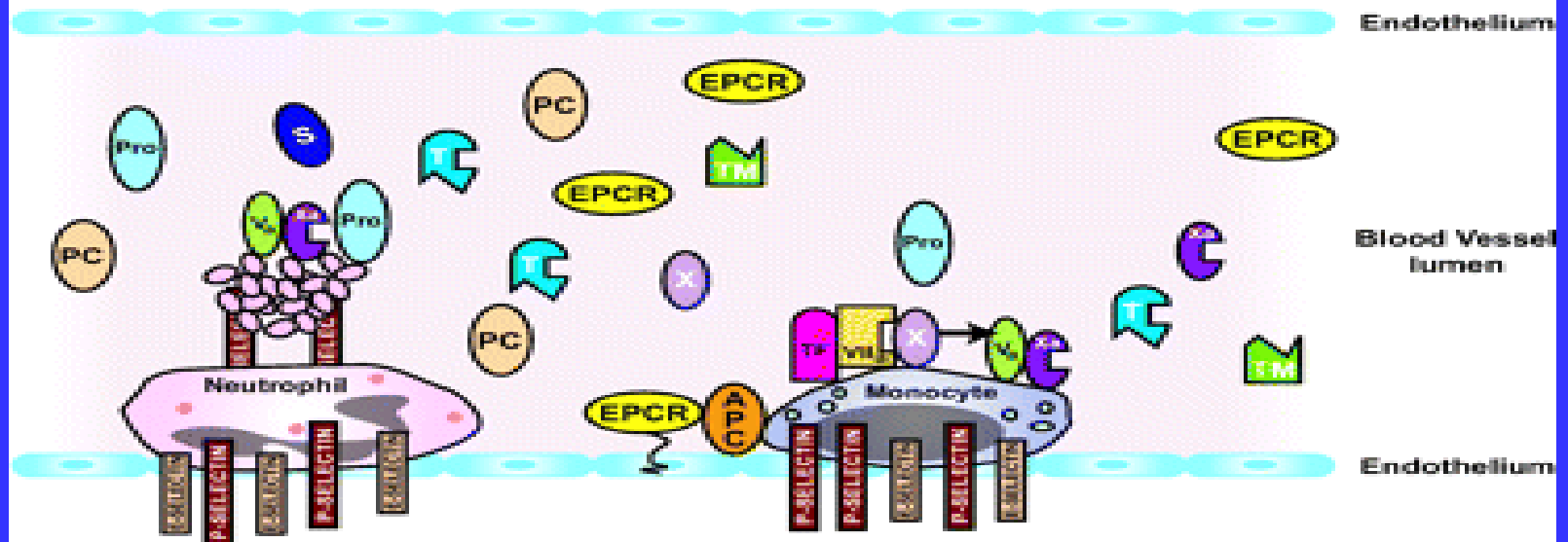
Coagulation and anticoagulation. TF, expressed on the surface of activated monocytes and endothelial cells, initiates activation of coagulation in response to a bacterial infection



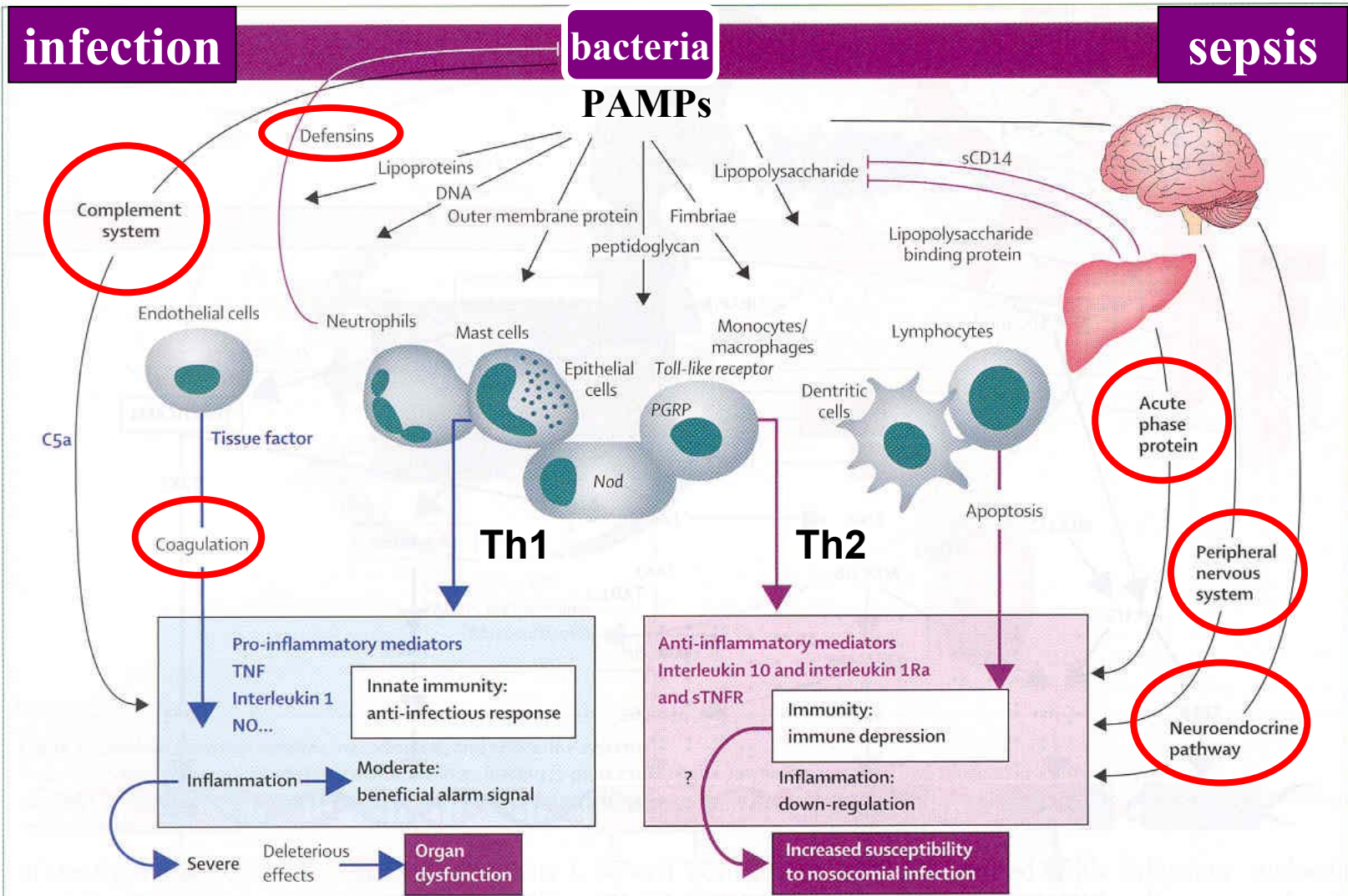
NORMAL FUNCTION



AFTER INFLAMMATION



Control of coagulation in normal and inflamed vasculature



From bacteria to disease

SIRS

Hours to days

MARS

Days to weeks

CARS

Disordered timecourse

SIRS

variable

MARS

variable

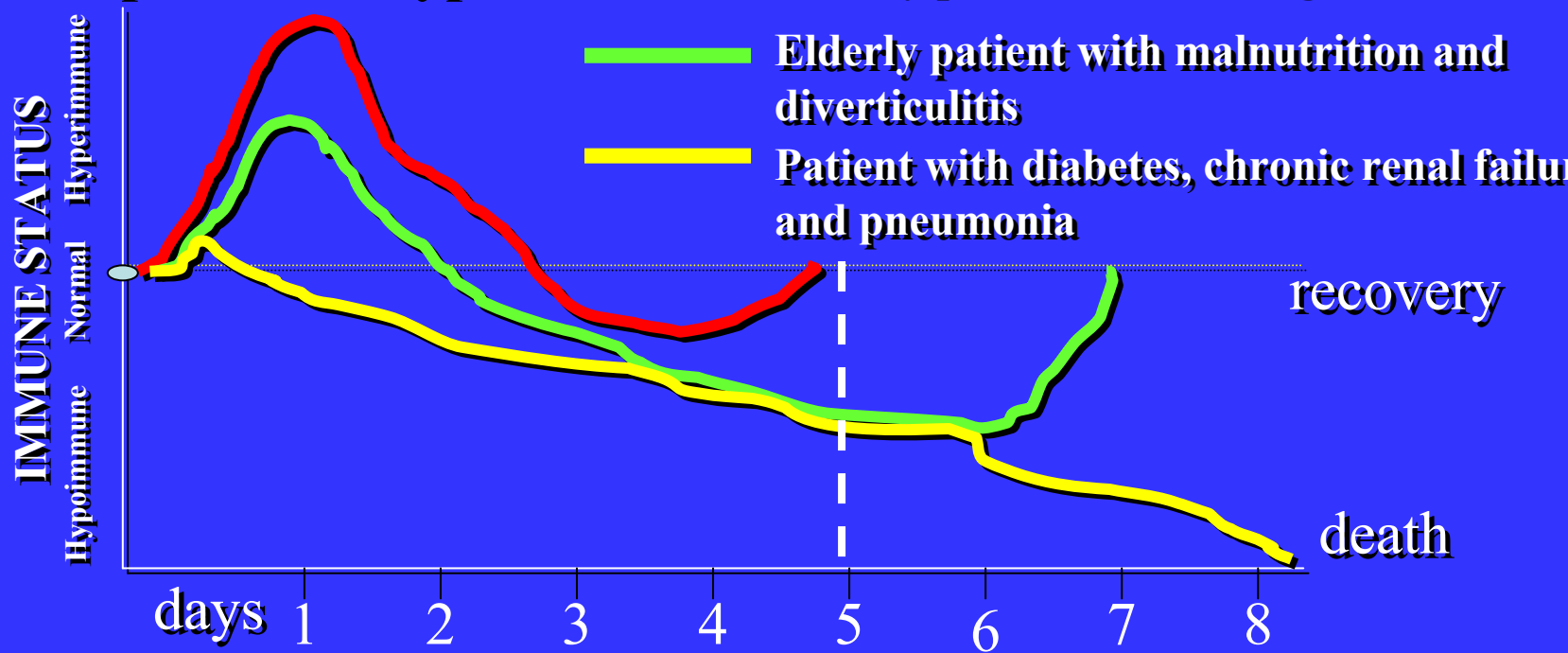
CARS

Modulating factors:

- Infection (recurrent)
- Surgery
- Medications (antibiotics, steroids, blood products, etc.)
- Underlying immune status
- Genetic predisposition
- Comorbid conditions (e.g., diabetes)
- Transfusion of blood products

Temporal development of sepsis induced fluctuations on immune response

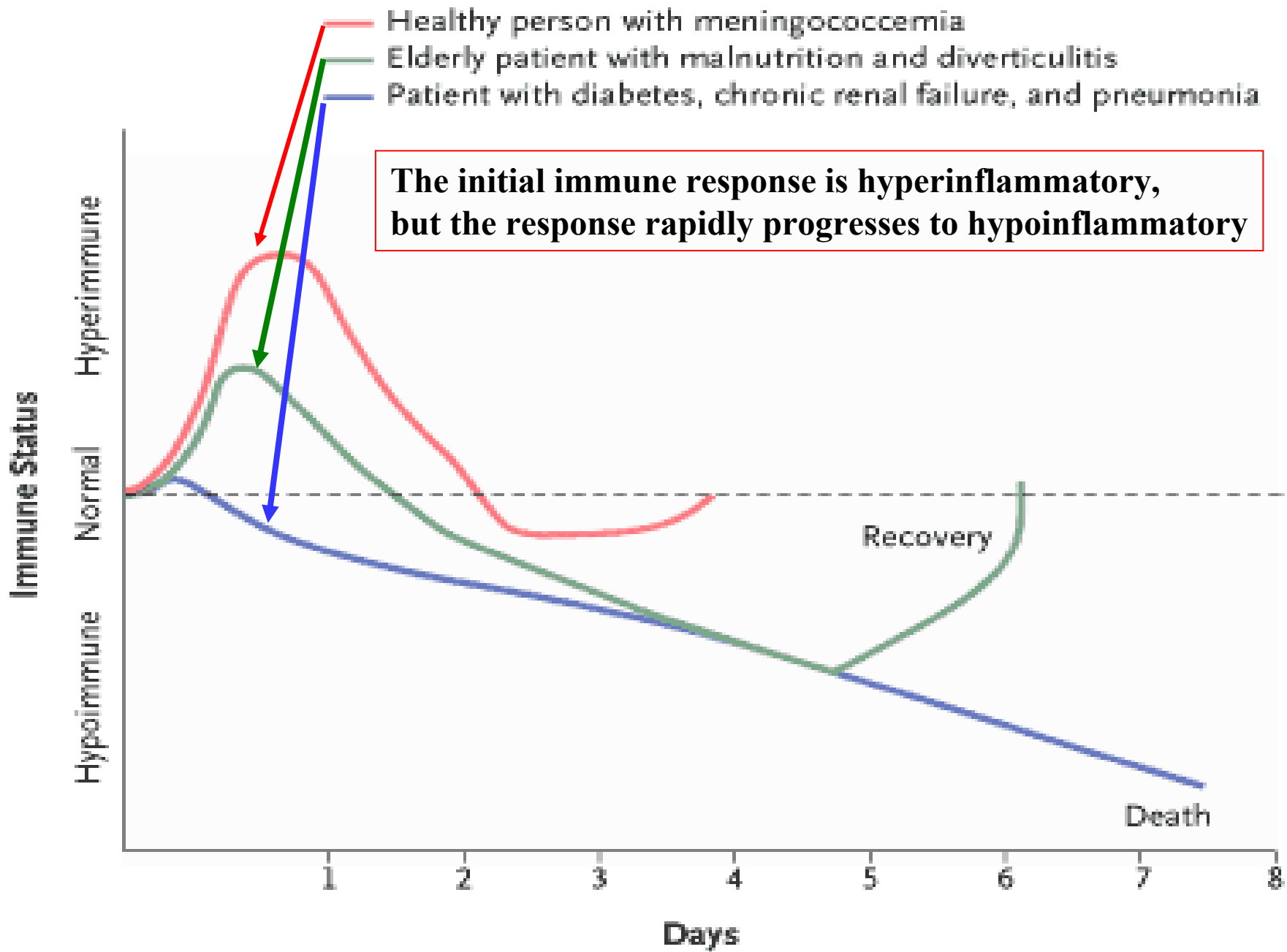
In the clinical setting , multiple factors , will tilt the balance toward one end of the spectrum or the other

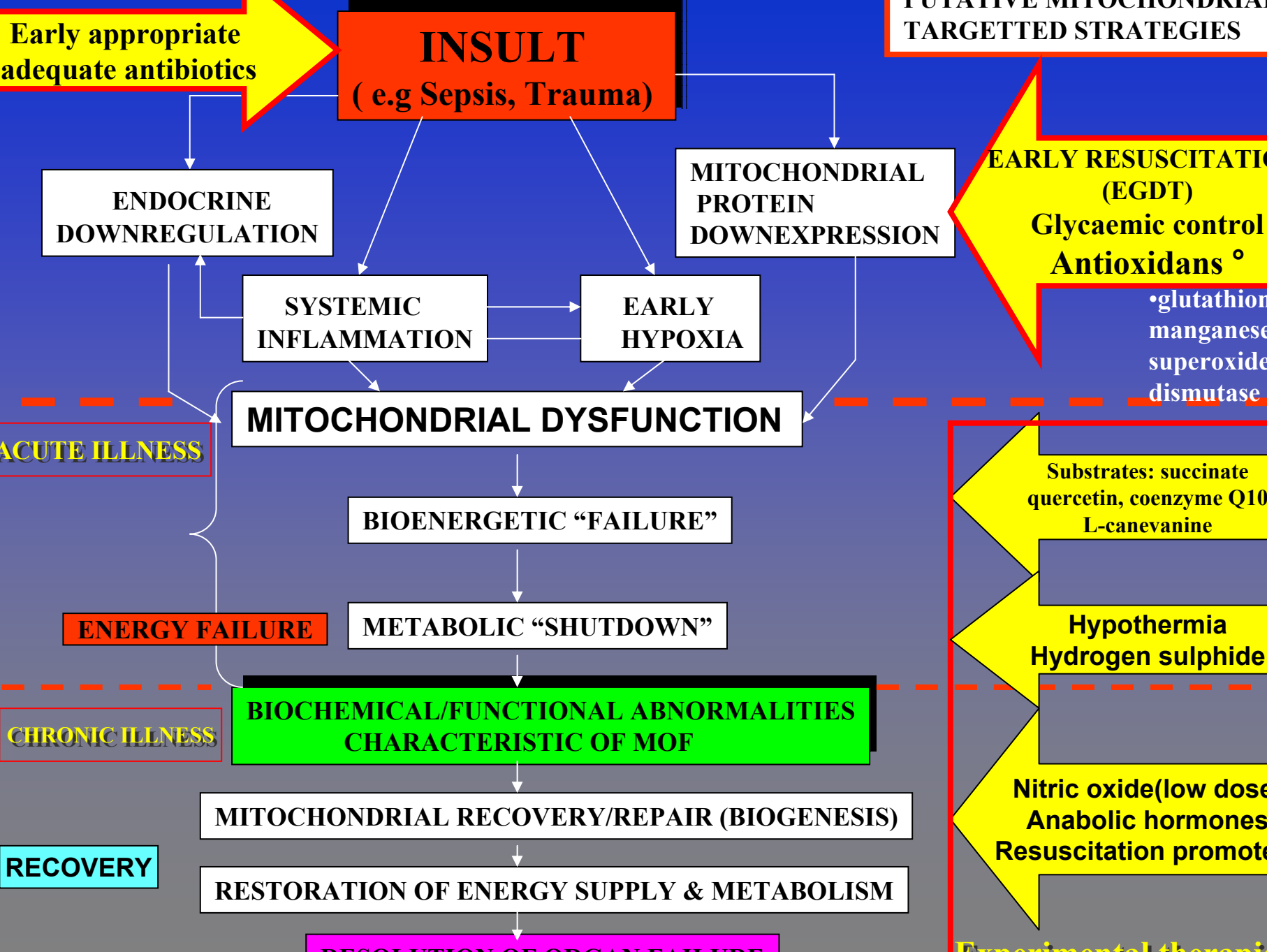


THE HETEROGENEITY

The individual response is determined by many factors, including:

- The virulence of the organism
- The size of the inoculum
- The patient's coexisting conditions
- The age
- The polymorphisms in genes for cytokines





**Initial
HIT**

**TIME
THERAPY**

**HOST
Comorbidity
Genetics
background**

**Microcirculatory and mitochondrial
distress syndrome (MMDS):
a new look at sepsis**
*Spronk PE, Kanoore-Edul VS and Ince C
Functional Hemodynamic Monitoring vol 42
Springer Verlag 2005;pp.47-67*

Circulatory shock + Inflammation

Resuscitation based on correction
of systemic hemodynamics and oxygen derived variables

**TIME
THERAPY**

Microcirculatory and Mitochondrial Distress Syndrome (MMDS)

**Endothelial
Dysfunction**
*Barrier,
Communication,
Coagulation,
Regulation*

RBCs
*Deformability
Aggregation
O₂ Transport*

Leukocytes
*Adhesion,
Cytokines,
ROS*

SMCs
*Adrenergic signaling,
NO*

Coagulation
↓ *Natural
anticoagulants*
*Microvascular
thrombosis*

Dysfunction Autoregulation
*Microcirculatory shunting
O₂ supply demand mismatch
Hypoxia*

Cellular distress
*Mitochondria
Hibernation
Apoptosis*

**Organ
Failure**

THE MICROCIRCULATION IS ONE OF THE MOTORS OF SEPSIS

Mitochondrial Respiration is increased (12-16h)

The defect is principally functional rather than structural. This perceived failure of organs might instead be a potentially protective, reactive, adaptive mechanism

METABOLISM

Acute phase

Stress hormones with associated increase in mitochondrial and metabolic activity

- ACTH ↑
- Cortisol ↑
- Catechol ↑
- Vasopressin ↑
- Glucagon ↑
- GH ↑
- Insulin resistance

Mitochondrial Respiration is decreased

The combination of severe inflammation and secondary changes in endocrine profile diminish energy production, metabolic rate and normal cellular processes

- * Vasopressin ↓
- * Sick euthyroid syndrome
- * Reduced adrenal responsiveness to ACTH

Fight phase

Hibernation phase

Recovery phase

Overwhelming external Insult

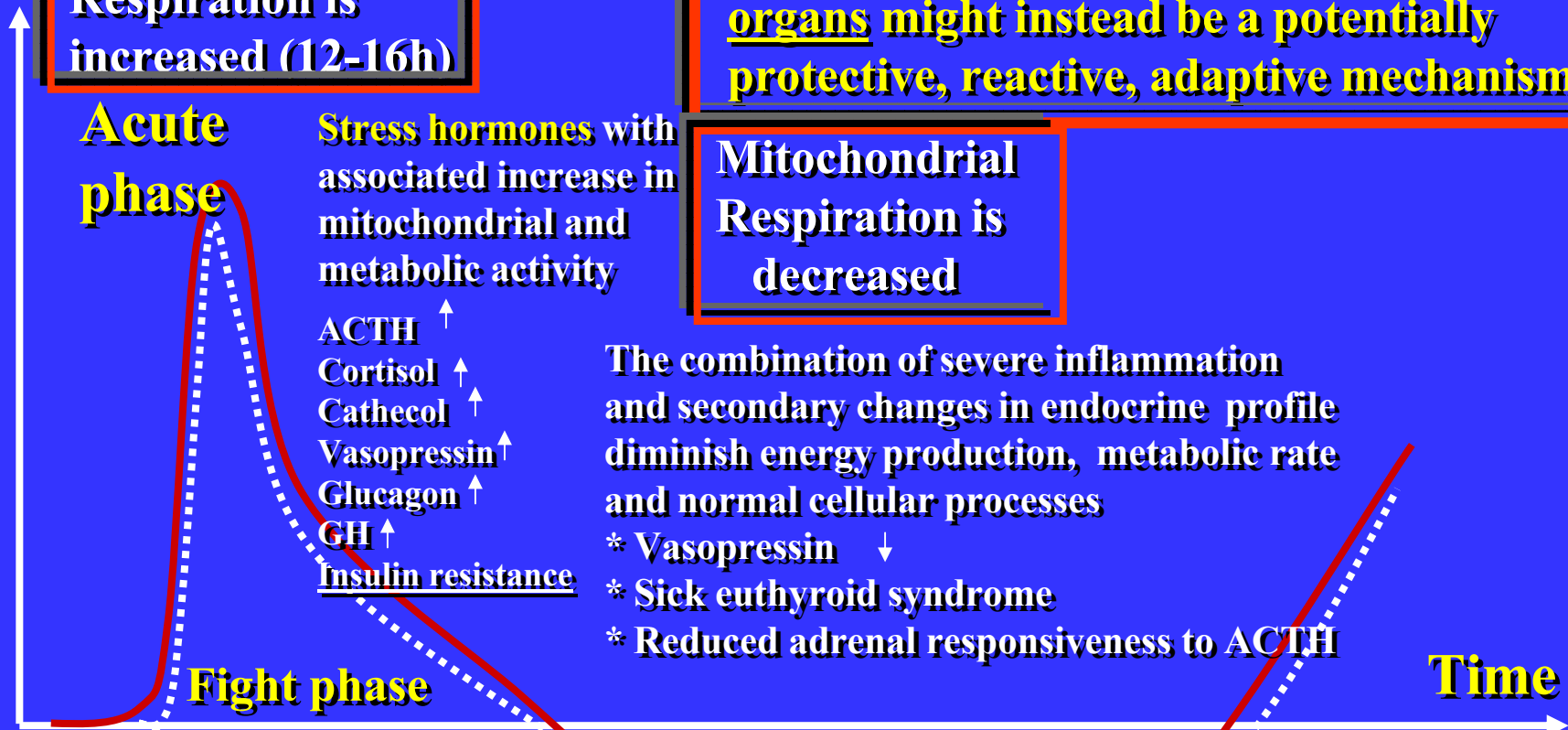
Mitochondrial dysfunction

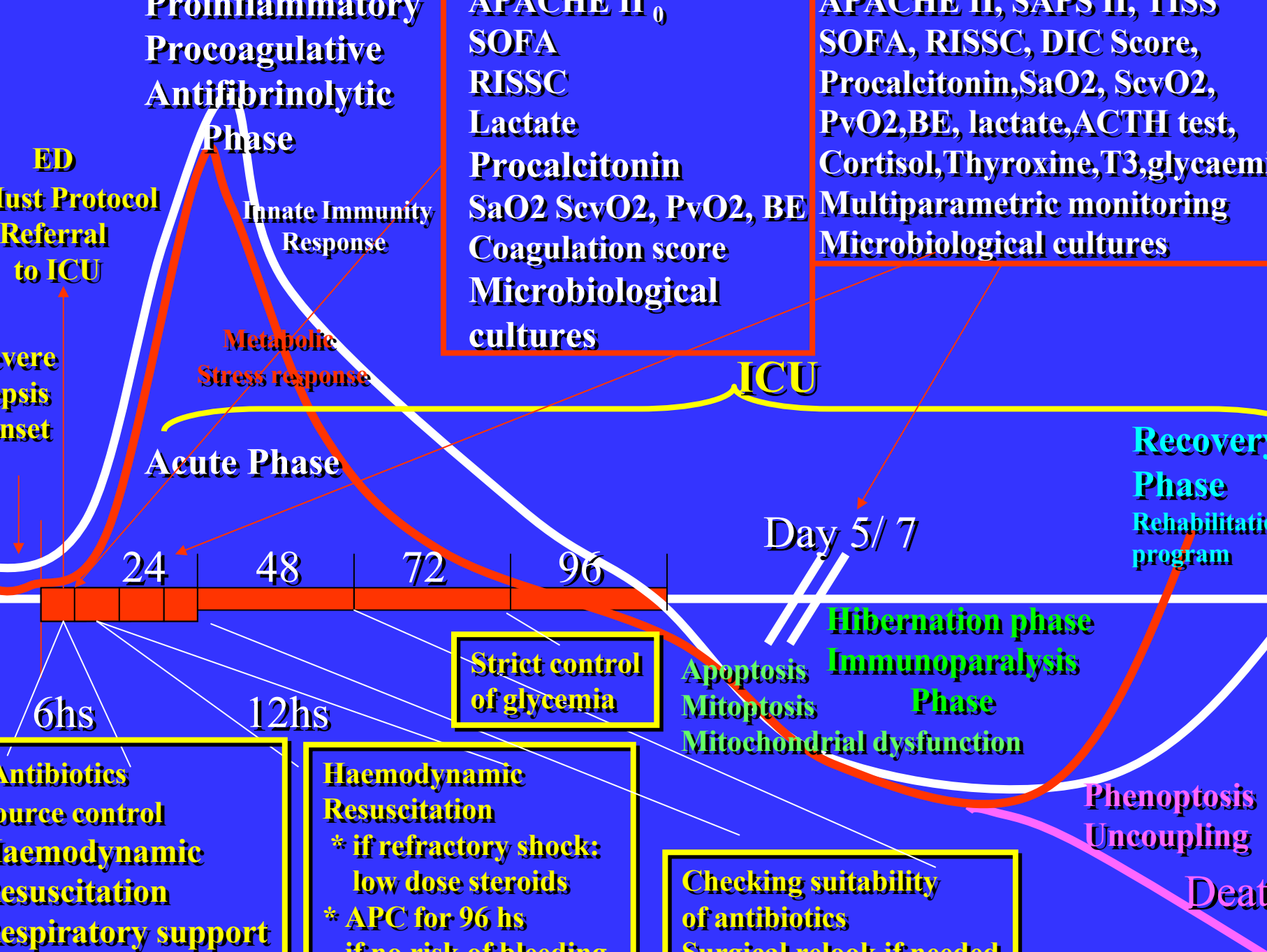
Mitoptosis

Apoptosis

Phenoptosis

Death





Examples

Sites of Infection

Abscess	Fasciitis
Appendicitis	IV catheter
Cellulitis	Meningitis
Cholecystitis	Peritonitis
Diverticulitis	Pneumonia
Empyema	Pyelonephritis
Endocarditis	Sinusitis

Microbes and microbial products

Bacteremia	Mannans
Endotoxin	Glucans
Exotoxins	Bacterial DNA
Petidoglycans	

Humoral Microbial Receptors

C reactive protein
Serum amyloid
Mannose binding protein
Lipopolysaccharide binding proteins
Complement

Cellular Microbial Receptors

Toll-Like Receptors
CD14
Scavenger receptors I, II
Complement receptors
Mannose receptors

Host Cells

Endothelium
Epithelium
Neutrophils
Monocytes
Macrophages
Lymphocytes

Inflammatory Mediators

Complement
Kinins
Coagulation
Cytokines
Chemokines
Reactive O₂ species
Nitric oxide
Proteases
Eicosanoids
Platelet activating factor

Hemodynamic Effects

Vasodilation
Hypotension
Myocardial depression

Inflammatory Tissue Damage

Diffuse endothelial injury
Fibrin and microemboli deposition
Tissue Hypoxia
Immune Suppression
Apoptosis / Cell Necrosis

Pathogenesis of Sepsis and Septic Shock

Nidus of Infection



Blood Stream Invasion by Microbes or their Products



Early Diagnosis

Host Defenses Activated



Cell Activation and Inflammatory Mediator Release



Shock and Multiple Organ Failure



Standard Therapy

Drain site of infection

Early antibiotic therapy often empiric and based on likely pathogens and susceptibilities

MICROBIOLOGY

Anti-Inflammatory

Low dose glucocorticoids

APC
Insulin therapy

?

LABORATORY

Supportive treatment

Fluid resuscitation
Vasopressor administration
Inotropic support

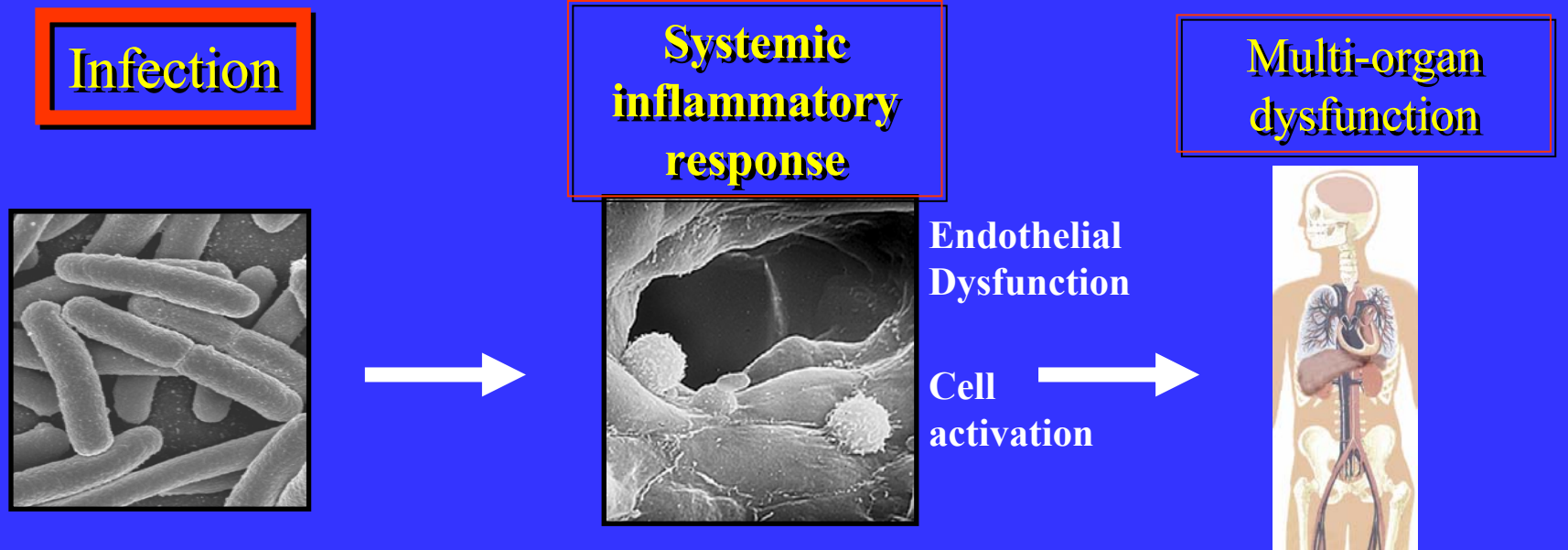
EGDT

EARLY treatment 6hrs bund

Therapeutic approach

interventions aimed at decreasing mortality

Surviving Sepsis Campaign : *The Bundles*



Eliminate infection

•DIAGNOSIS

- Antibiotics
- Source Control

Specific therapy

Reduce systemic reaction

- EGDT
- Steroids
- Insulin (glucose control)
- rhAPC (Xigris)

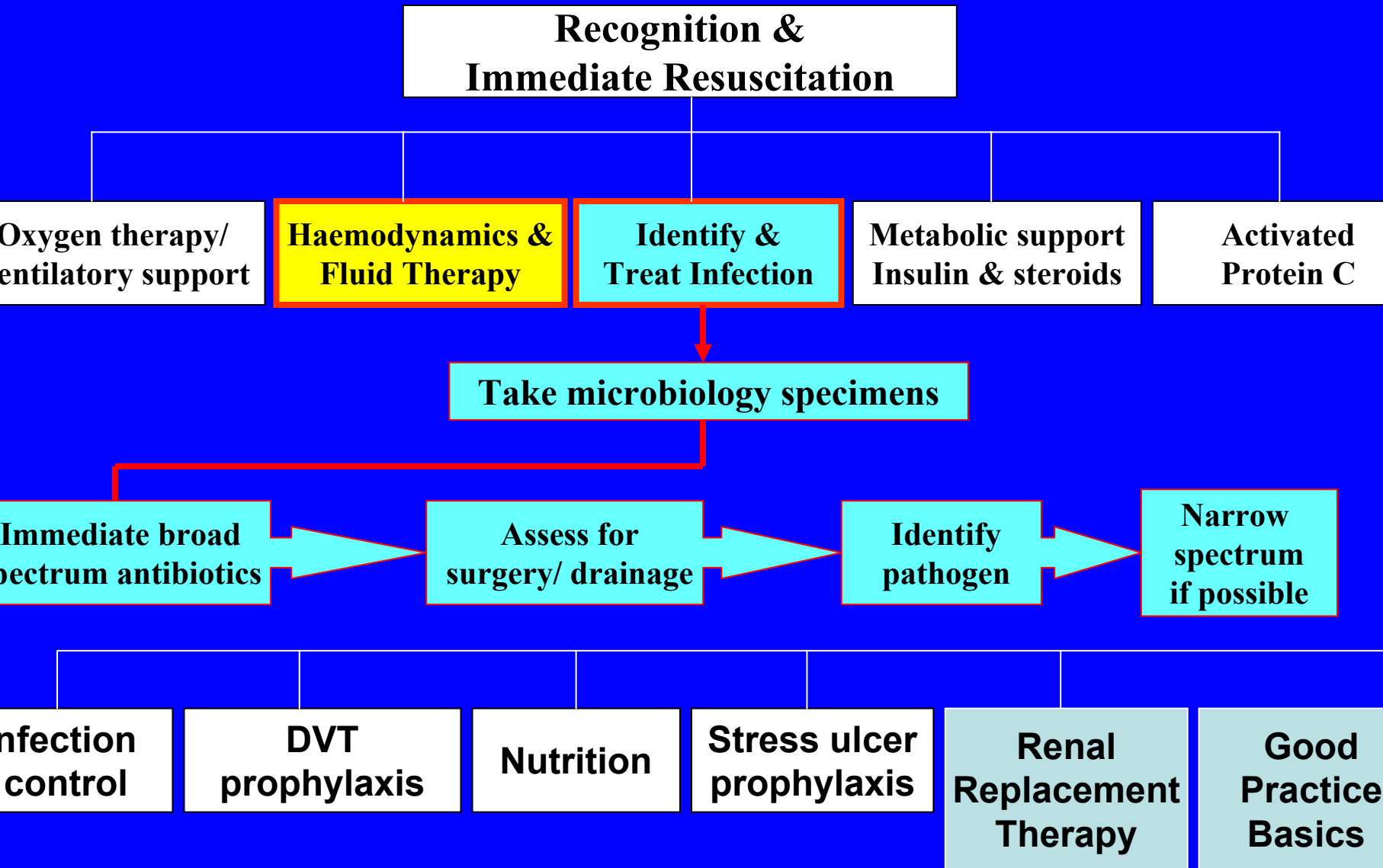
Adjunctive therapy

Support organs

- Ventilation
- Low Tidal Volume*
- CRRT

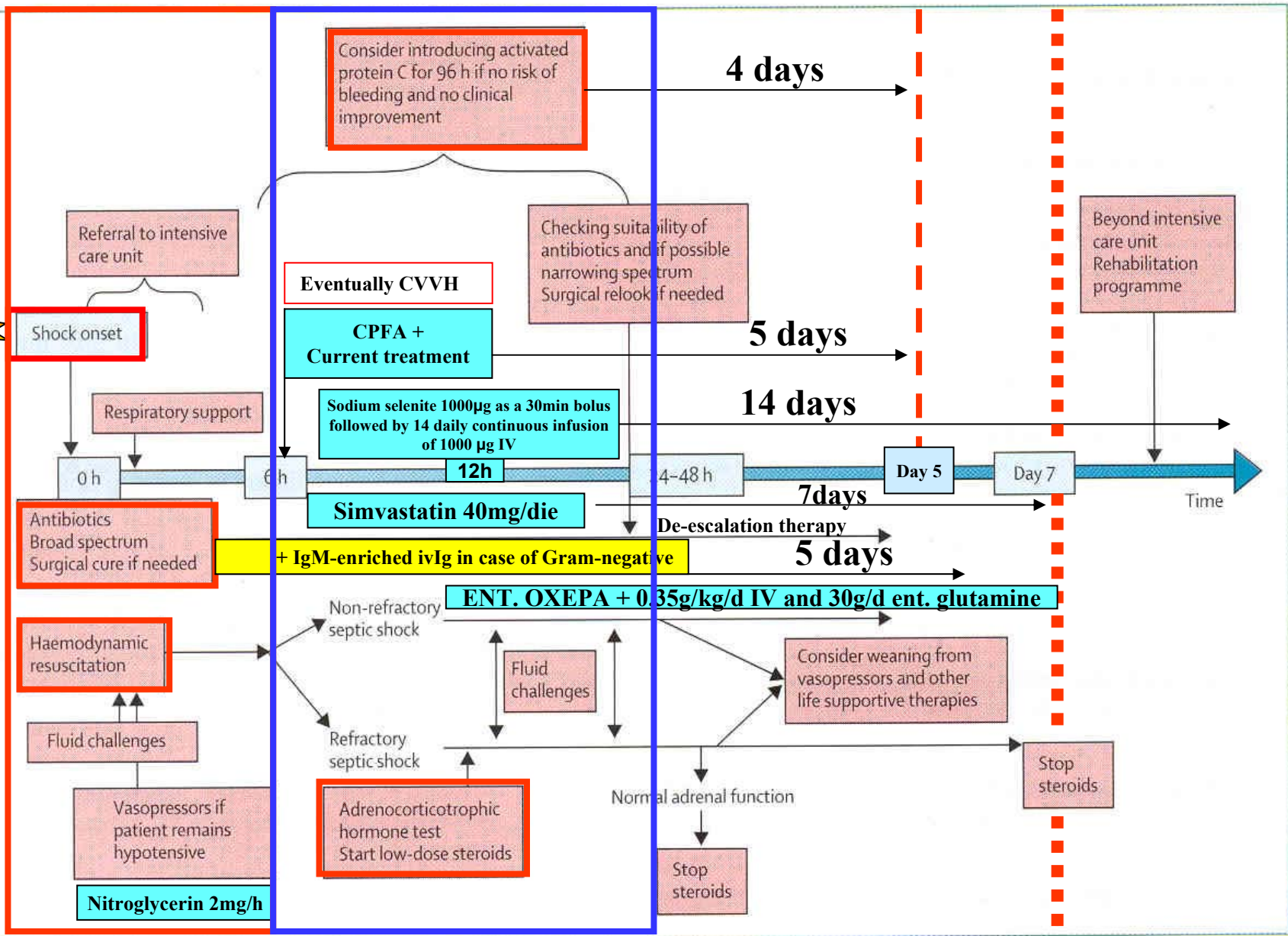
Supportive therapy

Overall approach to severe sepsis patients



0 hours

24 hours



Principles of treatment in Septic Shock

IMMUNOLOGICAL MONITORING

Unfortunately, at present, we cannot rapidly measure the patient's ability to produce appropriate inflammatory response, as opposed to an excessive or inadequate response

Immunological competence

HLA-DR+monocytes, TNF/IL-12, IL-10, IL-10/TNF α

CD-13/CD14HLA-DR

Th1/Th2

Inflammation

TNF, IL-6, IL-8 plasmatic,

IL-8(BAL), CRP

MBL and EndoCab

Infection

Procalcitonin

Neopterin

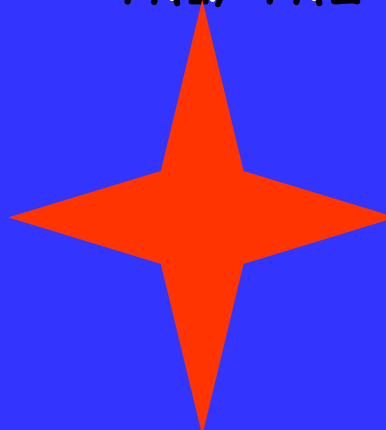
TREM-1

Septi Fast

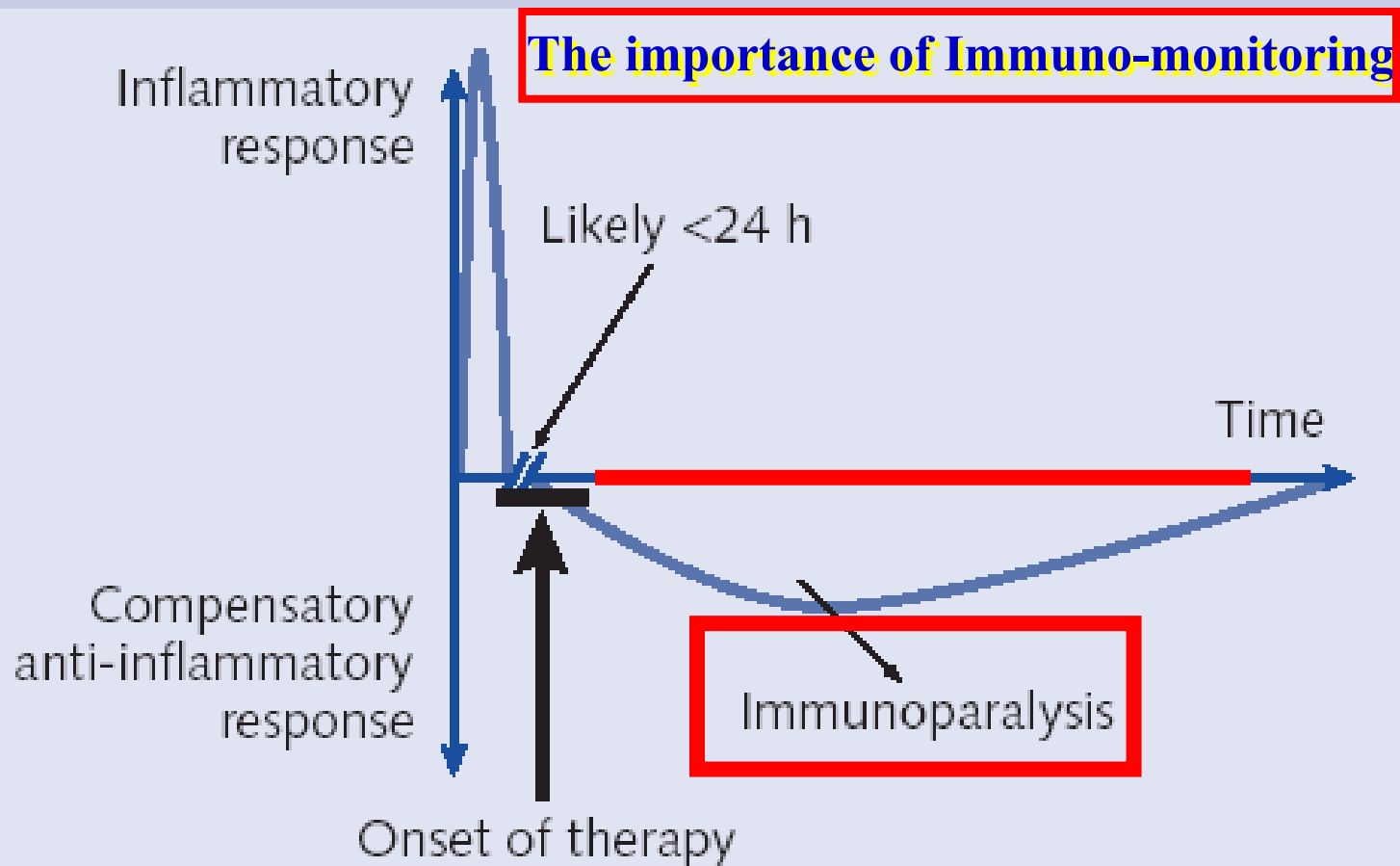
Tissue injury

IL-6, E-Selectin (plasmatic)

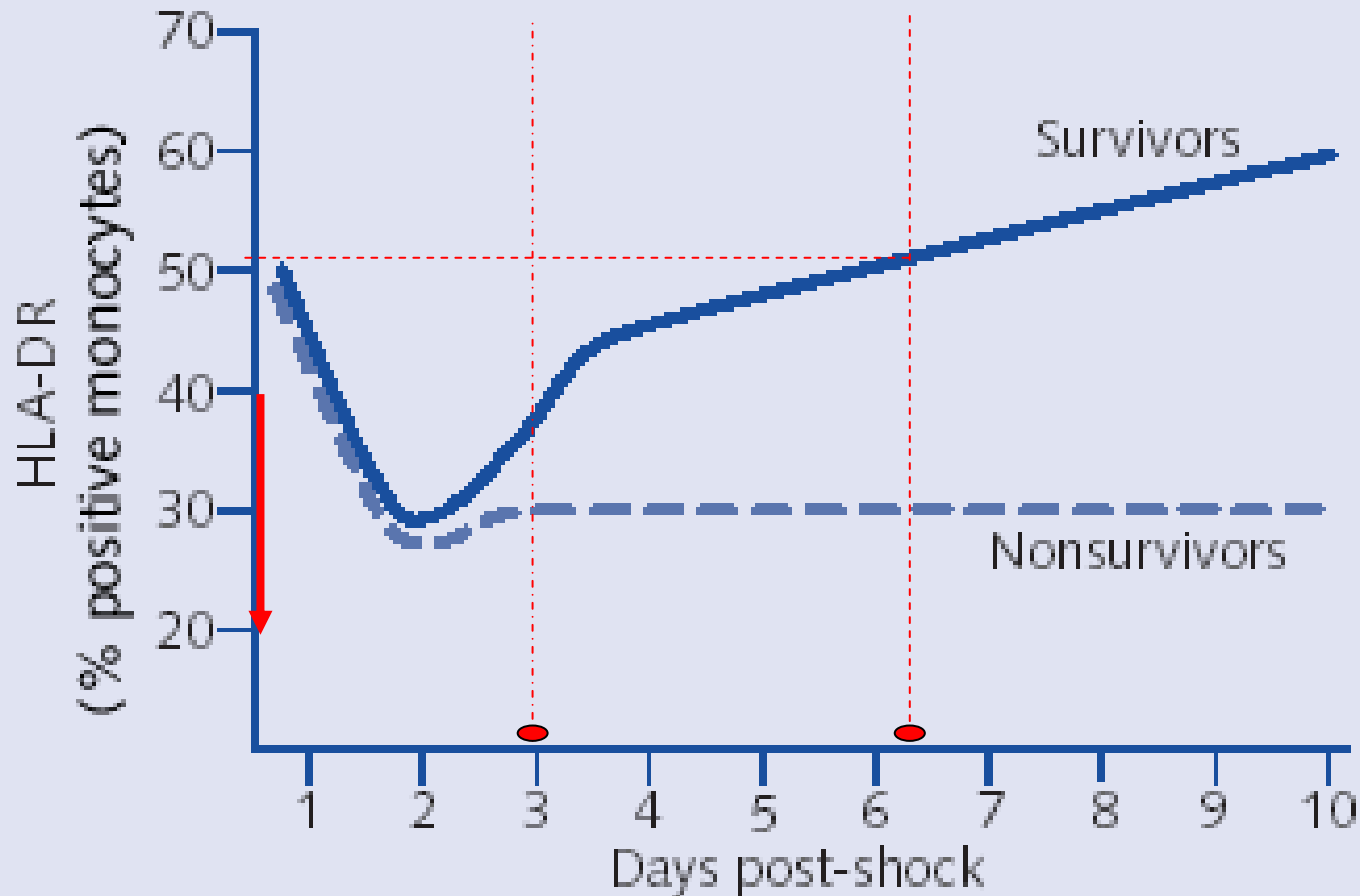
s-Thrombomodulin, s-VWF



→ Simplified description of the pro- and anti-inflammatory responses after septic shock. At the onset of therapy most patients are already immunoparalyzed and anti-inflammatory drugs may be deleterious.



Schematic representation of monocyte HLA-DR expression in patients with septic shock over time

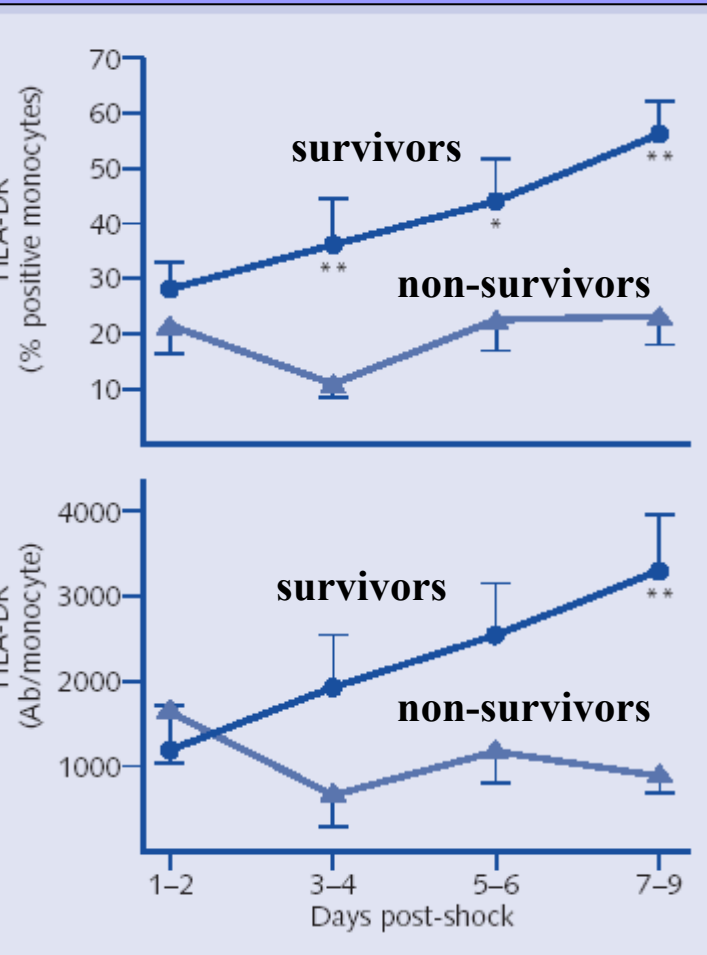


HLA-DR: human leukocyte antigen type DR.

HOW TO IDENTIFY SYSTEMIC SEPSIS-INDUCED IMMUNOPARALYSIS

Guillermo Monnet, Advances in Sepsis 2005; 4: 12-9

Changes in HLA-DR expression on monocytes from patients with septic shock. Results are expressed as the mean percentage of monocytes expressing HLA-DR (top) and as the number of antibodies bound per cell (bottom) in patients who survived (n= 22, ●) or died (n=16, ▲)



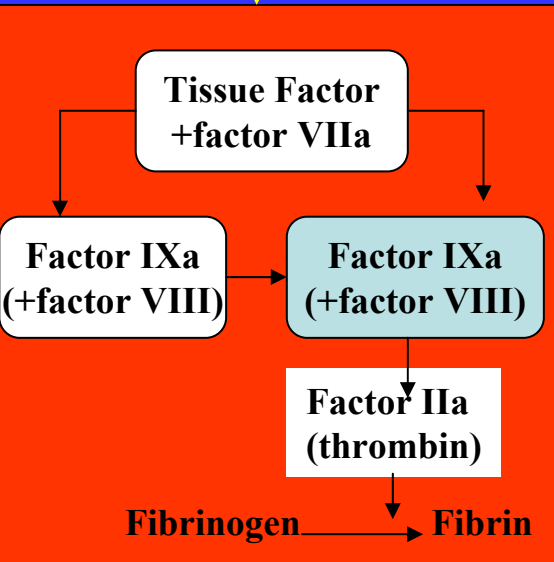
- TNF-α
- Whole blood TNF-α response to LPS
- IL-6
- IL-10
- IL-10/TNF-α
- Total lymphocytes
- CD3 T lymphocytes
- CD4 T lymphocytes
- CD4CD25 (Treg)
- CD4CD25
- γδ T lymphocytes
- Other (including B, CD8,NK)

*p < 0.05 vs. nonsurvivors; **p < 0.001 vs. nonsurvivors.

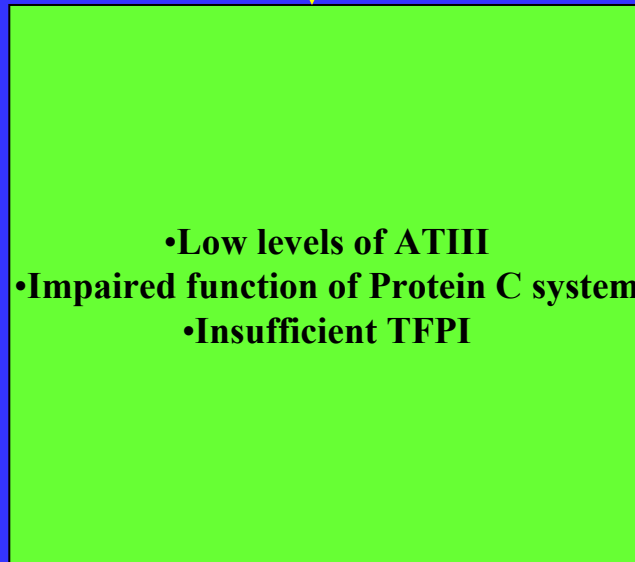
antibodies; HLA-DR: human leukocyte antigen type DR.

SEPSIS

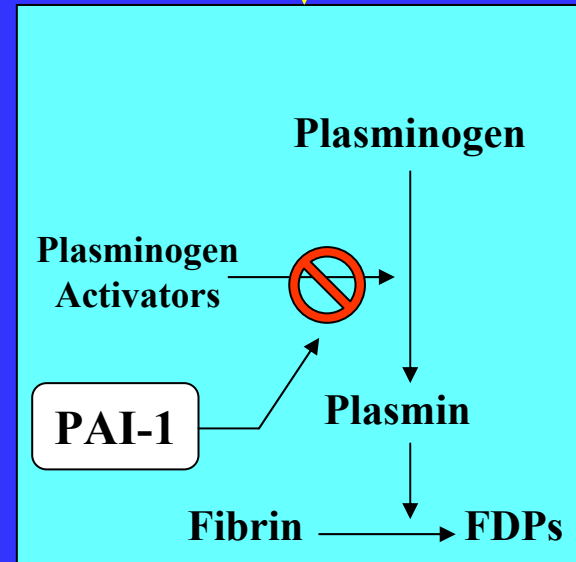
Cytokines



Generation of thrombin mediated by tissue factor



Impairment of anticoagulation pathways



Suppression of fibrinolysis By PAI-1

Formation of Fibrin

Inadequate removal of Fibrin

Thrombosis of small and midsize vessels

MONITORING OF COAGULATION PARAMETERS

global and dynamic

Global coagulation parameters	Turn-over coagulation parameters	Endothelial function	Platelets function
PT	*FM	*levels of soluble Thrombomodulin	*platelets aggregation with PRP
APTT	*TAT	*levels of Von Willebrand factor and Von Willebrand CAB	*PFA-100(ADP)
TT	*F1+2	*endothelial protein C receptor (ECPR)	*plasmatic levels of PF-4
ATIII	*D-dimers	*activated Protein C	*plasmatic levels of Beta-TG
Fibrinogen	*tPA	*protein S	
platelets count	Antigen/activity *PAP	*C4bBP	
TEG	Antigen/activity *PAI-1	*AT antigen	
ROTEM			

1. Risk assessment: does the patient have an underlying disorder known to be associated with DIC?
yes = 2, no = 0

DIC SCORE

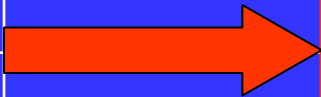
2. Major criteria

Platelet Count	$>100 \times 10^9 \text{ l}^{-1} = 0$	$<100 \times 10^9 \text{ l}^{-1} = 1$	Rising = -1	Stable = 0	Falling = 1
PT	$<3 \text{ s} = 0$	$>3 \text{ s} = 1$	Falling = -1	Stable = 0	Rising = 1
Prolongation Fibrin related-markers	Normal = 0	Raised = 1	Falling = -1	Stable = 0	Rising = 1

3. Specific criteria

Antithrombin	Normal = -1	Low = 1
Protein C	Normal = -1	Low = 1
.....	Normal = -1	Abnormal = 1

4. Calculate score:

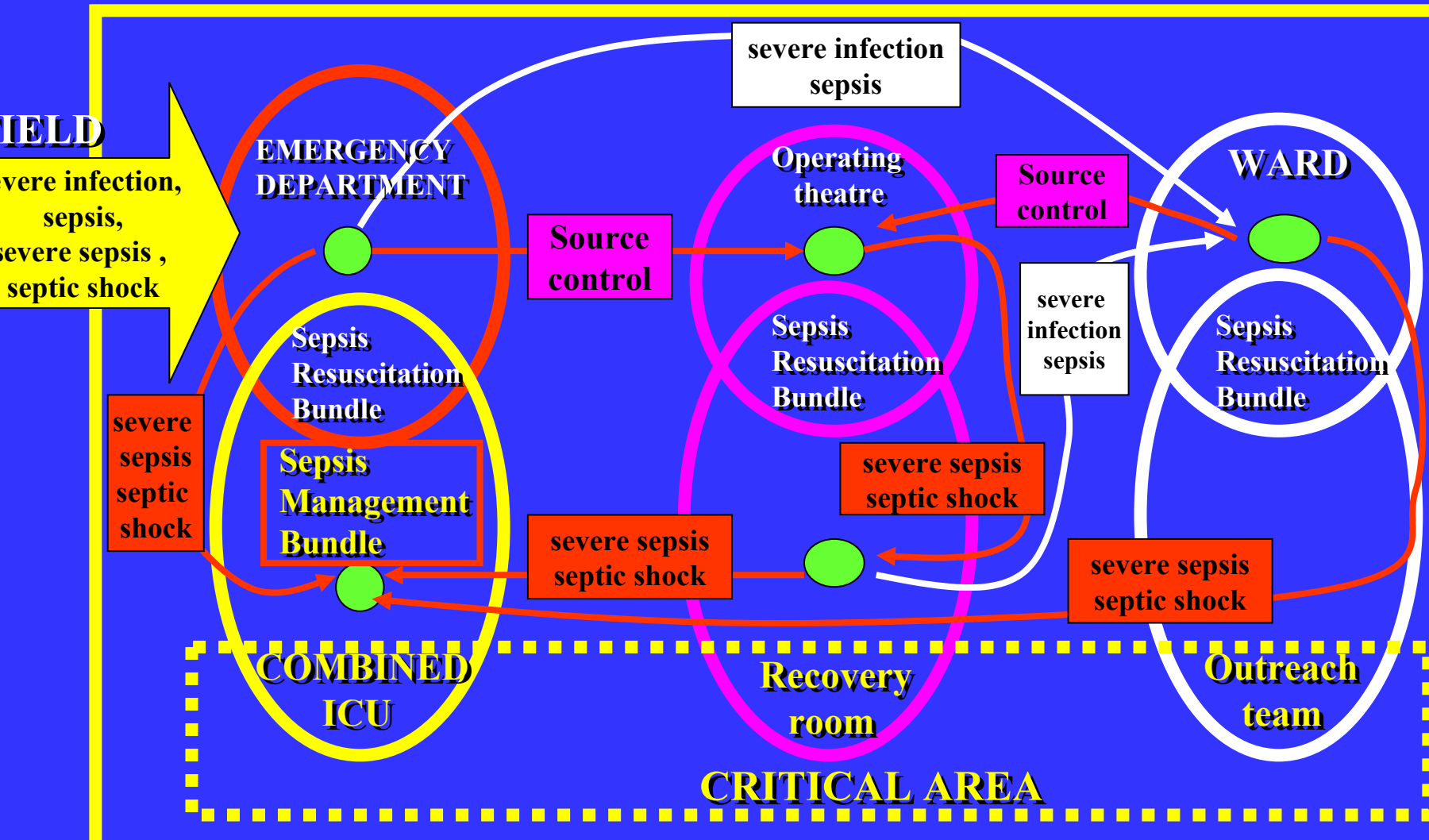


THE HOSPITAL ORGANISATION MUST CHANGE

THE EXTENDED ROLE OF THE INTENSIVIST

THE NEW ROLE OF THE ED PHYSICIAN

THE OUTREACH TEAM



Biologic therapy in clinical practice: enthusiasm must be tempered by caution

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a major cause of disability and is associated with significant mortality in its own right

The effects of therapy with traditional **Disease-Modifying-Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) on outcomes have previously left much to be desired. This is not surprising, given the poor understanding of pathological mechanisms underlying this disease at the molecular and cellular levels**

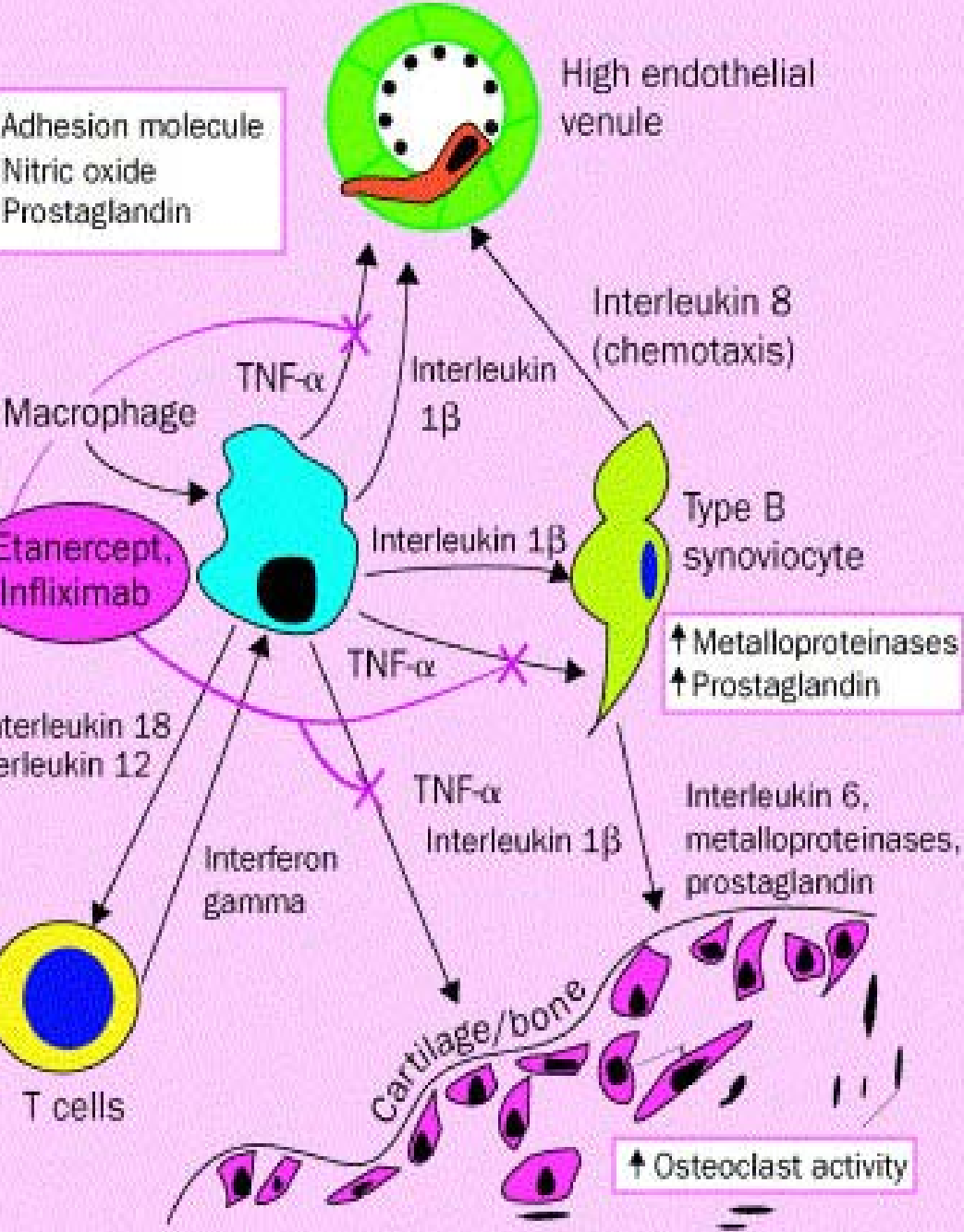
Prior P et al. Causes of death in RA Brit J Rheumatol 1984; 23:2-9

Vandenbroucke JP et al Survival and cause of death in RA: a 25 year prospective followup J Rheumatol 1984; 11:158-61

Mitchell DM et al Survival, prognosis and causes of death in RA Arthritis Rheum 1986; 29:706-14

Markenson JA Worldwide trends in the socio-economic impact and long term prognosis of RA Semin Arthritis Rheum 1991; 21(suppl 1):4-12

Wolfe F et al. The mortality of RA 1994;37:481-94



Rheumatoid Arthritis is regarded as a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by inflammation and subsequent destruction of joints.

In the traditional view, the inflammatory process starts in the synovial tissue, where an interaction of immunoglobulins mediators of inflammation and progressively specialized effector cells leads to the formation of pannus tissue that subsequently degrades bone (leading to erosions) and cartilage (leading to thinning and defects)

Biologic therapy in clinical practice: enthusiasm must be tempered by caution

Drugs currently licensed for use in RA that inhibit these inflammatory molecules - etanercept, infliximab, adalimumab (TNF- α) and anakinra (IL-1 β) – have been shown clearly to be effective in reducing disease activity

The efficacy of the anti-tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) agents infliximab, etanercept and adalimumab in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (to reduce disease activity and progression of joint damage) has been demonstrated in large scale trials

The success in clinical trials is the more impressive given that they have tended to be used in patients who had previously failed to respond to a number of conventional DMARDs

Maini R et al. Infliximab (chimeric anti-tumour necrosis factor alpha monoclonal antibody) vs placebo in rheumatoid arthritis patients receiving concomitant methotrexate: a randomised phase III trial. ATTRACT Study Group. Lancet 1999; 354: 1932-9

Lipsky PE et al Infliximab and methotrexate in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Anti-tumor necrosis factor trial in rheumatoid arthritis with concomitant therapy study group. N Engl J Med 2000; 343: 1594-602

Weinblatt ME et al A trial of etanercept, a recombinant tumor necrosis factor receptor :Fc fusion protein, in patients with rheumatoid arthritis receiving methotrexate. N Engl J Med 1999; 340: 253-9

Moreland LW et al Etanercept therapy in rheumatoid arthritis. A randomized controlled trial. Ann Intern Med 1999

	Infliximab (Remicade*)	Etanercept (Enbrel*)	Adalimumab (Humira*)
Year of FDA approval	1998	1998	2002
Molecular description	Chimeric monoclonal antibody derived from mouse-human antibodies	Monoclonal antibody derived from human antibodies	Monoclonal antibody derived from human antibodies
Mechanism(s) of action	Binds to TNF- α and inhibits it from binding with its receptor; induces apoptosis of monocytes and other TNF- α -expressing cells	“Decoy” receptor for TNF- α	Binds to TNF- α and inhibits it from binding with its receptor; lyses surface TNF- α -expressing cells <i>in vitro</i> in the presence of complement
Usual dosage/route of administration [†]	Induction doses of 3 mg/kg IV at 0, 2, and 6 wk, followed by 3–10 mg/kg IV every 8 wk	25 mg SC twice weekly	40 mg SC every 2 wk
Mean terminal half-life	10 days	4 days	14 days

Abbreviations: IV = intravenous; SC = subcutaneously.

*See Introduction for manufacturer information.

[†]Dosage may vary by disease and clinical response to therapy.

Infliximab (REMICADE Schering-Plough)

Etanercept (ENBREL Wyeth)

Adalimumab (HUMIRA Abbott)

Anakinra (KINERET Amgen) recombinant form of the antagonist receptor of IL-1(IL-1Ra)

Efalizumab (RAPTIVA Genentech) anticor

Klinkhoff A Biological agents for rheumatoid arthritis Drugs 2004; 64:1267-1283

Properties of currently available anti-TNF α agents

	TNF- α inhibitor		
Drug properties	Infliximab	Etanercept	Adalimumab
Structure	Mouse human chimeric IgG1k anti-TNF α monoclonal antibody	Two p75 TNF α soluble receptors fused to the Fc portion of IgG1	Fully humanized IgG1k antiTNF α monoclonal antibody
Target	TNF α	TNF α ; lymphotoxina	TNF α
Affinity	Soluble and transmembrane TNF α	Soluble TNF α	Soluble and transmembrane TNF α
Immune actions	Monocyte and T cell apoptosis, lysis of TNF expressing cells	Antiapoptotic agent, possible long term effects on monocytes, no lysis of TNF expressing cells	Possible effects on apoptosis, monocytes and natural killer cells, lysis of TNF expressing cells
Half life (d)	8.0-9.5	4.0-5.0	12.0-14.0
Dosing/route	Every 15-60 d/intravenous	Every 3-4 d to every week/subcutaneous	Every 7-14 d/subcutaneous
Dosing regimen	<p>RA (with MTX) Induction:3mg/kg at 0,2,6wk Maintenance:3mg/kg every 8wk If response incomplete, dose can be adjusted as high as 10mg/kg every 4 wk</p> <p>PsA (with or without MTX)AS,PP Induction: 5mg/kg at 0,2,6 wk Maintenance:5mg/kg every 8 wk</p> <p>CD,UC Induction:5mg/kg at 0,2,6 wk Maintenance:5mg/kg every 8 wk</p>	<p>RA,PsA,AS 50 mg/wk If two 25-mg injections are chosen, they can be given 3-4 d apart</p> <p>JRA 0.8mg/kg weekly up to 50 mg</p> <p>PP 50 mg semiweekly</p>	<p>RA,PsA,AS 40mg semimonthly RA patients not taking MTX can increase dose to 40 mg/wk</p> <p>CD Induction : 160mg at 0 wk (single dose or two 80mg doses daily) Maintenance: 40mg every other week starting at wk 4</p>
Duration of therapy	Usually protracted	Usually protracted	Usually protracted
Indications	RA,PsA,AS,CD,UC,PP	RA,PsA,AS,JRA,PP	RA,PsA,AS,CD

Biologic therapy in clinical practice: enthusiasm must be tempered by caution

Pro-inflammatory cytokines have not evolved merely to cause RA

They are essential components of physiological homeostasis and the immune system in particular, with important roles in defence against infections and tumours

One can therefore predict that the chronic inhibition of these cytokines, which appears to be required for effective therapy in RA , might result in an increased incidence of infections or tumours in some patients

Such potential adverse effects have been investigated carefully in the various clinical trials but not found to be a particular problem

Lipsky PE et al Infliximab and methotrexate in the treatment of RA. Anti-TNF α trial in RA with concomitant therapy study group N Engl J med 2000;343:1594-602

Bathon JM et al A comparison of etanercept and methotrexate in patients with early RA N Engl J Med 2000;343:1586-93

Klareskog L et al Global safety and efficacy of up to five years of etanercept (enbrel) therapy in RA Arthritis Rheum 2001; 44(suppl):S77

Kavanaugh A et al Long term follow up of patients treated with remicade (Infliximab) in clinical trials Arthritis Rheum 2001;44(suppl):S81

Major Safety Issues Associated With Biologic Therapy in RA

- Infections and serious infections
- Tuberculosis/opportunistic infections
- Lymphoma and other malignancies
- Demyelinating diseases
- Lupus-like syndromes/ANA formation
- CHF
- Immunogenicity
- Infusion/injection reactions

Focus on
the "Big 3"

THE BIG 3

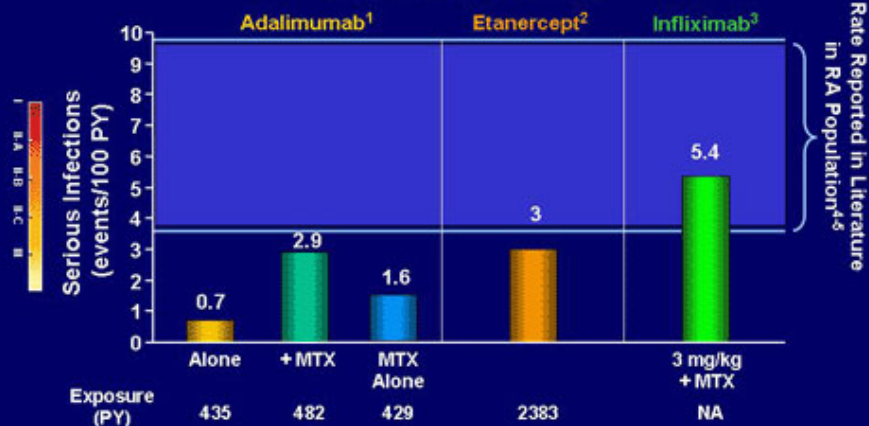
Serious Infection Rates in RA Clinical Trials

	Etanercept*	Infliximab*	Adalimumab
PYs of Exposure	8336	2458	4870
	Incidence Per 100 PYs		
TNF Antagonist	4	3	4†
Placebo	4	3	2

Serious infection rates have been similar to rates in patients receiving placebo and have been stable over time

*Includes clinical trials pre-approval and post-approval; †4.9 after recoding per MedDRA database. ‡ = patient-years; TNF = tumor necrosis factor. § Presented at FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee Meeting, March 2003; Kavanaugh A, et al. *Clin Exp Rheumatol.* 2003;21:S203-8.

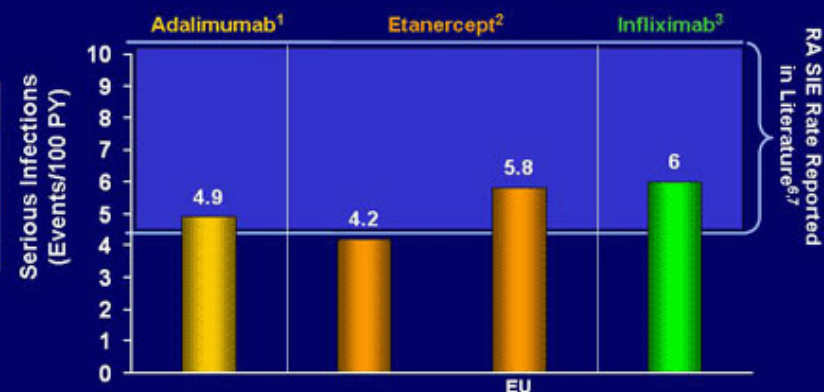
Serious Infections in Early RA Clinical Trials



MTX = methotrexate; NA = not available.

1. Schiff MH, et al. Presented at: EULAR Annual Meeting; June 8-11, 2005; Vienna, Austria; 2. Leibold, et al. Presented at: 63rd Annual Meeting of AAD; February 18-22, 2005; New Orleans, LA; 3. Conservative est. assuming 54-wk drug exposure for all pts (ie, 21 infections in 386 PY exposure) St Claire E, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2004;50:3432-43; 4. Singh G, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 1999;42:S242; 5. Doran M, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2002;46:2287-2293.

Serious Infections in Long-standing RA Clinical Trials



EU = European Union data; SIE = serious infectious event.

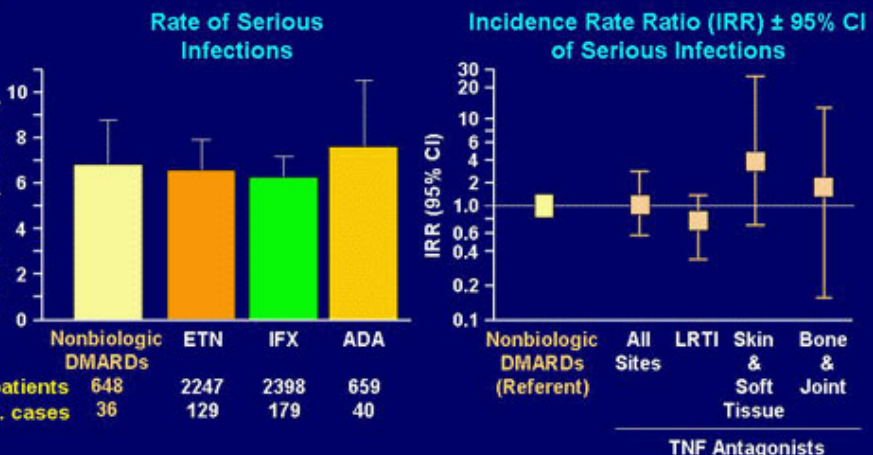
1. Schiff MH, et al. Presented at: EULAR Annual Meeting; June 8-11, 2005; Vienna, Austria. 2. Leibold, et al. Presented at: 63rd Annual Meeting of AAD; February 18-22, 2005; New Orleans, LA; 3. FDA Safety Review (line) accessed 2003; 4. Emery P, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2006;54:1390-1400; 5. Genovese MC, et al. Presented at: ACR; November 10-15, 2006; Washington, DC. Abstract 498. 6. Singh G, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.*

Serious Infectious Events (SIE) With TNF Inhibitors

Summary From Pivotal Trials

SIE Rates From Package Inserts	TNF Inhibitor	Placebo
Adalimumab	2%	1%
Etanercept	1%	1%
Infliximab	5.3%	3.4%

HUMIRA (adalimumab) [package insert]. Abbott Park, IL; Abbott Laboratories; 2008; ENBREL (etanercept) [package insert]. Thousand Oaks, CA; Immunex Corporation; 2006; REMICADE



No difference in the rates of serious infections between patients receiving TNF antagonists and patients receiving traditional DMARDs

IFX = adalimumab; ETN = etanercept; IFX = infliximab; LRTI = lower respiratory tract infection. Dixon W, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005;52:S738. Abstract 1990; Dixon W, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2006;54:2368-76.

Risk of Infections With TNF Blockers: CORRONA Database

- 5596 RA patients (6,17 PY)
- 3012 on TNF (2722 PY) 54%
- IFX 48%, ETN 40%, ADA 12%

Variable	Adjusted RR (95% CI)
TNF Blocker	1.16 (1.06, 1.28)
ACR Functional Class > 2	1.32 (1.19, 1.48)
Erosion	1.16 (1.04, 1.28)
Diabetes	1.27 (1.08, 1.50)
Lung disease	1.37 (1.18, 1.58)
Smoking	1.63 (1.46, 1.83)

Maury E, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005;52:S547 [Abstract 1453].

Selected Serious Infections in Elderly RA Patients

Hazard Ratios for Hospitalized Infection*

	Age, gender Adjusted HR	Multivariate Adjusted HR	Propensity score Adjusted HR
TNF antagonist			
Pneumonia	1.4 (0.7–2.9)	0.9 (0.41–1.9)	0.7 (0.3–1.9)
Bacteremia	1.0 (0.5–2.1)	1.2 (0.6–2.3)	1.3 (0.6–2.7)
Osteomyelitis	1.0 (0.3–4.3)	1.0 (0.3–4.3)	1.1 (0.2–4.8)
Glucocorticoids			
Pneumonia	2.4 (1.3–4.2)	2.1 (1.2–3.7)	1.9 (1.1–3.5)
Bacteremia	2.9 (1.8–4.5)	2.6 (1.6–4.1)	2.5 (1.6–4.0)
Osteomyelitis	1.5 (0.6–4.1)	1.4 (0.5–3.7)	1.3 (0.5–3.5)

*HR compared with MTX initiation (alone or in combination)

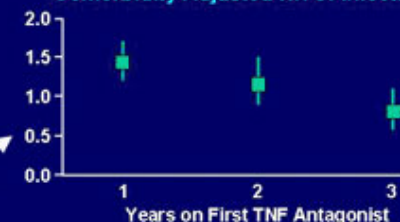
Conclusions:

- No increased risk in infections in patients on anti-TNF compared to MTX
- Prednisone use confers significant, dose-related risk of infection

TNF-Antagonist Treatment and Risk of Hospitalization for Infection

- ARTIS database in Sweden
 - 4167 biologic-treated RA pts 1999–2003
 - IFX 64%, ETN 40%, ADA 13%, 56% prednisone, 70% DMARDs
 - 44,946 hospitalized RA patients
- 367 infection hospitalizations in 7776 PY on TNF inhibitor
 - TNF = 4.7 per 100 PY
- Infection risk increased in 1st year (RR 1.43)
- Predictors of infection risk: age, HAQ, DMARDs, comorbidities

Comorbidity Adjusted RR of Infection



Conclusion:

- 30% increased risk of infection on anti-TNF was only seen in 1st year
- No increase in mortality
- Risk decreases with duration of treatment (RR = 0.82 after 2 yrs)

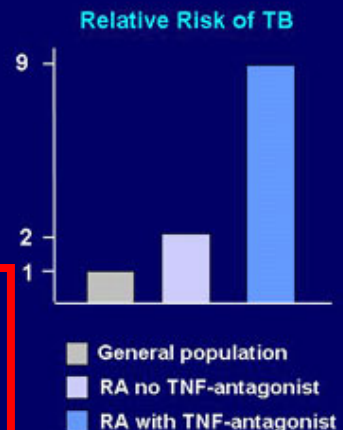
HAQ = health assessment questionnaire

	RR (age/sex/propensity score-matched)
Infections	1.63 (1.28–2.07)
COPD	1.52 (0.96–2.42)
Diabetes	1.43 (0.94–2.18)
CVD	1.61 (1.24–2.07)
MTX	0.91 (0.69–1.20)
Other DMARDs	1.45 (1.0–2.12)

TB Risk and TNF Antagonists in RA

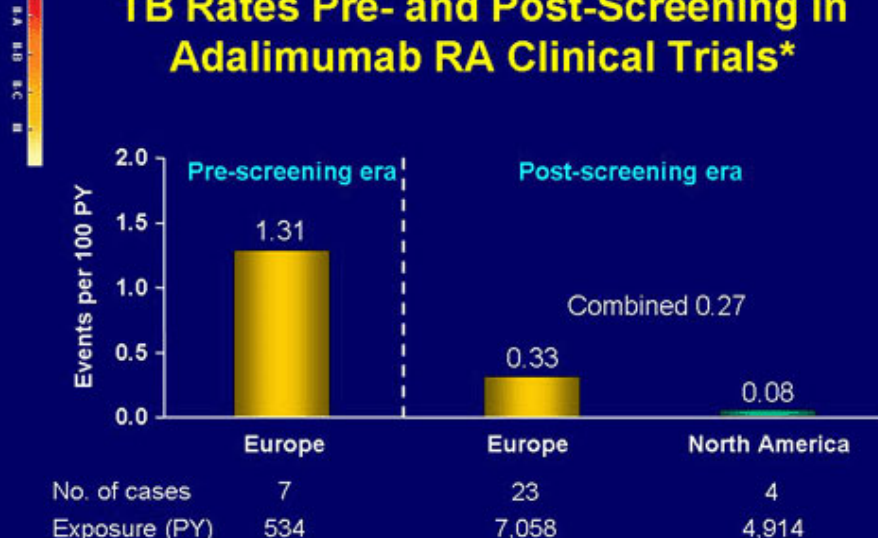
RA Swedish database

- 1999-2001
No screening for latent TB
- 31,185 patients (2500 anti-TNF)
- Patients with RA have 2-fold increase of TB
- The above risk is magnified 4-fold with the addition of anti-TNF medication
- Both etanercept and infliximab increased risk



= tuberculosis.
ding J, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005;52:1986-92.

TB Rates Pre- and Post-Screening in Adalimumab RA Clinical Trials*



*Through April 15, 2005. Data from RA clinical trials with adalimumab, including OLEs, and ACT and ReA. Schiff MH, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2006;65:889-894.

Tuberculosis: Postmarketing Safety Data for TNF Antagonists in RA

	Etanercept ¹	Infliximab ¹	Adalimumab ² (US only)
Time period	→ 12/03	→ 10/03	12/02–12/04
Number of patients treated	230,000	277,000	NA
Exposure (patient-years)	423,000	466,000	55,384
Number of TB reports	38	242	11
Geography (n)			
USA	26	90	11
Non-USA	12	152	—
Characteristics (%)			
Extrapulmonary	34	30–45	73
Miliary	16	—	27
Events per 100 patient-years	0.01	0.05	0.02

Keystone EC. *J Rheumatol.* 2005;32:8-12.

Tuberculin Skin Testing Options: 2 > 1 > 5 > 3 > 4

2. PPD now; come back Monday to you (96 hrs)
1. Come back on Monday and place PPD
5. Start TNF inhibitor now; do PPD at next visit (~3 mo)
3. PPD now; go to Doc-in-Box near home in 48–72 hrs
4. PPD now; patient will call you Saturday with results

Best
↓
Worst

- The best/most accurate PPD is one placed and read by you, the health care professional
- Studies show PPD reactivity is reliable for a week
- Alternatively effective when read by another health care worker
- Patient-reported findings are VERY unreliable

Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

On the basis of these data, it was assumed that the incidence and severity of infections were not markedly increased under treatment with these agents when compared with other data on infections in RA

Prior P et al Cause of death in rheumatoid arthritis Br J rheumatol 1984; 23:92-9

Van den Borne et al No increased risk of malignancies and mortality in cyclosporin-A treated patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 1998; 41:1930-7

Doran MF et al Frequency of infection in patients with rheumatoid arthritis compared with controls: a population based study. Arthritis Rheum 2002; 46:2287-93

Anti-TNF- α therapy has been associated with the reactivation of tuberculosis, again raising concerns that infections may pose a significant threat

Keane J et al Tuberculosis associated with infliximab, a tumor necrosis factor alpha neutralizing agent. N Engl J Med 2001; 345: 1098-104

Risk of serious bacterial infections among RA patients exposed to TNF α antagonists

Jeffrey R Curtis et al Arthritis and Rheumatism 2007; 56: 1125-1133

The multivariate adjusted risk of hospitalization with a physician confirmed definite bacterial infection was ~2-fold higher overall and 4-fold higher in the first 6 months among patients receiving TNF α antagonists versus those receiving MTX alone

RA patients were at increased risk of serious infections, irrespective of the method used to define an infectious outcome

Older age, diabetes mellitus and preexisting pulmonary disease place patients at particular risk

Patients and physicians should vigilantly monitor for signs of infection when using TNF α antagonists, particularly shortly after treatment initiation

Serious Bacterial Infections Occur Early With TNF Antagonist Use

Goal

Determine risk of serious bacterial infections in TNF-inhibitor-treated patients with RA from a large health care cohort

N

Health organization database cohort of patients with RA TNF 2393 (3894 PY) vs MTX 2933 (4846 PY)

Patients/Measures

RA: Female 73%, median F/U 17 mo, Dx of RA and serious bacterial infections (ICD9 codes x2), confirmed by trained nurse chart review and 2 infectious disease MDs

Results

	N	PY	DM	COPD	Pred	Infect
TNF	2393	3894	8%	8%	56%	2.7%
MTX	2933	4846	10%	9%	56%	2.0%

Conclude

Multivariate relative risk of bacterial infection in TNF-inhibitor-treated RA = 1.9 (1.3–2.8); risk was greatest in 1st 6 mos. RR 4.2 (2.0–8.8)

Listing J, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2007;56:1125-33.

CURTIS J

Serious Infections in RA Patients Treated With Infliximab or Etanercept: Data From the RABBIT Study

- Patients with RA enrolled in German Society of Rheumatology Biologics Registry
- 1459 patients from May 2001 until Sept 2003;
 - ETN (n = 512), IFX (n = 346), control RA DMARD patients (n = 601)
- Risk of infection adjusted for disease activity (higher in anti-TNF treated)

Relative risk (RR) of infections compared to control

	Etanercept		Infliximab	
	Adjusted RR	95% CI	Adjusted RR	95% CI
All infections	2.3	1.4–3.9	3.0	1.8–5.1
Serious infections	2.1	0.9–5.4	2.1	0.8–5.5

Listing J, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2005;52:3403-12.

LISTING J

Serious Infections With Anti-TNF Treatment

Frequency of Serious Infections in Anti-TNF-treated Patients

Observational RA Population	Rate/100 PY	Adjusted Relative Rate*
RABBIT: Listing et al. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2005	6.3	2.2
SRBR: Dixon et al. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2006	5.3	1.0
CURTIS: Askling et al. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> 2007	5.4*	1.4
Curtis JR, et al. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2007	2.9 [†]	1.9
Schneeweiss S, et al. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> 2007	2.2	1.0

*Compared with MTX-treated or DMARD-treated patients with RA.

[†]Compared with MTX treatment alone.

RA and Serious Infections

- Infection is a major cause of morbidity and mortality
- The best predictor of serious infection events (SIE) and infectious deaths is:
 - RA severity/disease activity
 - Corticosteroid therapy
 - Comorbid diseases: CHF, CRF, IDDM, COPD, etc.
 - Skin infection, role of skin breakdown in SIE
 - Joint surgery
- Contributory role of DMARDs [MTX, Au, LEF] has NOT been established

SIE: Is There a Difference Between RCTs and Observational Studies of RA?

	Randomized, Controlled Trials	Observational
Patient selection	Very severe RA only	Varied, no restrictions; more comorbidities and drugs
Steroid use	Stable, limited to low dose	No restrictions
Comorbidities	Excluded	Common (> 50%)
Is there a significant risk of SIE with TNF inhibitor use?	No	Yes/small

Biologic therapy in clinical practice: enthusiasm must be tempered by caution

Recently, etanercept and infliximab have been subjected to scrutiny by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK

Its appraisal recommended that these drugs could be used in refractory RA, following strict guidelines drawn up by the British Society for Rheumatologists(BSR)

The approval by NICE means that the use of these drugs will increase significantly and this is most welcome

Nevertheless, the more widespread availability of such drugs will have implications for the workload and working practice of those who use them

Controlled trials have shown no overall increase in the risk of serious sepsis with these agents

Postmarketing surveillance has identified an increased risk of reactivation of tuberculosis in patients taking infliximab and has led to new guidelines to prevent this

NICE technology appraisal guidance N°36. Guidance on the use of etanercept and infliximab for the treatment RA. London NICE 2002

British Society for Rheumatology. Guidelines for prescribing TNF blockers in adults with RA. Report of a working party of the BSR London BSR 2000

Keane J et al Tuberculosis associated with infliximab, a TNF α neutralizing agent N Engl J Med 2001; 343: 1008-1014

Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

In addition to the existing warnings of potential infections under etanercept and infliximab contained in the package insert, in the case of the latter the FDA-USA requested the addition of a **black box with recommendations concerning tuberculosis**

Postmarketing surveys have not revealed significant problems with serious infections under anti-TNF- α therapy

The Committee on Safety of Medicine (UK) advises caution with infliximab use in light of the reports on reactivation of tuberculosis

Committee on Safety on Medicines . Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance 2001; 27:7

Rheumatologists are aware of these risks and screen patients for sepsis prior to starting the drugs, especially tuberculosis and monitor patients for sepsis before each drug is given

Keane J et al Tuberculosis associated with infliximab, a tumor necrosis factor alpha neutralizing agent . N Engl J Med 2001; 345: 1098-104

Gomez-Reino JJ et al Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis with tumour necrosis factor inhibitors may predispose to significant increase in tuberculosis risk: a multicenter active surveillance report . Arthritis Rheum 2003; 48: 2122-7

Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

Patients with a predisposition to infection or chronic infection are ineligible for anti-TNF- α therapy

The British Society of Rheumatology has drawn up guidelines for these issues

GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING TNF- α BLOCKERS IN ADULTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Report of a Working Party of the British Society for Rheumatology

First edition 2nd April 2001

UPDATE ON THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING TNF α BLOCKERS IN ADULTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (UPDATE OF PREVIOUS GUIDELINES OF APRIL 2001)

Ledingham J et al Rheumatology 2005; 44: 157-163

UPDATING THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY GUIDELINES FOR ANTI-TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR THERAPY IN ADULT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (AGAIN)

Deighton CM et al Editorial Rheumatology 2006; 45: 649-652

BRS GUIDELINES FOR ANTI-TNF α THERAPY

Active disease	Disease Activity Score DAS > 5.1
Pretreatment	Failure of at least two DMARDs after adequate trial
Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Pregnancy or breast feeding•Active infection•High risk of infection (various identified)•Malignancy or premalignancy
Withdrawal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Adverse events•Lack of effect, DAS not improved by > 1.2 at >3 months

Infections associated with TNF- α antagonists

Clinical experience suggests that infection in general is an even greater cause for concern when these drugs are used in the general patient population

One of the striking features it has been noted is the rapidity of the onset of the infection

TNF- α plays an essential role in the immune-mediated response to infection, especially intracellular pathogens

Data supporting the association between TNF- α blockers and infection include

CASE REPORTS

EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES (meta-analysis etc.)

ANALOGOUS RESULTS FROM ANIMAL MODELS

Nancy E. Crum Medicine 2005: 84:291-302

Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

S. Kroesen and colleagues reviewed patient charts and records of the Infectious Disease Unit for serious infections in patients with RA in the 2 years preceding anti-TNF- α therapy and during therapy

Serious infections affected 18.3% of patients treated with infliximab or etanercept, the rates of serious infections in these patients are approximately twice as high as those reported in the efficacy studies or registered in postmarketing surveys

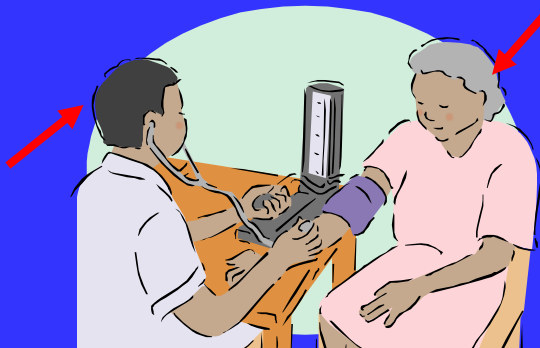
The incidence was 0.181 per anti-TNF- α treatment year versus 0.008 in the 2 years preceding anti-TNF- α therapy

In several cases, only a few signs or symptoms indicated the severity of developing infections, including Sepsis

Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

Patient and physician awareness must be tuned to recognize that the course of infections may be fulminant and that every effort must be made to clarify even slight alterations in well-being (*patients with RA, especially RA of long duration, have a record of fatigue and recurrent episodes of reduced well-being. They are used to managing these conditions without seeking medical attention. Likewise, physicians may be desensitized to potential warning signs.*) This is necessary because clinical and laboratory signs may be blunted by TNF- α blockade and by concomitant immunosuppressive medications

A physician highly suspicious of infectious complications



A well-informed patient

Rapid access to hospital



Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

Certain common features in the reported case series indicate how to identify infections early

- 1. a rise in the CPR level, in which case an infection must be ruled out immediately**
 - a. PCT**
 - b. PCR (SeptiFast)**
 - c. cultures**
- 2. positive blood cultures or synovial fluid cultures with pathogens of low pathogenicity (e.g. coagulase-negative staphylococci) must be taken seriously even though the patient's well-being is not or only slightly affected and laboratory results are normal**
- 3. once symptoms become clinically overt Severe Sepsis must be anticipated and rapid deterioration averted**

Serious bacterial infections in patients with rheumatoid arthritis under anti-TNF- α therapy

Considering the total number of treatments currently applied and the potential for a widening of indications for the use of anti-TNF- α agents , it is strongly recommended that institutions using these therapies provide safeguards 24 hours a day 7 days a week

Patient education is essential and may benefit from a structured programme

Finally, the question of immunization before the initiation of anti-TNF- α therapy must be considered (additional strategies for the prevention)

A well-informed patient, a physician highly suspicious of infectious complications and rapid access to health care (rapid identification and pre-emptive therapy of infections) will make it possible to take advantage of this new treatment option while minimizing potentially life-threatening complications

Anti-TNF antibody therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of serious infections and malignancies

***Systematic review and meta-analysis of rare harmful effects in RCTs
JAMA 2006; 295: 2275-2285***

Tim Bongartz and colleagues calculated a pooled odds ratio (Mantel-Haenszel methods with a continuity correction designed for sparse data) for malignancies and serious infections (infection that requires antimicrobial therapy and/or hospitalization) in anti-TNF treated patients versus placebo patients

They estimated effects for high and low doses separately

The pooled odds ratio for malignancy was 3.3 (95% CI 1.2-9.1) and for serious infection was 2.0 (95% CI 1.3-3.1)

Malignancies were significantly more common in patients treated with higher doses compared with patients who received lower doses of anti-TNF antibodies. For patients treated with anti-TNF antibodies in the included trials, the number needed to harm was 154 (95% CI 91-500) for one additional malignancy with a treatment period of 6 to 12 months.

For serious infections, the number needed to harm was 69 (95% CI 39-125) within a treatment period of 3 to 12 months

Anti-TNF antibody therapy in rheumatoid arthritis and the risk of serious infections and malignancies

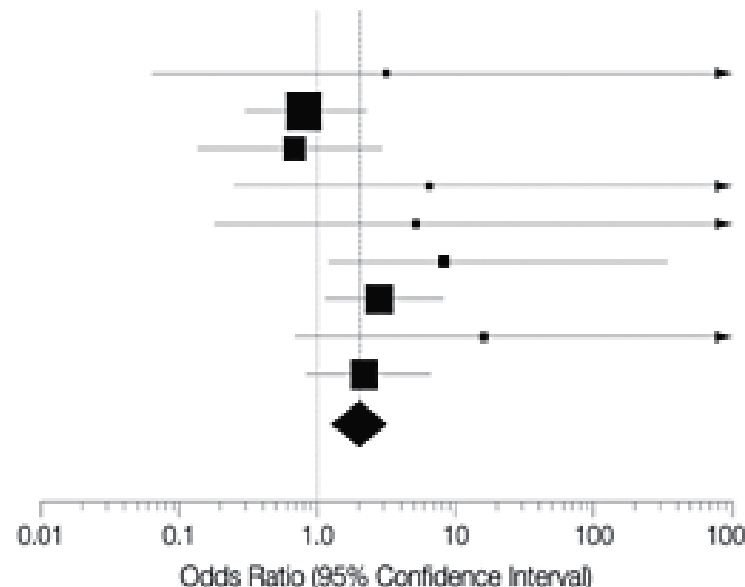
Systematic review and meta-analysis of rare harmful effects in RCTs

Tim Bongartz et al JAMA 2006; 295:2275-2285

There is evidence of an increased risk of serious infections and a dose-dependent increased risk of malignancies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis treated with anti-TNF antibody therapy

The formal meta-analysis with pooled sparse events data from randomized controlled trials serves as a tool to assess harmful drug effects

Source	Anti-TNF	Placebo	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)
Maini et al, ³² 1998	2/87	0/14	3.13 (0.06-Infinity)
Lipsky et al, ⁹ 2000	21/342	7/86	0.76 (0.30-2.18)
Furst et al, ⁸ 2003	4/318	6/318	0.66 (0.14-2.83)
Van de Putte et al, ¹⁰ 2003	4/214	0/70	6.33 (0.30-Infinity)
Weinblatt et al, ¹¹ 2003	3/209	0/82	4.93 (0.19-Infinity)
Keystone et al, ⁶ 2004	16/419	1/200	7.90 (1.21-332.96)
St Clair et al, ⁷ 2004	40/749	6/291	2.68 (1.11-7.81)
Van de Putte et al, ³³ 2004	11/434	0/110	15.34 (0.71-Infinity)
Westhovens et al, ³⁴ 2004	25/721	6/361	2.13 (0.84-6.39)
Total	126/3493	26/1512	2.01 (1.31-3.09)



Test for overall effect:
Mantel-Haenszel $\chi^2 = 9.1$; $P = .002$

Effect of Anti-TNF Antibody Therapy vs Control Therapy on Occurrence of 1 or More Serious Infections in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis

Table 4. Effect of Anti-TNF Antibody on Occurrence of 1 or More Malignancies or Serious Infections in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis, Stratified by Dose Group

Adverse Event	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)*			
	All Doses of Anti-TNF Antibody Therapy vs Placebo	Low-Dose Anti-TNF Antibody Therapy vs Placebo†	High-Dose Anti-TNF Antibody Therapy vs Placebo‡	High-Dose‡ vs Low-Dose† Anti-TNF Antibody Therapy
≥1 Malignancy	3.3 (1.2-9.1)	1.4 (0.3-5.7)	4.3 (1.6-11.8)	3.4 (1.4-8.2)
≥1 Serious infection	2.0 (1.3-3.1)	1.8 (1.1-3.1)	2.3 (1.5-3.6)	1.4 (1.0-2.0)

Abbreviation: TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

Pooled odds ratio based on a fixed-effects Mantel-Haenszel model for the all-doses estimate and based on high-dose/low-dose stratification.

† Infliximab, ≤3 mg/kg every 4 weeks, or adalimumab, 20 mg/wk.

‡ Infliximab, ≥6 mg/kg every 8 weeks, or adalimumab, 40 mg every other week.

Effect of Anti-TNF Antibody on Occurrence of 1 or More Malignancies or Serious Infections in Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis, Stratified by Dose Group

Rates of serious infection, including site-specific and bacterial intracellular infection in RA patients receiving anti-TNF therapy

In patients with active RA , anti-TNF therapy was not associated with increased risk of overall serious infection compared with DMARD treatment, after adjustment for baseline risk

There was no difference in infection risk between the 3 main anti-TNF drugs [etanercept – adjusted IRR 0.97 (0.63-1.50), infliximab - adjusted IRR 1.04 (0.68-1.61), adalimumab – adjusted IRR 1.07(0.67-1.72)

Dixon WG et al Arthritis and Rheumatism 2006; 54: 2368-2376

Rates of all serious infections

Dixon WG et al Arthritis and Rheumatism 2006; 54: 2368-2376

	DMARD	Anti-TNF
Person-years	1,352	9,868
Person-years per person, median (IQR)	0.94 (0.48-1.43)	1.26(0.75-1.96)
° of infections	56	525
Rate of infections/1,000 person-years (95%CI)	41.4 (31.4-53.5)	53.2 (48.9-57.8)
Incidence rate ratio (IRR) overall	Referent	1.28 (0.94-1.76)
Adjusted for age and sex	Referent	1.47 (1.07-2.01)
Adjusted for age, sex, disease severity, comorbidity, extrarticular manifestations, steroid use and smoking	Referent	1.03 (0.68-1.57)

Rates of all serious infections, by drugs

Dixon WG et al Arthritis and Rheumatism 2006; 54: 2368-2376

	DMARD	Etanercept	Infliximab	Adalimumab
Person-years	1,352	4,075	4,618	1,175
No of infections	56	209	255	61
Rate of infections/1,000 person-years (95%CI)	41.4(31.4-53.5)	51.3(44.7-58.5)	55.2(48.8-62.2)	51.9(39.9-66.2)
Adjusted Incidence Rate Ratio (IRR) for age, sex, disease severity, comorbidity, extrarticular manifestations, steroid use and smoking	Referent	0.97(0.63-1.50)	1.04(0.68-1.61)	1.07(0.67-1.72)

Rate of site-specific infections

The frequency of serious skin and soft tissue infections was increased in anti-TNF treated patients

	DMARD		anti.-TNF		
Site	N°	Incidence rate/ 1,000 person-years	N°	Incidence rate/ 1,000 person-years	Adjusted IRR (95%CI) Incidence rate ratio
RTI	36	26.6(18.7-36.7)	203	20.6(17.9-23.6)	0.77(0.46-1.31)
Skin and soft tissue	4	3.0(0.8-7.6)	118	12.0(9.9-14.3)	4.28(1.06-17.17)
Bone and joint	4	3.0(0.8-7.6)	68	6.9(5.4-8.7)	1.12(0.32-3.88)
Urinary tract	3	2.2(0.5-6.5)	45	4.6(3.3-6.1)	1.70(0.32-9.03)

Rates of serious infection, including site-specific and bacterial intracellular infection in RA patients receiving anti-TNF therapy

**In contrast , the rate of serious skin and soft tissue
infections was increased suggesting an important
physiologic role of TNF in host defense in the skin and
soft tissues beyond that in other tissues**

**19 serious bacterial intracellular infections occurred,
exclusively in patients in the anti-TNF treated cohort**

Dixon WG et al Arthritis and Rheumatism 2006; 54: 2368-2376

Details of bacterial intracellular infections

Patient age/sex	Ethnicity	Organism	Site of infection	Treatment	Months from treatment start date
/F	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Cervical lymph node	Infliximab	7
/F	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Colon	Infliximab	3
/M	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Omentum	Infliximab	2
/M	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Pleura	Infliximab	3
/F	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	LRT	Infliximab	16
/F	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Posterior pharyngeal wall	Adalimumab	11
/F	Pakistani	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Cervical lymph node	Infliximab	4
/M	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Meninges	Etanercept	2
/F	African Caribbean	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	LRT	Etanercept	9
/F	Not known	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Meninges	Infliximab	3
/M	Caucasian	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	LRT	Infliximab	32
/M	Caucasian	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	LRT	Infliximab	4
/M	Caucasian	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Meninges	Infliximab	2
/M	Caucasian	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Joint	Etanercept	0
/F	Caucasian	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Joint	Adalimumab	14
/F	Caucasian	<i>Mycobacterium fortuitum</i>	LRT	Etanercept	4
/F	Caucasian	<i>Salmonella sp</i>	Bowel and joint	Etanercept	9
/F	Caucasian	<i>Salmonella sp</i>	Joint	Infliximab	27
/F	Caucasian	<i>Salmonella sp</i>	Bowel	Etanercept	2

Suggested screening tests for potential infectious complications among TNF α antagonists recipients

Nancy F Crum et al *Medicine* 2005; 84:291-302

Infection	Recommended screening
tuberculosis	PPD at baseline* and every 12 months; baseline chest radiograph
histoplasmosis	Consider chest radiograph and urine histoplasmin antigen testing at baseline Consider follow up urine antigen testing every 3-4 months for patients who live in endemic areas
coccidioidomycosis	Chest radiograph and serologic testing with igM and IgG test at baseline Consider follow up testing every 3-4 months for patients who live in endemic areas
cryptococcus	No data
listeria	Patient education regarding food preparation and safety

Consider 2-step testing for initial PPD

& patients who currently live or have resided in endemic locations

Infections associated with TNF- α antagonists

Nancy F Crum et al Medicine 2005; 84:291-302

Since most complications arise within the first 3 months of infliximab therapy , frequent patient follow up during this time period is critical

All febrile or novel illnesses should be promptly evaluated

The exact data on the risk of infection remain limited, as most reports involve single cases or data collected by passive surveillance from the **Adverse Event Reporting System Database**

Prospective studies to assess the risk of infections among TNF α antagonist recipients are necessary to develop evidence-based consensus guidelines

Physicians are encouraged to report all infectious complications that occur during TNF α inhibitor therapy to the FDA's **MEDWATCH SYSTEM (available at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch>)**

A deep relationship with the microbiologist

Disseminated Tuberculosis

Atypical Mycobacterium species (*Mycobacterium avium* , *leprae*)

Streptococcus pneumoniae (**pneumonia**)

Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA, MRSA) (**necrotizing fasciitis, septic arthritis**)

Moraxella catharralis (**septic arthritis**)

Listeriosis (*listeria monocytogenes* Gram + : **meningoencephalitis**)

Legionellosis (*Legionella pneumophila* Gram – : **pneumonia**)

Salmonella, Toxoplasma, Bartonella, Leishmania, Nocardia, Microsporidium

Viral infections: varicella , cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex molluscum contagiosum

Infections associated with TNF- α antagonists

A deep relationship with the microbiologist expert in fungi

Coccidioidomycosis (ENDEMIC FUNGUS -coccidioides immitis is a dimorphic endemic fungus)

Histoplasmosis (ENDEMIC FUNGUS - histoplasma capsulatum the most common endemic mycosis in the United States)

Sporotrichosis (ENDEMIC FUNGUS)

Aspergillosis (MOLDS- Aspergillus species : ubiquitous environmental fungi)

Zygomycosis (Zygomycetes species)

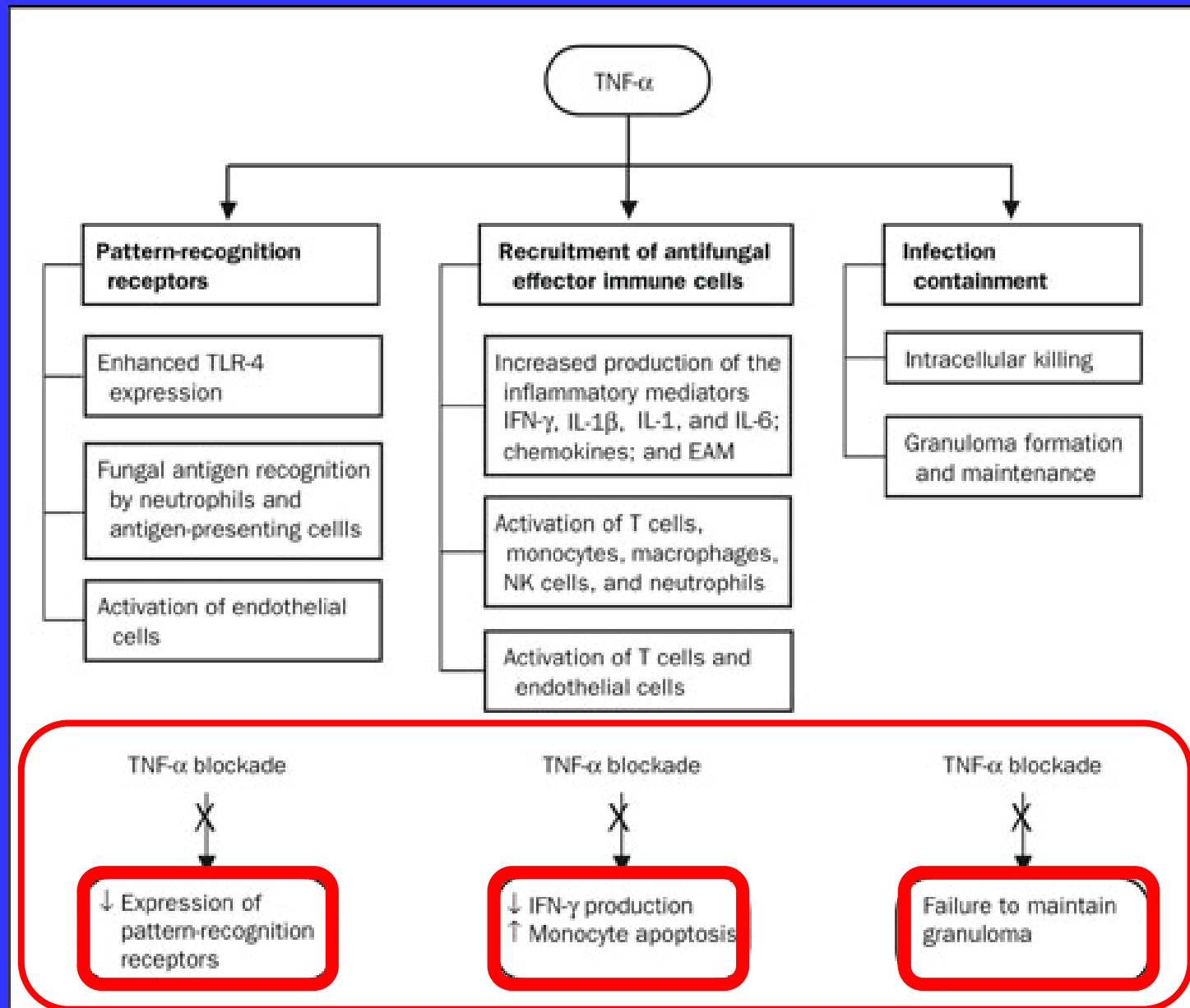
Candidiasis (YEASTS - Candida species –Candida glabrata)

Cryptococcosis (YEASTS - Cryptococcus neoformans is an encapsulated fungus)

Tinea and Pityriasis versicolor infections

Pneumocystis carinii (jiroveci) Pneumonia (PCP)

Fungal Infections Complicating TNF- α Blockade Therapy



Fungal Infections associated with anti-TNF α therapy

Sotiros Tsiodras et al. Mayo Clin Proc.2008;83:181-194

Infectious agents	Infliximab	Etanercept	Adalimumab
Aspergillus species (n=64) 2- 23%	48	14	2
Zygomycetes (n=4)	3	NC	1
Candida species (n=64) 2-23%	54	9	1
Cryptococcus species (n=28)	17	10	1
Histoplasma species (n=2)	ND	ND	ND
Coccidioides species (N=29)	27	2	NC
Pneumocystis species (n=84) 1- 30%	72	8	4
Dermophytrium species (n=1)	1	NC	NC
Trichosporon species (n=1)	1	NC	NC
Tinea or pityriasis versicolor (n=6)	3	1	2
Total	226 (80%)	44 (16%)	11 (4%)

ND = no data available; NC = no cases identified

Infections associated with TNF- α antagonists

Sotiros Tsiodras et al. Mayo Clin Proc.2008;83:181-194

Fungal infections associated with infliximab occurred a median of 55 days (IQR 15-140 days) after initiation of therapy and 3 infusions of the medication (IQR 2-5)

Fungal infections associated with etanercept occurred a median of 144 days (IQR 46-240 days) after initiation of therapy

The median age of patients was 58 years (IQR 44-68 years) and 62% were male

Use of at least 1 other immunosuppressant medication, typically a systemic corticosteroid, was reported during the course of the fungal infection in 102 (98%) of the 104 patients for whom data were available

PNEUMONIA was the most common pattern of infection

Of the 90 (32%) of 281 cases for which outcome information was available, 29 fatalities (32%) were recorded

A high index of suspicion in patients treated with TNF α antagonists is recommended because the course of such infections can be serious or fulminant and rapid access to health care should be provided

Surveillance of IFIs complicating TNF α blockade and other biologic therapies is warranted through well organized prospective patient registries

High risk conditions for invasive fungal infections after TNF- α blockade

Sotiros Tsiodras et al. Mayo Clin Proc.2008;83:181-194

Graft vs host disease (severe neutropenia)

History of invasive aspergillosis or other mold infections

Colonization with pathogenic fungi

Environmental exposure

High risk travel in endemic area (eg, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis)

High risk outdoor activities (eg, spelunking)

Construction

Case report

Necrotising fasciitis in a patient receiving infliximab for rheumatoid arthritis

Chan ATY et al Postgrad Med J 2002;78:47-48

2 Case reports

Life threatening intra-abdominal sepsis in patients on anti-TNF α therapy

Goode S et al Gut 2005 doi:10.1136/gut.2005.085449

Case report

Severe Pneumonia

Nancy F Crum et al Medicine 2005; 84:291-302

Case report

Lethal ARDS during anti-TNF α therapy for rheumatoid arthritis

Christian Zimmer et al Clin Rheumatol 2006; 25:430-432

Case reports

Purulent pericarditis in a patient with RA treated with etanercept and MTX

David D Sweet et al Can J Emerg Med 2007;9:40-2

Case report

Sepsis of the prosthesis

M.Fernandez-Castro et al Rheumatology 2005; 44:1076-1077

Case reports

Learning points

Anti-TNF α agents are useful in reducing disease activity and joint destruction in RA

Overall the data from drug trials shows that infliximab is safe when used appropriately

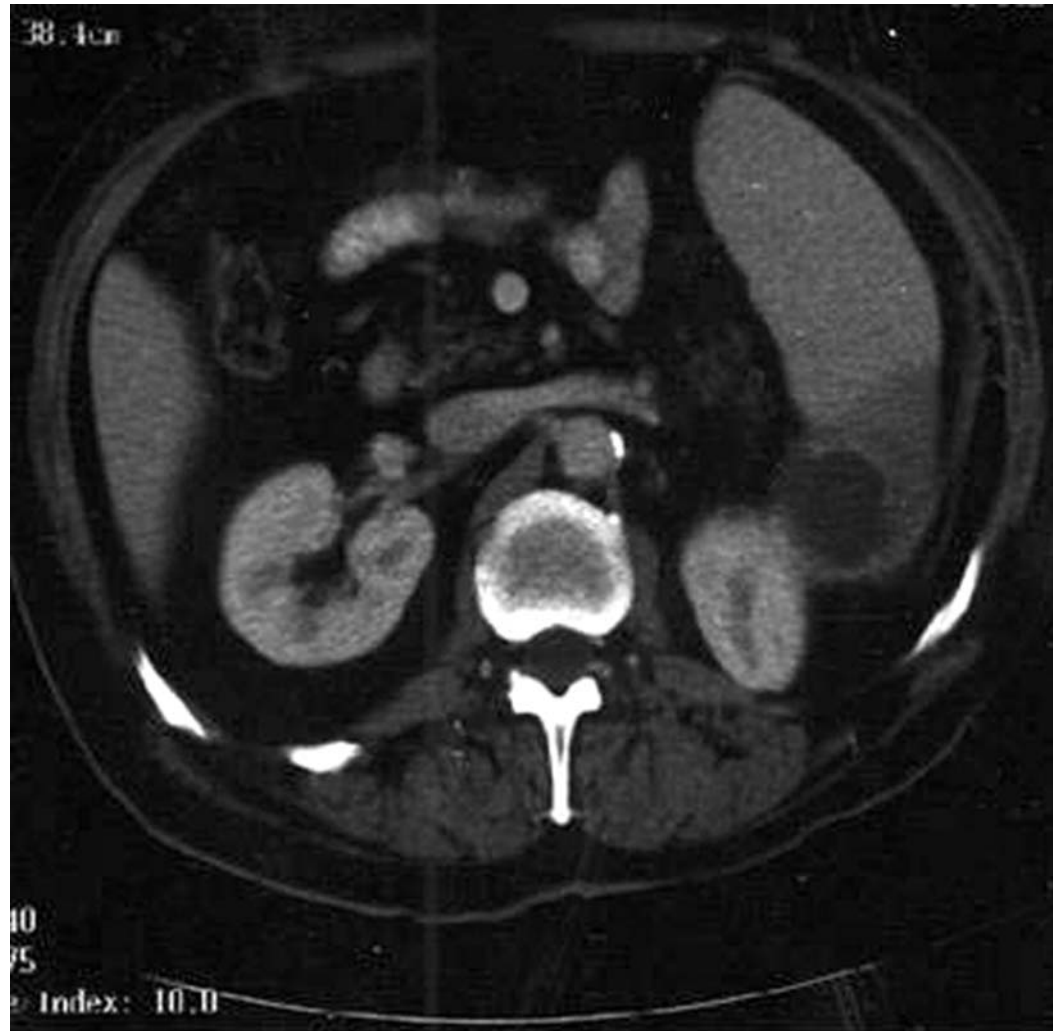
The use of infliximab is associated with the risk of severe sepsis and septic shock

The absence of pyrexia or other signs of infection does not exclude the possibility of sepsis in patients treated with infliximab

Report all adverse events with the use of anti-TNF α agents

Figure 1 Computed tomography. Expansile predominantly cystic mass located within an area of hypodensity in the posterior pole of the spleen.

spleen abscess



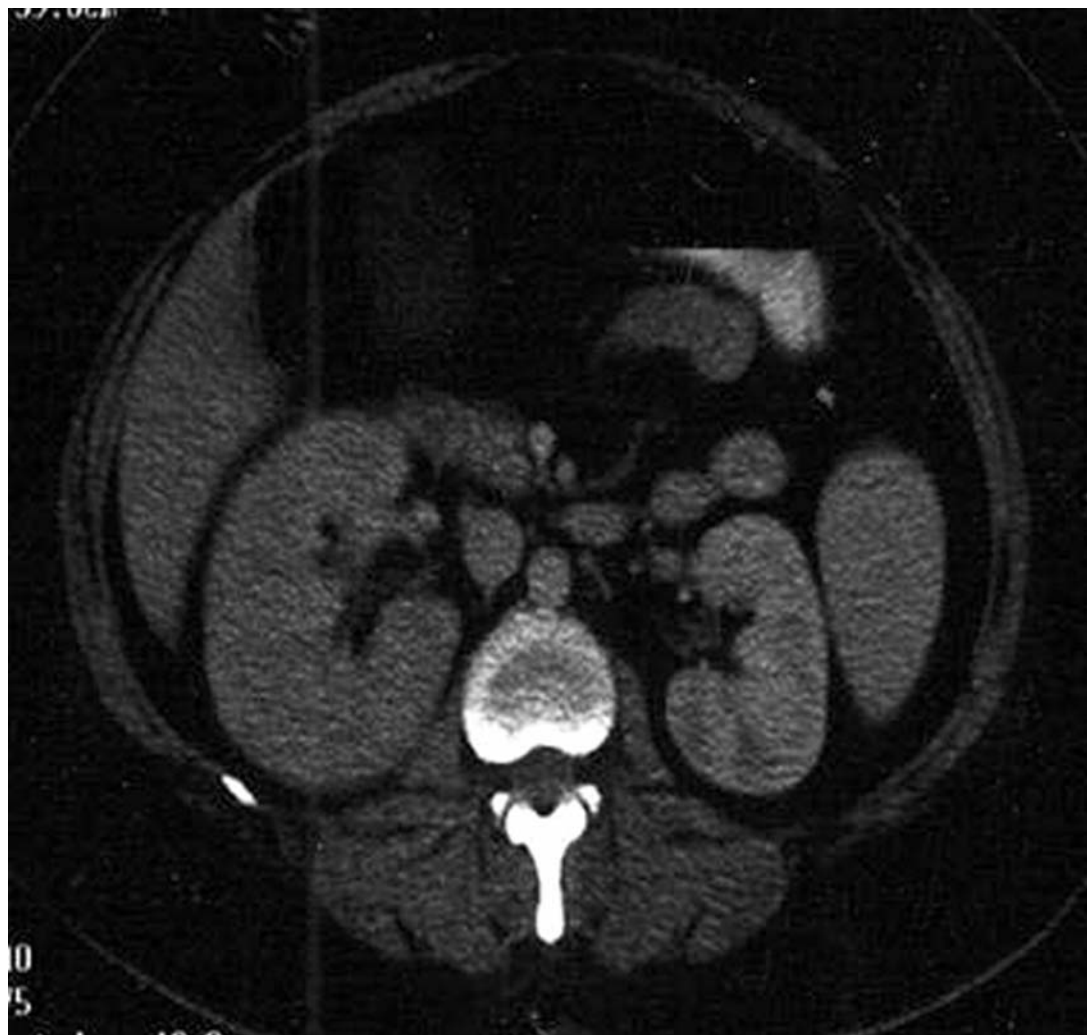
Goode, S et al. Gut 2006;55:590-591

Figure 2 Surgical specimen consisting of the spleen with an abscess on the posterior aspect.



Goode, S et al. Gut 2006;55:590-591

Figure 3 Computed tomography. Expanded non-enhancing right kidney consistent with pyelonephritis.



Urosepsis

Goode, S et al. Gut 2006;55:590-591

Case reports

Learning points

The patients could have an important delay in initial diagnoses

This may have resulted in a worse outcome or even death

The patients who have received anti-TNF α therapy and develop a non specific abdominal pain should proceed to urgent abdominal ultrasound or CT scan to exclude significant intra-abdominal sepsis

A further concern is that anti-TNF α drugs may diminish the acute phase response, so that significant sepsis may not always have dramatic or acute presentations. This may lull the attending doctor into a false sense of security

Doctors who encounter patients on anti-TNF α therapy need to be aware of the possible complications

They should be treated as if they are significantly immunocompromised, and non specific symptoms such as abdominal pain need to be investigated intensively

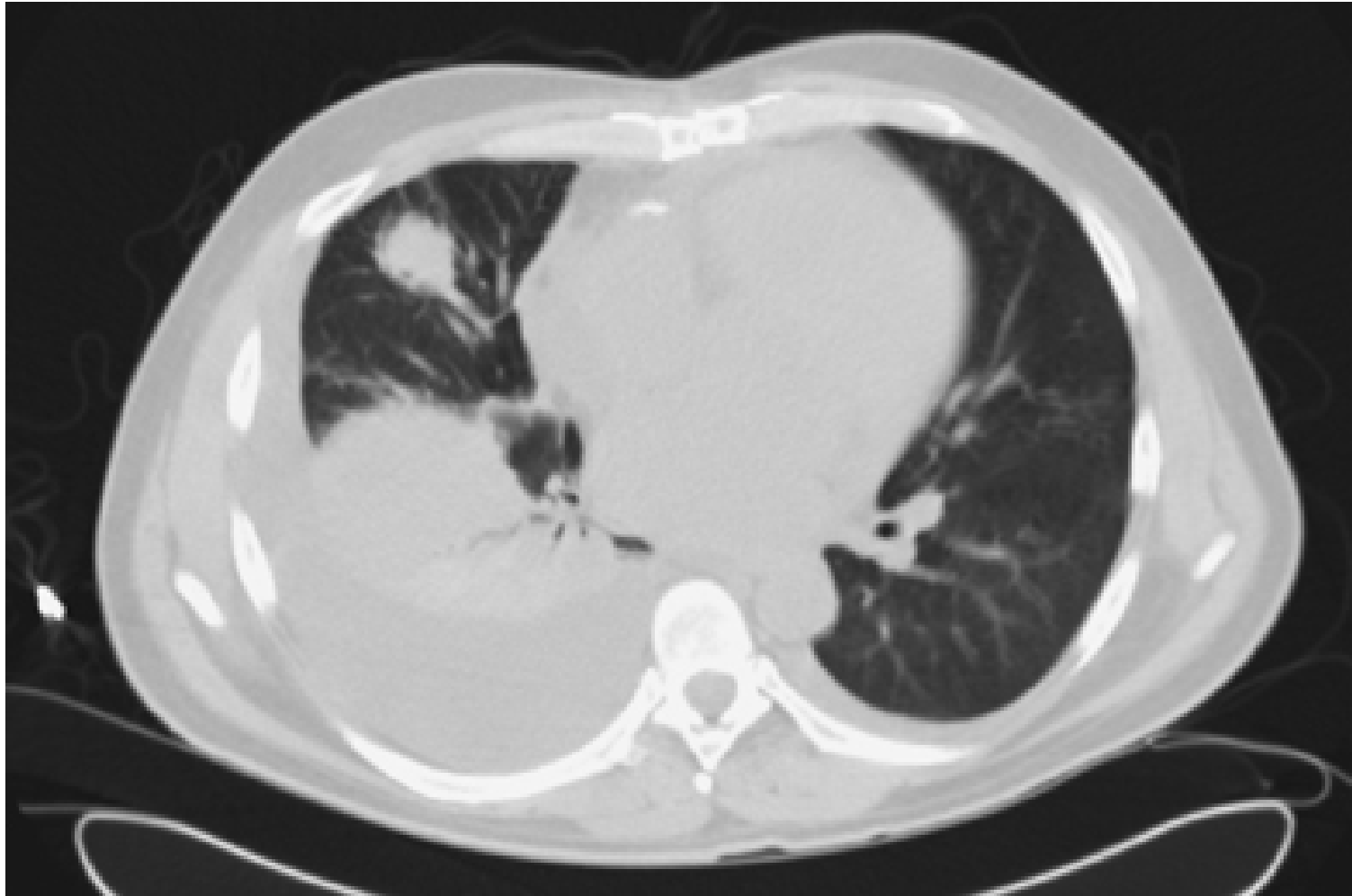
Case reports

Learning points

The risk of bacterial infections with typical organisms such as Streptococcus, staphylococcus and moraxella may be increased among TNF α inhibitor recipients

Infections such as pneumonia, abscess, cellulitis and sinusitis have been noted; severe infections, including necrotizing fasciitis and septic arthritis have also been reported

It is noteworthy that the occurrence of these bacterial infections is often unrelated to the exact time of TNF α blockade; patients appear to remain at risk for the duration of immunosuppression. This is in contrast to the TB or histoplasmosis experience, possibly because the latter are more often reactivated infections

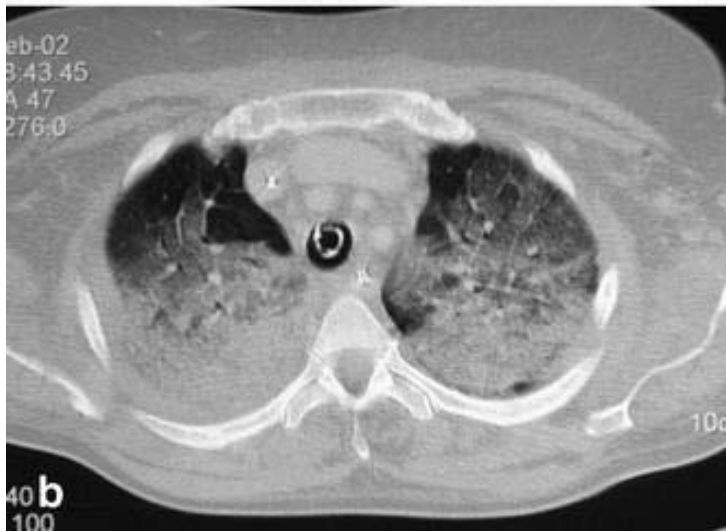
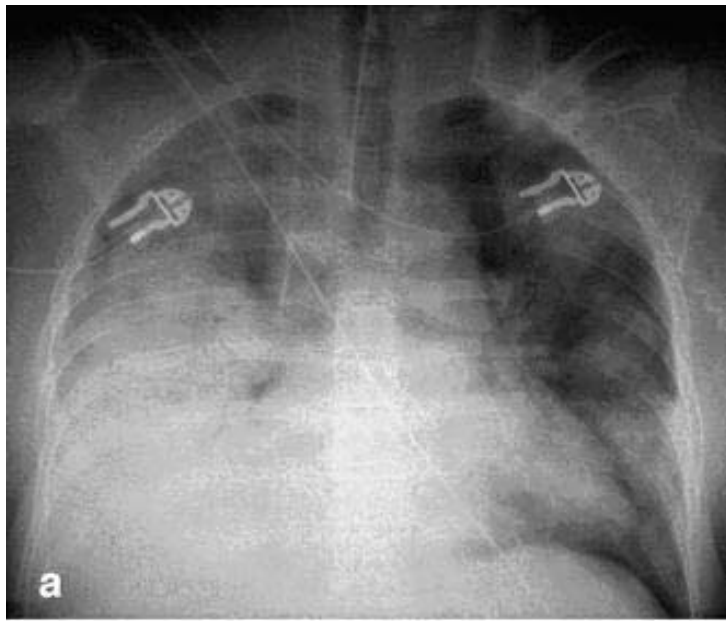


Case reports

Learning points

Infections in patients with anti-TNF α therapy, particularly when combined with other immunosuppressants, might be more severe

Accordingly, any signs of pulmonary infection should be regarded as very serious, as fulminant pneumonia with ARDS and severe sepsis may develop within 24 hours



Case reports

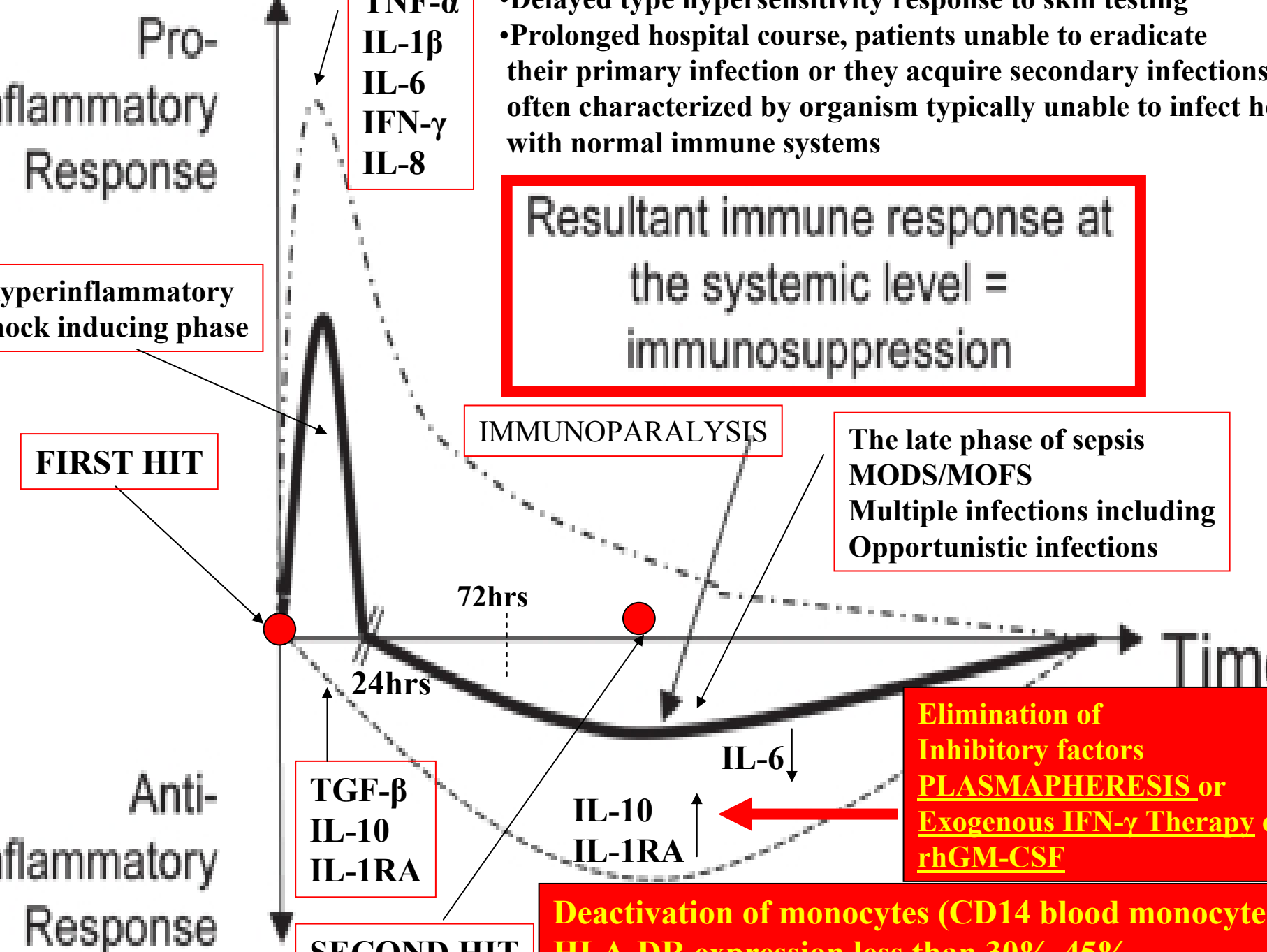
Learning Points

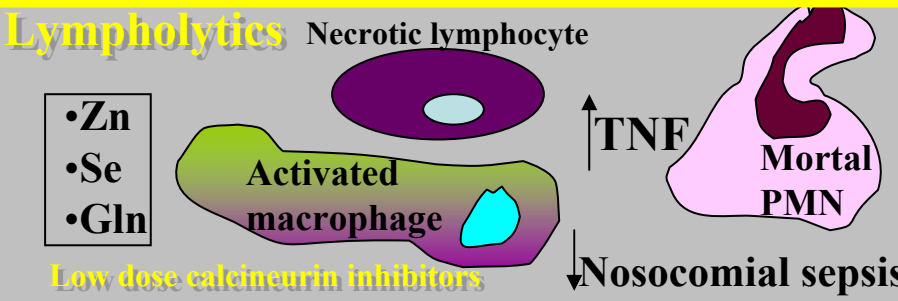
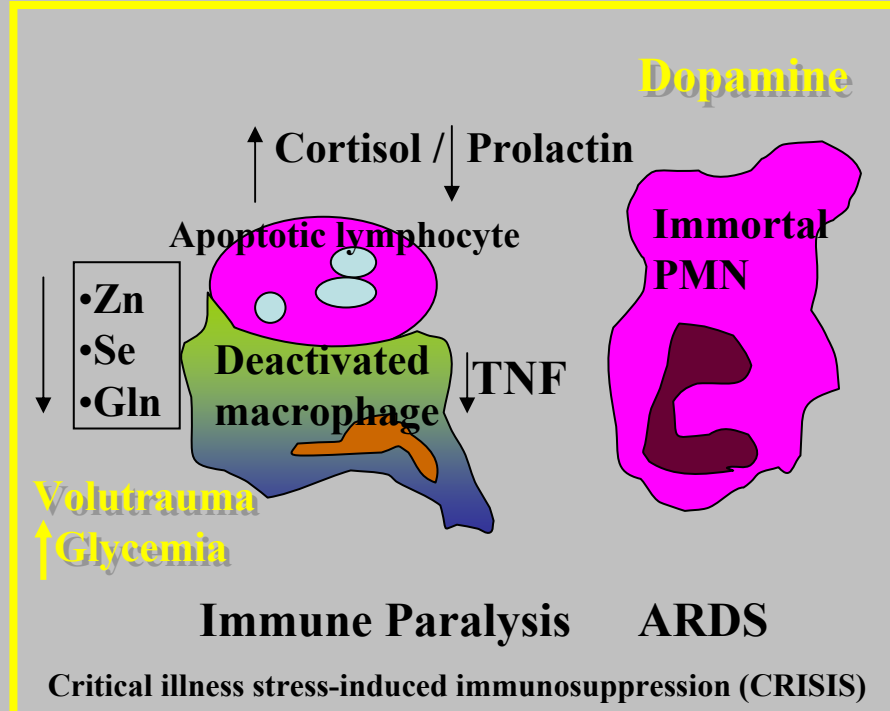
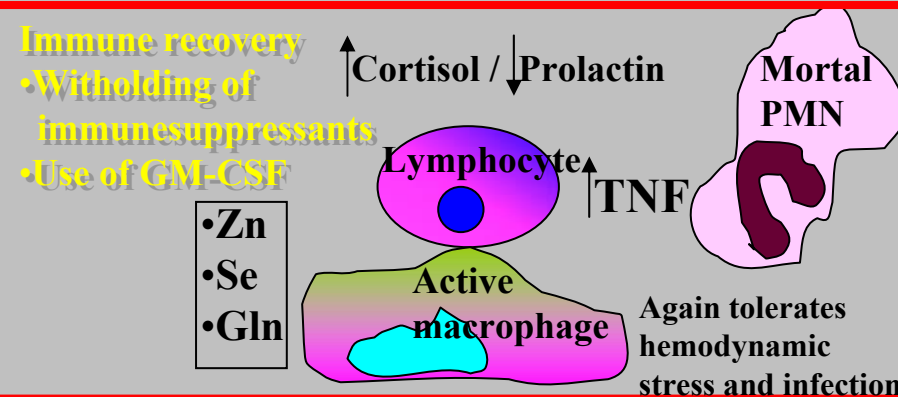
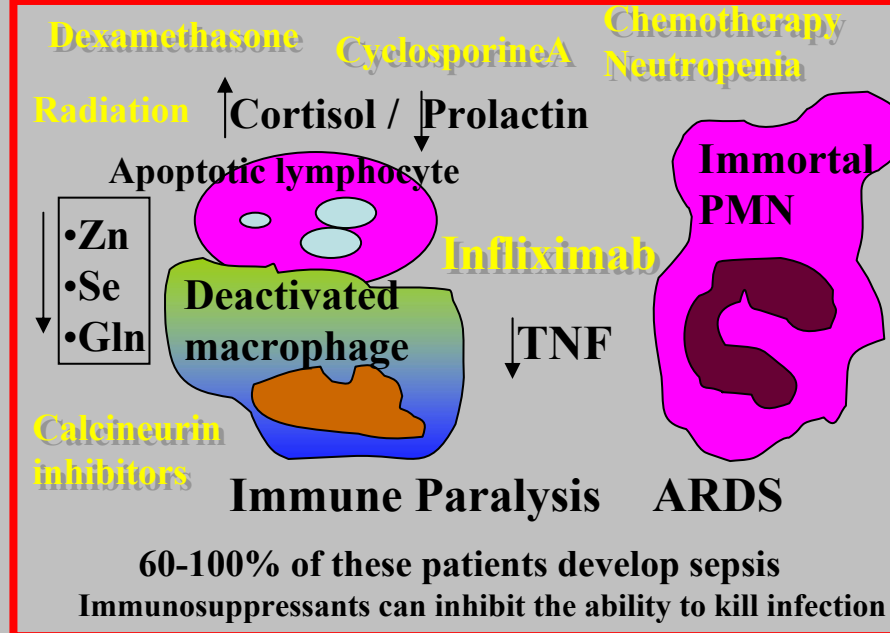
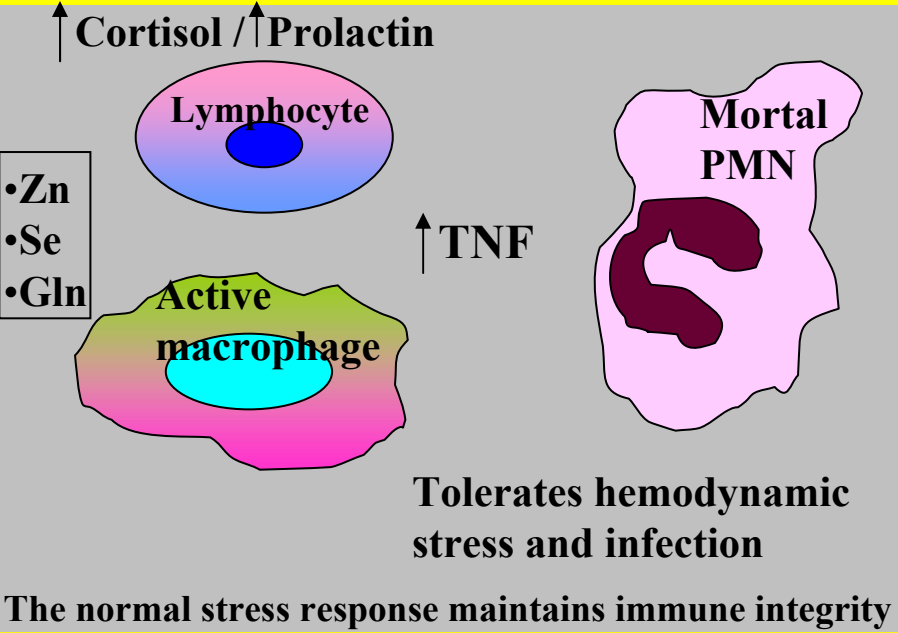
The decision to treat a patient with a prosthesis with infliximab is difficult, due to the high risk of reactivation of a putative latent infection in the prosthetic joint, since the synthetic material is not removed

The high activity of the disease, despite aggressive treatment with non biological agents, could require additional therapeutic options

More information about the true risk of reactivation of latent infection in the prosthetic material with anti-TNF α therapy is essential

The use of anti-TNF α agents should be tailored, an in-depth discussion with the patient about the risks and benefits of anti-TNF therapy is essential





Rational immune phenotype-directed therapeutic strategies in patients with critical illness stress induced immunosuppression

Immunophenotype thresholds

Therapeutic approach

Absolute neutrophil count < 500 cells/mm³

- A. Stop chemotherapy
- B. Administer empiric antimicrobial therapy for neutropenic fever
- C. Administer G-CSF, GM-CSF or WC infusion for neutropenic sepsis

Absolute lymphocyte count < 1,000 cells/mm³

- A. Stop dexamethasone, dopamine, cyclosporine A
- B. Administer prophylactic/empiric antiviral, anti-fungal therapies
- C. Replenish zinc, selenium, glutamine

Hypogammaglobulinemia (IgG < 500mg/dl)

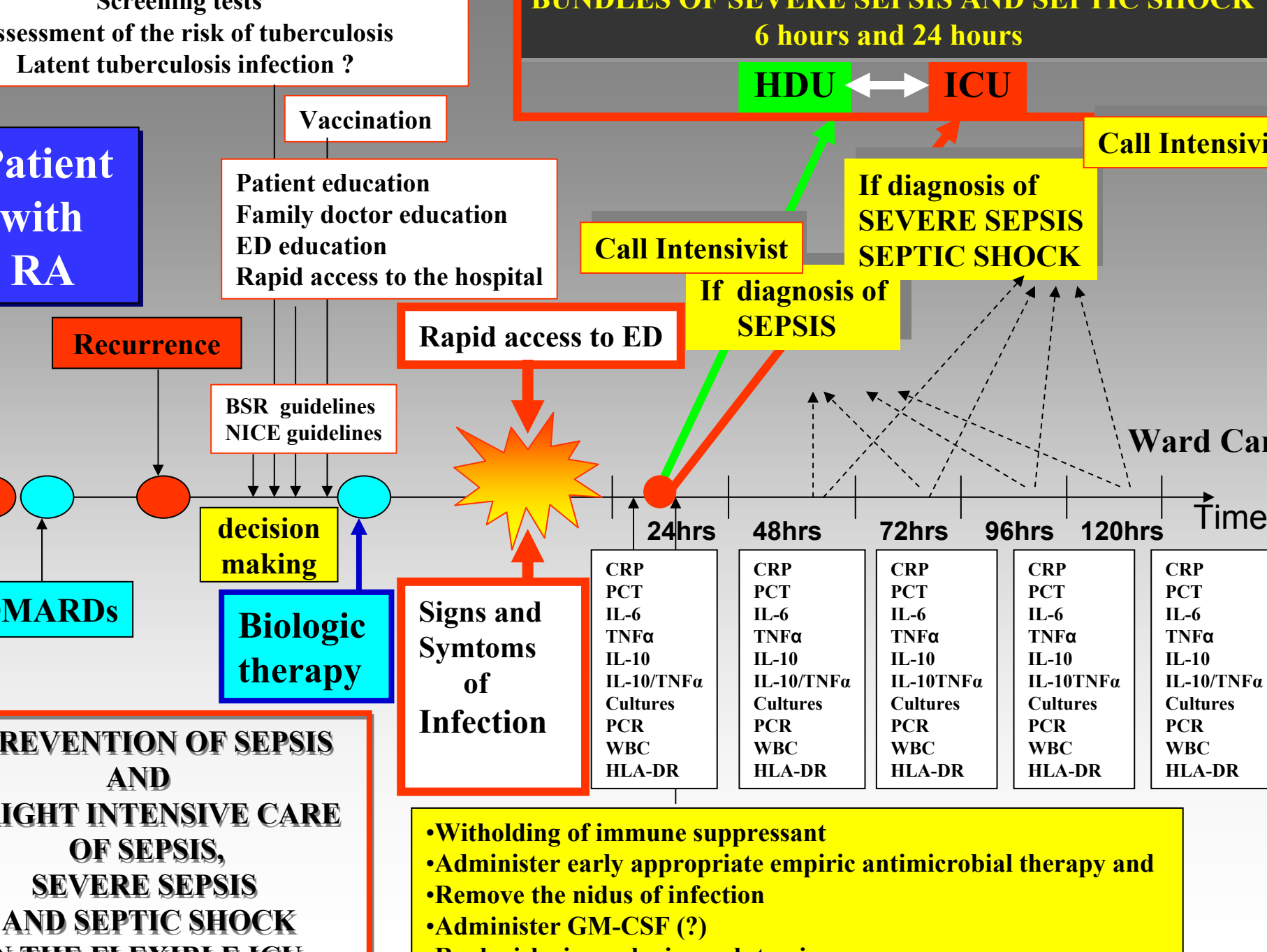
- A. Give IVIG q three weeks or IVIGM

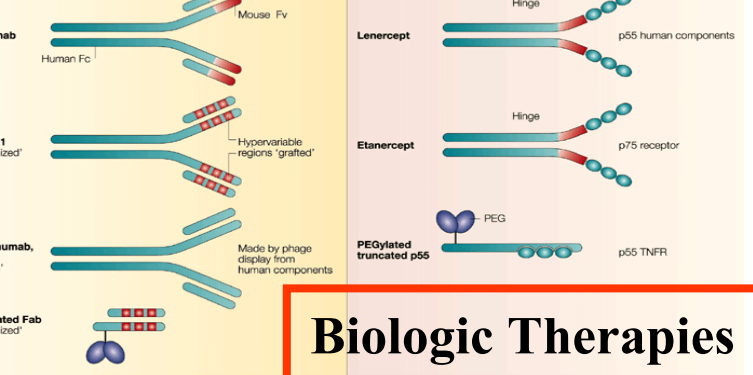
Monocyte deactivation

HLA-DR < 30% or 8,000 to 12,000 molecules/cell;

Whole blood TNF α response to LPS < 200 pg/ml

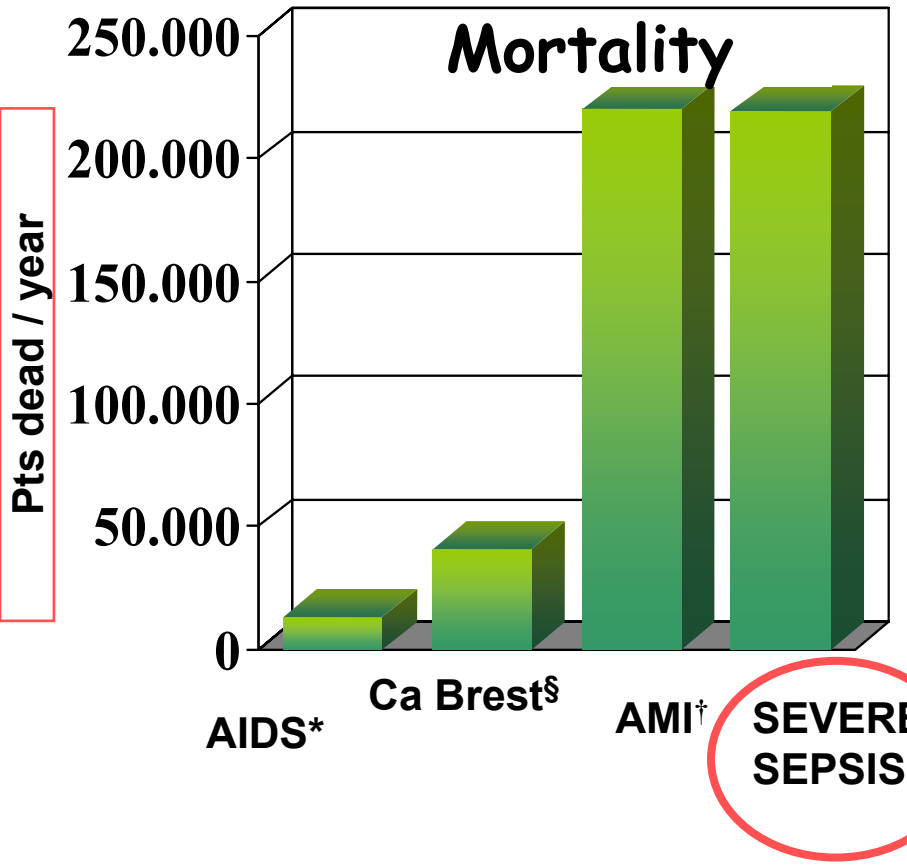
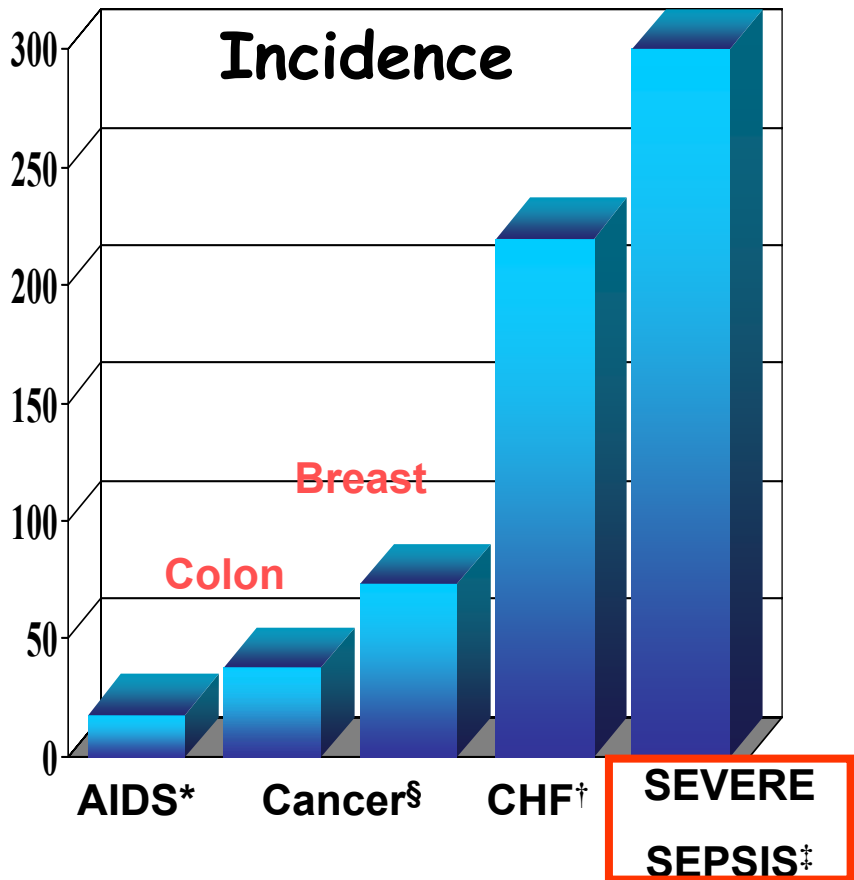
- A. Stop dopamine, dexamethasone, calcineurin inhibitors, infliximab
- B. Replenish zinc, selenium, glutamine
- C. Apply appropriate antibiotic therapy and remove the nidus of infection
- D. Give GM-CSF 125ug/m²/day over 12





Nature Reviews | Immunology

SEVERE SEPSIS:
 a neglected disease
*the septic patient has no appeal
 and is of no interest to the media*



†National Center for Health Statistics, 2001. \$American Cancer Society, 2001. *American Heart

Case reports

Necrotising fasciitis in a patient receiving infliximab for rheumatoid arthritis

Chan ATY et al Postgrad Med J 2002;78:47-48

A 54 year old man with a 12 year history of seropositive RA presented to the outpatient clinic with a 3 day history of painful, confluent, erythematous pustular rash over his trunk and limbs

He had felt generally unwell with lethargy and loss of appetite, he denied any fever or night sweats

He had various disease modifying antirheumatoid drugs that failed to induce remission

His severe RA resulted in a left hip replacement, which was subsequently revised twice due to prosthesis failure.

Infliximab was started (3mg/kg- at baseline, two four and eight weeks, then repeated every eight weeks

He remained on intramuscular methotrexate (10mg/week)

Case reports

On examination he was afebrile (temperature 36.5°C)

Pulse 90 beats/min , BP 124/72 mmHg

There was no lymphadenopathy

Examination of his respiratory and abdominal systems was unremarkable

Neurologically, there was a reduced power in his left leg (grade 4/5) due to pain . There was no active synovitis

A skin biopsy of the rash showed an acute pustular dermatitis secondary to a drug reaction

HB 13 g/dl, White cell count $14.82 \times 10^9/L$, neutrophils $13.99 \times 10^9/L$ and PLTs $295 \times 10^9/L$

A clotting screen gave a PT 27 seconds, APTT 38 seconds and fibrinogen 9.33g/L

Urea and electrolyte concentrations were normal and plasma glucose 6.1 mmol/L

Chest radiography was normal

Blood culture and skin swabs were taken

Case reports

Five hours after the hospital admission he became light headed and collapsed

He was tachycardic (140/min) and perpherally shut down but had a blood pressure of 120/70 mmHg

He remained apyrexial at 36.9°C

His left leg had become very tense painful and swollen

He had a metabolic acidosis with a pH of 7.21 and bicarbonate of 12.9 mmol/L

He was transferred to the ICU

Case reports

In the ICU he had worsening acidosis and hyperkalaemia (potassium 6.02 mmol/L)

Further investigations showed a Hb of 3g/dl, white cell count $2.04 \times 10^9/L$, platelets $70 \times 10^9/L$, PT 34 seconds, APTT 50 seconds, fibrinogen 5.87 g/L and raised D-Dimer of 11.4 mg/L

These findings were consistent with a DIC

All his biochemical and haematological abnormalities were treated appropriately

He required inotropes, vasopressors and intubation

There was marked necrosis of his adductor compartment and fascia of his left thigh on exploration

He underwent debridement of his necrotic muscles but this was hampered by recurrent cardiac arrests

Despite resuscitation effort, he died

His blood cultures and skin swabs grew haemolytic group A streptococcus. The isolation of this bacterium together with necrosis of subcutaneous tissue and severe systemic illness (sudden death, shock, DIC and MODS) conforms to the case of necrotising fasciitis

Case reports

Learning points

Anti-TNF α agents are useful in reducing disease activity and joint destruction in RA

Overall the data from drug trials shows that infliximab is safe when used appropriately

The use of infliximab is associated with the risk of severe sepsis and septic shock

The absence of pyrexia or other signs of infection does not exclude the possibility of sepsis in patients treated with infliximab

Report all adverse events with the use of anti-TNF α agents

Case reports

Life threatening intra-abdominal sepsis in patients on anti-TNF α therapy

Goode S et al Gut 2005 doi:10.1136/gut.2005.085449

A 60 year old male with psoriatic arthritis resistant to treatment had benefit from etanercept for six months

In rheumatology outpatients he complained of a two week history of abdominal pain

On examination he was tender in the left upper quadrant with a palpable mass

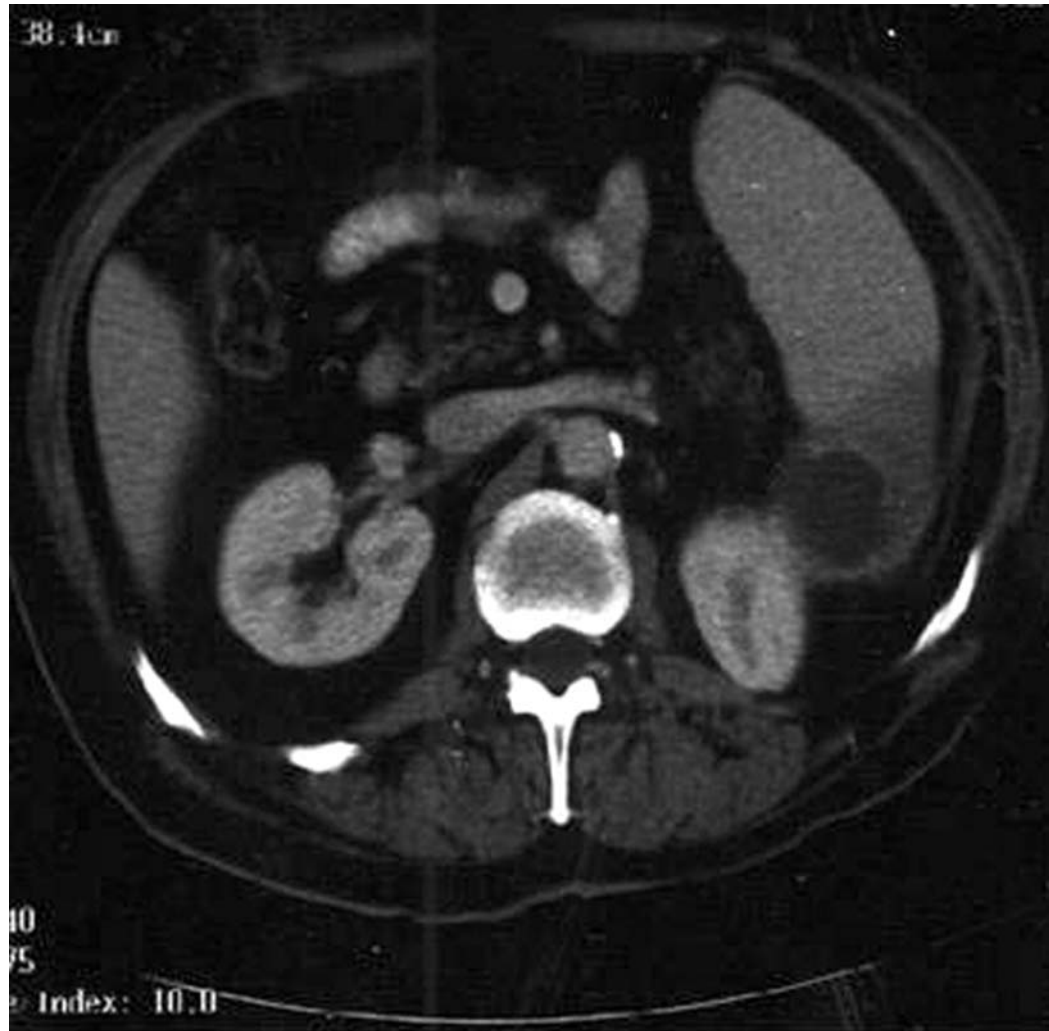
A contrast enhanced computed tomography (CT) scan demonstrated a large multilocular splenic abscess with subcapsular extension

Blood cultures grew staphylococcus aureus

Conservative treatment with high dose intravenous antibiotics, initially with cefuroxime, metronidazole and gentamicin on microbiological advice, had no effect

The patient became increasingly septic and after one week of conservative therapy he proceeded to laparotomy and splenectomy. Postoperatively he developed a severe sepsis requiring ICU admission

Figure 1 Computed tomography. Expansile predominantly cystic mass located within an area of hypodensity in the posterior pole of the spleen.



Goode, S et al. Gut 2006;55:590-591

Figure 2 Surgical specimen consisting of the spleen with an abscess on the posterior aspect.



Goode, S et al. Gut 2006;55:590-591

Case reports

In the ICU the patient developed a septic shock requiring fluids, vasopressors and inotropes, intubation and mechanical ventilation for five days

Histopathology of the spleen showed multiple splenic abscesses that grew staphylococcus aureus

The patient made a full recovery

He has received no further etanercept and has no evidence of a flare up of his arthritis six months postoperatively

He was given prophylactic low dose penicillin and anti-pneumococcal vaccination

Case reports

A 40 year old female presented via Emergency Department with three day history of abdominal pain and rigors

She had been treated with infliximab for six weeks for severe RA resistant to other therapies

On examination she had pyrexia of 39.2°C with right upper quadrant tenderness

She deteriorated with a worsening sepsis and metabolic acidosis and required admission to ICU

Case reports

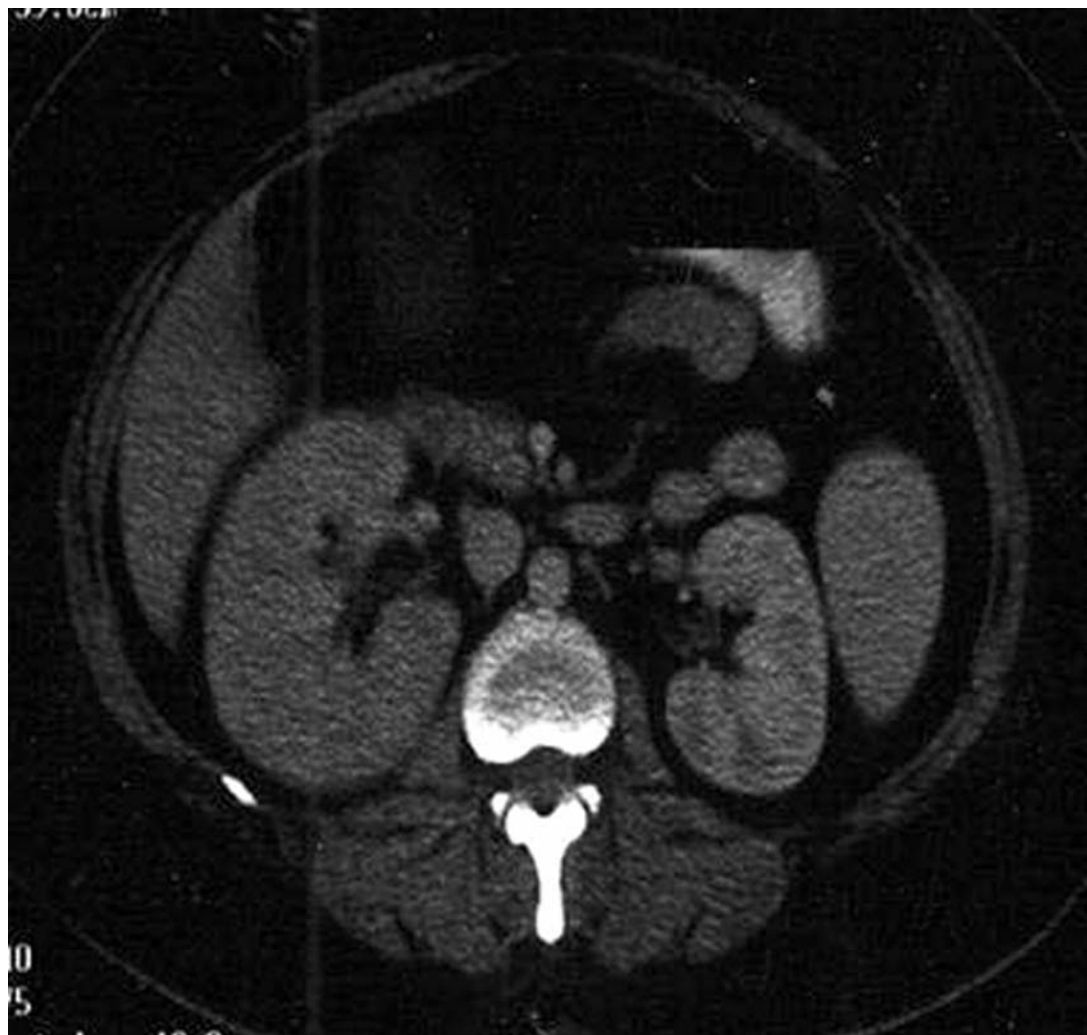
In the ICU she had an haemodynamic support with fluids, inotropes and vasopressors, and a respiratory support with intubation and mechanical ventilation

Once stabilised, a CT scan of her abdomen demonstrated a large right sided hydronephrosis

Urine cultures were negative but blood cultures grew escherichia coli

After 48 hours of intravenous cefuroxime and gentamicin she improved and was discharged to the ward

Figure 3 Computed tomography. Expanded non-enhancing right kidney consistent with pyelonephritis.



Goode, S et al. Gut 2006;55:590-591

Case reports

Learning points

The patients presented here had delay in initial diagnoses

This may have resulted in a worse outcome or even death

We suggest that patients who have received anti-TNF α therapy and develop a non specific abdominal pain should proceed to urgent abdominal ultrasound or CT scan to exclude significant intra-abdominal sepsis

A further concern is that anti-TNF α drugs may diminish the acute phase response, so that significant sepsis may not always have dramatic or acute presentations. This may lull the attending doctor into a false sense of security

Doctors who encounter patients on anti-TNF α therapy need to be aware of the possible complications

They should be treated as if they are significantly immunocompromised, and non specific symptoms such as abdominal pain need to be investigated intensively

Case reports

Nancy F Crum et al Infections associated with TNF α antagonists

Medicine 2005; 84:291-302

A 47 year old white woman with a history of RA, non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus and Sjogren syndrome arrived to the Emergency Department with fever , chills and generalized weakness

The patient had been receiving etanercept for 1 month

Her temperature was 39.9°C, pulse 140, blood pressure 90/60, respiratory rate 24 and pulse oxymetry 88%

There were no focal abnormalities except joint changes consistent with RA

The WBC was 21,300/mm³ with 56% neutrophils and 22% bands, creatinine 1.5 mg/dl, bicarbonate 15 mmol/l and glucose 191 mg/dl

The patient was admitted to the ICU

Case reports

In the ICU the patient was treated with intravenous fluids, oxygen and empiric antibiotics

Chest radiography revealed a left lower pneumonia

3 of 4 blood cultures were positive for Streptococcus pneumoniae sensitive to penicillin, erythromycin, levofloxacin, vancomycin and trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole

She was treated with intravenous penicillin and discharged after 7 days to complete a course of oral amoxicillin

The patient completely recovered and etanercept was restarted 2 months later

A pneumococcal vaccination was administered before the TNF α blocker restarted

Case reports

Learning points

The risk of bacterial infections with typical organisms such as Streptococcus, staphylococcus and moraxella may be increased among TNF α inhibitor recipients

Infections such as pneumonia, abscess, cellulitis and sinusitis have been noted; severe infections, including necrotizing fasciitis and septic arthritis have also been reported

It is noteworthy that the occurrence of these bacterial infections is often unrelated to the exact time of TNF α blockade; patients appear to remain at risk for the duration of immunosuppression. This is in contrast to the TB or histoplasmosis experience, possibly because the latter are more often reactivated infections

Case reports

Lethal ARDS during anti-TNF α therapy for rheumatoid arthritis

Christian Zimmer et al Clin Rheumatol 2006; 25:430-432

A 56 year old woman (70Kg, 162 cm) with a long history of rapidly progressive seropositive RA had been treated with etanercept (Enbrel 25 mg s.c. twice a week) for two years

In addition, she received methotrexate (Methotrexat 15 mg/week p.o.) and prednyliden (Decortilen 3mg/day p.o.)

After 2 days of muscle weakness, fatigue and cough producing reddish brown sputum, she received ciprofloxacin (500 mg p.o. twice a day) by her general practitioner but , 1 day later, was admitted to a hospital

On admission, she presented with severe dyspnoea and bilateral opacities on chest x ray , increased CRP (326mg/L) impaired renal function (serum creatinine 3.2 mg/dl) and oliguria and leukopenia

She was immediately transferred to the ICU

Case reports

In the ICU she was immediately intubated and antibiotic treatment was started with ceftriaxon, ciprofloxacin, erythromycin and fluconazol. However despite fluid resuscitation she required high dose norepinephrine ($0.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{min}$) and developed an ARDS ($\text{paO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ 100 mmHg)

The patient was transported with a specially equipped ambulance in a more equipped ICU for an advanced ARDS therapy

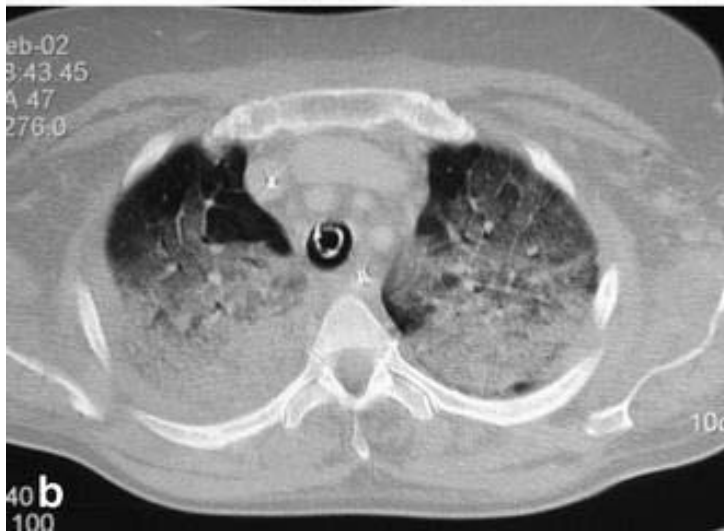
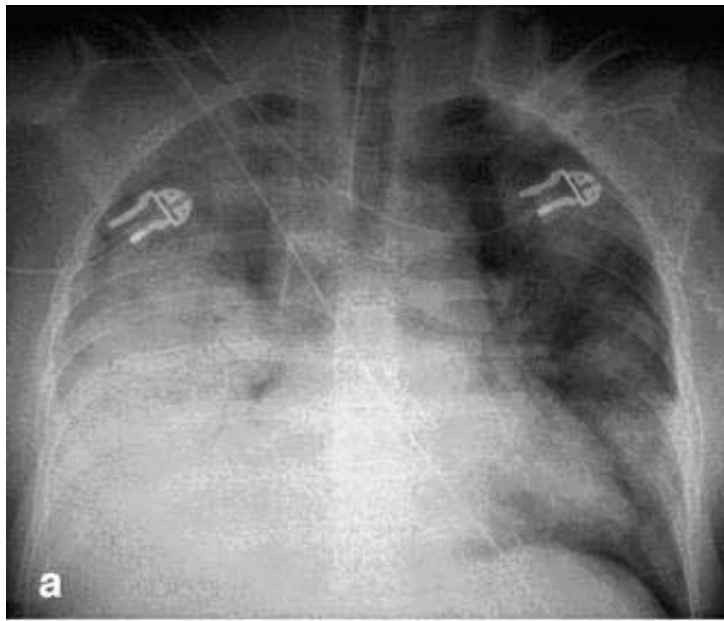
Despite aggressive ventilation with pure oxygen and a PEEP of 17 mbar, both gas exchange (PaO_2 79.5 mmHg, PaCO_2 46.5 mmHg) and acidosis (pH 7.10) worsened

Very high dosages of NE ($1.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{min}$) were required continuously for counteracting severe hypotension

Pulmonary artery hypertension (mean PAP 36 mmHg) was also present, and transesophageal echocardiography revealed right heart loading

A chest CT scan confirmed widespread consolidation of both lungs

The simplified acute physiologic score was 46 indicating multiple organ failure within 1 day of hospitalisation



Case reports

Further therapy included increased PEEP (> 20 mbar), prone positioning, antibiotic therapy with cefotiam and clarythromycin and CVVH for acute renal failure

When a penicillin susceptible *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was identified in BAL fluid, penicillin G was added

While gas exchange improved gradually and FiO_2 could be decreased to 0.6, pulmonary hypertension remained unresponsive to any treatment, including inhaled NO and iloprost

During the next 5 days, vasopressors and oxygen demand remained unaltered

Blood cultures positive for *Escherichia coli* and *Candida krusei* on day 5 after admission evoked a change to imipenem, gentamicin and amphotericine B

The patient died of overwhelming septic shock 13 days following admission

Case reports

Learning points

Infections in patients with anti-TNF α therapy, particularly when combined with other immunosuppressants, might be more severe

Accordingly, any signs of pulmonary infection should be regarded as very serious, as fulminant pneumonia with ARDS and severe sepsis may develop within 24 hours

Case reports

Purulent pericarditis in a patient with RA treated with etanercept and methotrexate

David D Sweet et al Can J Emerg Med 2007;9:40-2

After a day of golf, a 71 year old woman presented to a local resort clinic complaining of lower back pain with radiation to the right leg

While at the clinic she developed extreme abdominal pain and started vomiting

Her vital signs on presentation to the clinic were: 92 beats/min, blood pressure 140/85 mmHg, respiratory rate 18 breaths/min and oxygen saturation 99% on room air

She was afebrile, but pale and diaphoretic with cool extremities

Her chest, precordial and abdominal exams were all normal and she had normal femoral pulses

The chest x ray was normal

The ECG revealed Q waves in the anterior leads

A presumptive diagnosis of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm or anterior myocardial infarction was made and she was flown by helicopter to a tertiary emergency department

Case reports

On arrival at the ED, the patient was restless, distressed and complaining of extreme abdominal pain

Vital signs at this time revealed a blood pressure of 103/60 mmHg, HR of 95 beats/min, RR of 30 breath /min, pulse oxymetry saturation of 93% on 12 liters/min of oxygen and a temperature of 37.5°C

She was pale and diaphoretic with cool extremities but the remainder of her clinical examination was normal apart from a distended, diffusely tender abdomen with neither point tenderness nor peritoneal signs

Pulsus paradoxus was not assessed

She had no specific signs or symptoms that would identify a focus of infection or a bacterial portal of entry

A bedside portable ultrasound showed intraperitoneal free fluid and a thickened gallbladder wall, without evidence of stones or biliary dilation and no aortic aneurysm

An incidental small pericardial effusion was noted

Case reports

Portable A-P chest x ray was unremarkable and the ECG showed generalized low amplitude and an anterior infarct of undetermined age

Arterial blood gases revealed a profound metabolic acidosis with inadequate respiratory compensation; pH 6.90 , PaCO₂ 27 mmHg , bicarbonate 5 mmol/L BE 28 mmol/L , PaO₂ 83 mmHg , oxygen saturation 85% on 12L O₂ by mask

The initial Hb, platelets, electrolytes , glucose , CK, troponin , INR and aPTT were all within normal limits

White blood cell count was 24.0 with 6.88 polymorphs and 9.61 bands

There was a severe anion gap acidosis with a lactate of 12.3 mmol/l

The creatinine was elevated at 178 mmol/l , but the urea was normal at 6.2 mmol/l

Case reports

The past medical history of this patient was remarkable for a 13 year history that was controlled by both methotrexate for 11 years and etanercept twice weekly for 2 years

The patient had a history of hypercholesterolemia, hypertension and a remote history of psoriasis

Her other medications included atenolol, clonidine , estradiol , refecoxib (Vioxx) and ASA

Her only known allergy was to sulfa

Case reports

In the ED , she developed progressive respiratory failure and shock, requiring intubation and admission to the ICU

Following intubation she was fluid resuscitated and started on broad spectrum antibiotics

20 minutes post intubation she suffered pulseless electrical activity cardiac arrest, received epinephrine and atropine

Spontaneous circulation returned after 2 minutes of cardiac compressions and she was started on a dopamine infusion and sent for abdominal CT scan

This showed free fluid in the abdomen and pelvis with a thick walled gallbladder, perpancreatic, pararenal and mesenteric fat stranding, bilateral pleural effusions and mild to moderate sized pericardial effusion

Case reports

Despite several liters of IV fluid, a dopamine infusion and repeated boluses of phenylephrine, the patient remained hemodynamically unstable requiring intermittent boluses of epinephrine to maintain blood pressure

At this time, the possibility of cardiac tamponade was considered and ED ultrasound guided pericardiocentesis was performed

A total of 75 ml of cloudy, brown fluid was withdrawn and sent for gram stain and culture

The patient stabilized

Gram's stain of the pericardial fluid showed 4+ polymorphs with gram-positive cocci and cultures later identified methicillin sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*

The patient's course in hospital included prolonged respiratory failure, septic shock and renal failure requiring dialysis

Following a 1 month stay in the ICU, she was transferred to the ward and discharged from hospital

The patient was advised to discontinue TNF α antagonist agents and remain on the lowest possible dose of prednisone to control her RA

Case reports

M.Fernandez-Castro et al Rheumatology 2005; 44:1076-1077

A 59 year old woman with long lasting, severe , erosive and seropositive rheumatoid arthritis

Despite treatment with several DMARDs , the disease remained active and structural damage progressed

A prosthetic joint was implanted in the right knee in august

In november , she was diagnosed with sepsis of the prosthetic joint with penicillin sensitive Staphylococcus aureus isolated from the synovial fluid culture

She was treated with intravenous cefazolin for 3 weeks and extensive surgical debridment without removing the prostetic joint

An oral 6 month course of ciprofloxacin and rifampicin was completed

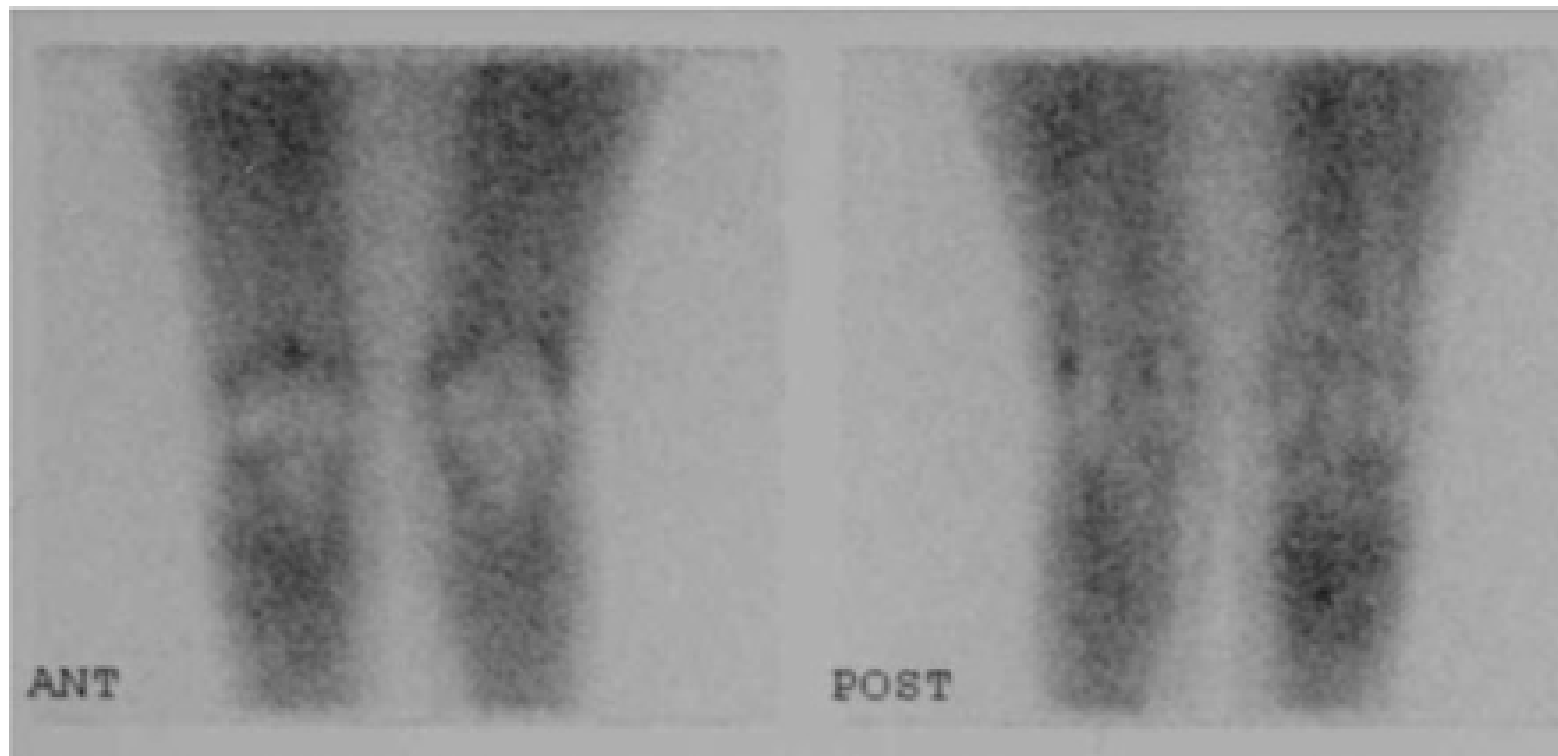
Case reports

In february of the following year , despite the treatment with leflunomide , celecoxib and low dose prednisone, the disease remained active with a DAS of 7.28

After an in depth discussion about the risk of reactivation of the sepsis of the prosthetic joint, the patient accepted the treatment with infliximab

Three years later , the activity of RA is well controlled with 3mg/kg every 8 weeks of infliximab and 5mg/day of prednisone, the DAS score being 2.70

The right knee is asymptomatic and gallium scintigraphy is not suggestive of infection



Case reports

Learning Points

The decision to treat this patient with infliximab was difficult, due to the high risk of reactivation of a putative latent infection in the prosthetic joint, since the synthetic material was not removed

But, the high activity of the disease, despite aggressive treatment with non biological agents, required additional therapeutic options

More information about the true risk of reactivation of latent infection in the prosthetic material with anti-TNF α therapy is essential

The use of anti-TNF α agents should be tailored, an in-depth discussion with the patient about the risks and benefits of anti-TNF therapy is essential