

Supplemental Methods and Results

Detailed specific criteria for consenting and enrolling SEPSIS and CINS patients, and healthy control subjects are described below, as is sampling and processing procedures. Actual IRB documentation and the Consortium Laboratory Manual are readily available by simply requesting them from our data and sample broker, the UF Clinical and Translational Research Institute Biorepository (<https://www.ctsi.ufl.edu/research/laboratory-services/ctsi-biorepository-2/scirc-specimens-archive/>).

Recruitment methods

Screening for sepsis will be carried out using each hospital's own version of their sepsis alert system, which quantifies derangements in vital signs, white blood cell count, and mental status. After a putative diagnosis of sepsis, the patient is transferred to the ICU and sepsis treatment bundles are initiated. If a patient is believed to have an infection and they are located in, or transferred to the ICU, they are entered into each institution's sepsis management protocol as standard of care which implements a variety of standard operating procedures (SOPs) of clinical ICU care. After the patient enters the clinical management protocol, the research coordinator is notified of a potential research subject. This coordinator will then assess the following inclusion/exclusion criteria and consent the appropriate candidates.

All critically ill patients with or without sepsis will be managed via each institution's evidence-based management protocols that emphasize early antibiotic administration, fluid resuscitation and hemodynamic monitoring and support, consistent with current Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines.

Consenting

24 Consent will be sought by clinical research staff, all of whom are familiar with institutional
25 logistics and infrastructure, sample acquisition and preparation, and are experienced in the
26 nuances of enrollment and informed consent for this challenging patient population. Many
27 critically ill patients in the ICUs may have altered mental status or pharmacologic sedation but
28 would be regarded as prospective research subjects. We will seek an IRB-approved 96-hour
29 delayed consent for blood sample acquisition and completion of the /T1 visit per protocol
30 (within the first 72 hours). This includes: study criteria evaluation, sample collection and
31 transportation to clinical and research laboratories, collection of demographic information, and
32 collection of medical laboratory results to compliment research experiments. Additionally, we
33 will seek approval for telephone consent in the event that no LAR is physically present. For the
34 ICU patient population, many of whom are pharmacologically sedated and mechanically
35 ventilated, initial consent is commonly requested from LAR/next of kin. The setting for
36 conveying consent information to LAR/next of kin is often the ICU family waiting area or at
37 bedside. Consideration is given to the emotional status of the LAR/next of kin and ability to
38 understand the basic intent, methods, and voluntary nature of participation. If we need to call a
39 LAR, ideally, we will email them a copy of the consent and review, record approval with a
40 witness on the line. If we can't email them, then we will review the entire consent over the
41 phone, record approval with a witness on the line.

42 The research staff will monitor the patient's progress and once they regain capacity, the patient
43 will be re-consented. If patient does not regain capacity to consent by discharge, he/she will be
44 consented at their next follow-up visit if capacity is regained.

45 For the healthy control subjects, we will send an email out to the Department of Surgery email
 46 distribution list to all department staff for recruiting healthy control participants. When the
 47 participant comes in for the blood draw we will review the consent and have them sign.

48 **Specific Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

49 **SEPSIS- Presumed Sepsis Patients**

50 Inclusion Criteria

51 A. Directly admitted ICU patients with sepsis (From ED or OR)
 52 ICU patient developing sepsis during hospitalization.
 53 Transferred to ICU from inpatient unit for development of sepsis.
 54 Documentation in notes or diagnoses of "Sepsis", "Septic shock", "Severe Sepsis"

55 or

56 B. Suspicion of infectious cause of illness on admission
 57 Documentation of suspected infection
 58 Infectious testing performed (blood, urine, other cultures, viral or fungal testing)
 59 Diagnostic testing: chest X-ray. CT scan of abdomen
 60 Initiation of antimicrobial therapy (antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals)
 61 Source control operation/procedure performed

62 and

63 Organ dysfunction as defined as an acute change in total SOFA score of 2 points
 64 consequent to the infection.
 65 The baseline SOFA score can be assumed to be zero in patients not known to have
 66 preexisting organ dysfunction.

68 Exclusion Criteria

69 Patients deemed to be futile care or have advanced care directives or goals of care
 70 limiting resuscitative efforts.
 71 Severe traumatic brain injury (evidence of neurologic injury on CT scan and a GCS <8
 72 after resuscitation).
 73 Refractory shock (i.e., patients who are expected to die within 24hours).
 74 Uncontrollable source of sepsis (e.g. irreversible disease state such as unresectable
 75 dead bowel).
 76 Outside facility transfer where suspected sepsis onset is >72 hours prior to ICU
 77 admission.
 78 Active chronic hepatitis or other chronic infectious diseases.
 79 Known HIV infection with CD4 count <200 cells/mm³.
 80 Organ transplant recipient on immunosuppressive agents.
 81 Known pregnancy.
 82 Prisoners.

- 83 Institutionalized patients.
 84 Active cancer.
 85 Any recent (past 6 months) chemotherapy or immunomodulatory therapies (including
 86 biologics, monoclonal antibodies).
 87 Patient having received steroids in past 4 weeks.
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89 **CINS – Critically-ill non-sepsis patients**

90 Inclusion Criteria

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 92 A. Patients admitted to the SICU for non-infectious reasons
 93 Trauma patients
 94 Post-operative patients (not infectious source control procedures)
 95 Inpatients transferred to the SICU for non-infectious reasons (e.g., bleeding, volume
 96 overload, acute cardiac issue, ect.)
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98 Exclusion criteria

- 99
 100 Patients deemed to be futile care or have advanced care directives or goals of care
 101 limiting resuscitative efforts.
 102 Severe traumatic brain injury (evidence of neurologic injury on CT scan and a GCS <8 after
 103 resuscitation).
 104 Refractory shock (i.e., patients who are expected to die within 24hours).
 105 Uncontrollable source of sepsis (e.g. irreversible disease state such as unresectable dead
 106 bowel).
 107 Outside facility transfer where suspected sepsis onset is >72 hours prior to ICU admission.
 108 Active chronic Hepatitis or other chronic infectious diseases.
 109 Known HIV infection with CD4 count <200 cells/mm³.
 110 Organ transplant recipient on immunosuppressive agents.
 111 Known pregnancy.
 112 Prisoners.
 113 Institutionalized patients.
 114 Active cancer.
 115 Any recent (past 6 months) chemotherapy or immunomodulatory therapies (including
 116 biologics, monoclonal antibodies).
 117 Patient having received steroids in past 4 weeks.
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119 **Healthy Control Subjects**

120 Inclusion Criteria

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 123 All adults (age >=18)
 124 Ability to obtain Informed Consent prior to blood collection.
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126 Exclusion Criteria

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 128 Current, chronic steroid use
 129 Pregnancy
 130 Current or recent (within 7 days) use of antibiotics.
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132 **Sample Collection**

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 134 **The overview of research sample collection for SPIES clinical study are presented in**
 135 **the Sample Collection Chart:**

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SPIES Sample Collection Chart						
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
	Day 1	Day 4	Day 7	Day 14	Day 21	Day 28 or discharge
		(+/- 1)	(+/- 1)	(+/- 2)	(+/- 2)	(+/- 2)
Whole Blood ELISpot (1ml), HLA-DR (1ml), Cytokines (4-8ml) - 6-10ml heparin (green)	X	X	X	X	X	X
(Optional) CBC w/diff - 2ml EDTA (purple)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gene Expression - 2.5ml PAXgene	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total blood (ml)	8.5 - 14.5	8.5 - 14.5	8.5 - 14.5	8.5 - 14.5	8.5 - 14.5	8.5 - 14.5

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139 **PLASMA PROCESSING**

140 Administrative Note: All personnel involved in the procedures are to have completed the
 141 University required Blood-Borne Pathogen training program, and provided suitable personal
 142 protection equipment (PPE). These procedures are to be performed whenever possible in a
 143 biocontainment hood (BSL1 or BSL2). All solid or liquid waste derived from the blood must be
 144 disposed of appropriately in a biohazard container or inactivated using bleach or an acceptable
 145 disinfectant. Venous or arterial whole blood is collected into the appropriate blood collection
 146 tubes for each time point. The collection of blood should be obtained from an existing arterial
 147 or venous line, or venipuncture should be performed by someone experienced in the

148 technique, and familiar with infectious precautions. The blood should be processed as soon as
149 possible, **but within 3 hours of the draw**. The blood should be **kept cold on ice** during the
150 period from the draw to the initiation of processing.

151 **CBC with Differential**

152 Each site must collect for and obtain a CBC with Differential at every patient sample time
153 point. These must be collected at the same time as the study blood draws or as close to it as
154 possible if done through the hospital's standard of care. This data must be entered into
155 REDCap.

156 **Plasma Collection**

157 1. Invert the green heparin blood tube gently to thoroughly mix the blood. Transfer one ml
158 of blood to a 15 ml conical (polyethylene or polystyrene) tube labeled HLA-DR. And transfer
159 500 ul of blood to a 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube labeled ELISpot.

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161 2. After removing the blood needed for the ELISpot and Smart Tube assays in Step 1,
162 centrifuge the remaining blood in the green top heparin blood collection tube at room
163 temperature (22°C) for 10 minutes at 1,800 x g, with the brake on low.

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165 3. Once the tube has finished spinning, carefully transfer the plasma from the green top
166 blood tube (take care not to disturb the cellular constituents) and aliquot 500 ul of plasma
167 equally into 4-6 **green** capped plasma collection tubes. If there is any remaining plasma,
168 collect and distribute evenly among all tubes.

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170 4. Make sure the appropriate *Heparin Plasma* barcode labels are attached to the tubes
171 and immediately store at -80°C.

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173 **Supplementary Table 1. Admission Reasons for SEPSIS and CINS Cohorts.**

Sepsis Cohort	Abdominal	Pulmonary	Skin/Soft Tissue	Genitourinary	Other¹	Total
Source of Infection	35	19	29	12	11	107

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CINS Cohort	Surgery not Specified	Trauma	Pancreatitis	Vascular Limb Ischemia	Other²	Total
Reason for Admission	5	33	2	1	27	68

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176 ¹ taken from electronic case report form, as other

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178 *Osteomyelitis*179 *Ludwig's angina (4)*180 *Acute epiglottitis*181 *Frostbite*182 *Bacteremia, shock (multiple)*183 *Septic arthritis (knee)*

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185 ² taken from electronic case report form, as other186 *Ventral hernia w/out obstruction or gangrene*187 *Facial abscess with necrosis*188 *Non-bleeding duodenal ulcer and significant erosive esophagitis and gastritis*189 *Hypothermia*190 *Pulmonary edema*191 *Acute hypoxic respiratory failure*192 *Seizure*193 *Post-operative intubation*194 *Ischemic bowel disease*195 *Cardiac arrest*196 *Chronic systolic heart failure*197 *Diabetic ketoacidosis without coma associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus*198 *Peritoneal dialysis catheter malfunction*199 *Shock*200 *Cardiac arrest with concern for non-convulsive status epilepticus*201 *Acute renal failure and hypotension*202 *Retroperitoneal bleed*203 *Acute mesenteric ischemia*204 *Undifferentiated shock and refractory hypoglycemia*205 *Seizure*206 *Respiratory Failure*

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Supplementary Table 2. Demographics and Outcomes Between SEPSIS Patients who Survived or Died Within 180 Days after Sepsis. Values represent the number of sample measurements for each analyte.

	Survivors, n=89	Non-Survivors, n=18	p value
Male [n (%)]	53 (60%)	9 (50%)	0.454
Age, years	62 (48, 70)	66 (59, 80)	0.0166
BMI, kg/m²	28.0 (22.8, 34.9)	25.5 (21.3, 34.6)	0.490
SOFA Score, Baseline	6 (4, 8)	10 (5, 11)	0.0236
Charlson Comorbidity Score	2 (1, 4)	6 (4, 7)	<0.0001
Total Leukocyte Counts	Survivors, n=82	Non-Survivors, n=17	
WBC (x10³/μl)	12.9 (9.6, 19.0), n=85	11.0 (8.1, 17.0), n=18	0.371
Monocytes (%)	4.6 (3.1, 7.5), n=84	4.7 (2.6, 6.0)	0.645
Monocytes (x10³/μl)	0.7 (0.4, 1.0)	0.4 (0.3, 1.0)	0.264
Neutrophils (%)	86.1 (81.5, 91.4), n=81	85.0 (80.6, 90.9)	0.729
Neutrophils (x10³/μl)	11.0 (8.0, 17.0)	8.8 (6.8, 13.4)	0.158
Lymphocytes (%)	6.5 (4.3, 9.4), n=84	5.9 (5.3, 8.5)	0.980
Lymphocytes (x10³/μl)	0.8 (0.5, 1.2), n=84	0.7 (0.5, 1.3)	0.684
Plasma Proteins	Survivors, n=86	Non-Survivors, n=18	
IL-10 (pg/ml)	19.7 (14.8, 26.3)	21.2 (16.3, 29.1)	0.578
IL-6 (pg/ml)	48.9 (20.0, 187.9)	60.3 (25.9, 149.2)	0.730
sPD-L1 (pg/ml)	190 (117, 303)	275 (181, 403)	0.144
Procalcitonin (ng/ml)	993 (254, 3254)	1106 (298, 1810)	0.487
Clinical Outcomes	Survivors, n=89	Non-Survivors, n=18	p value

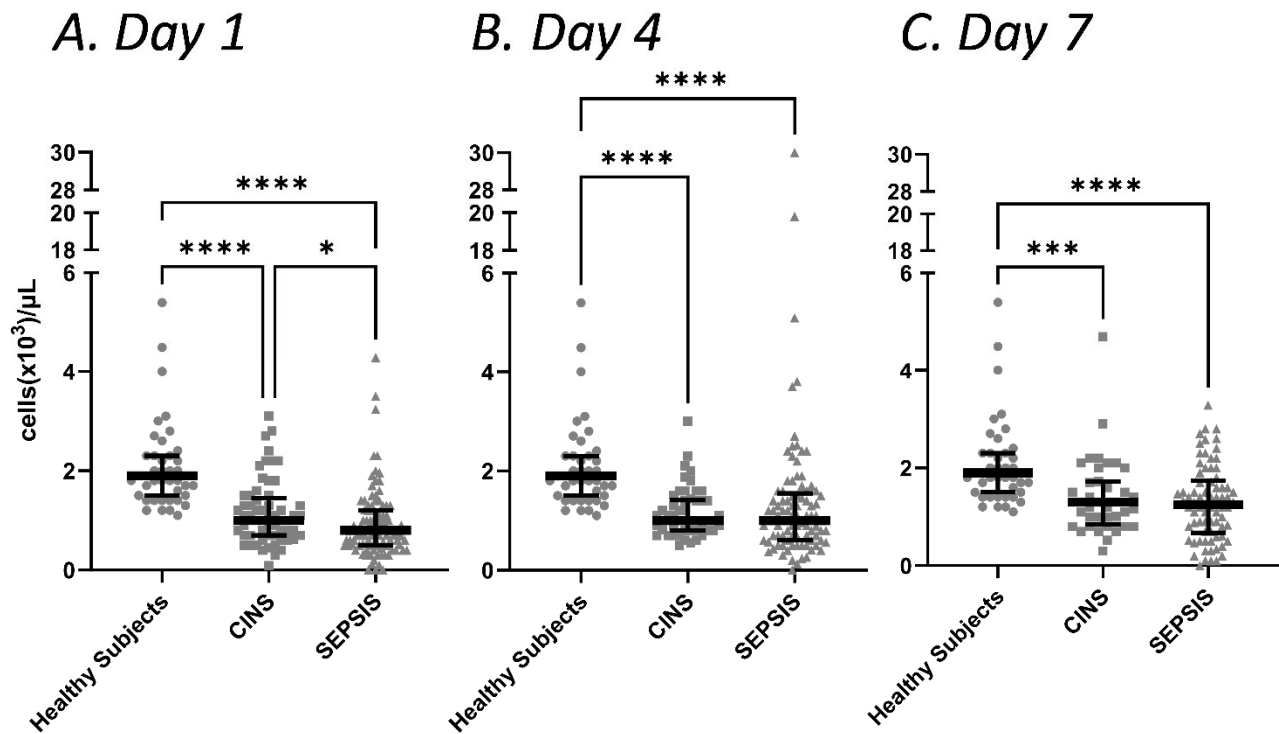
LOS, days	13 (8, 20), n=88	14 (7, 20)	0.812
ICU LOS, days	4 (2, 9)	6 (2, 15)	0.551
Secondary infection	42 (58%), n=73	10 (67%), n=15	0.512
Favorable discharge	59 (66%)	2 (11%)	0.00002
CCI	10 (11%)	5 (28%)	0.0652
In-Hospital Mortality	1 (1%)	13 (72%)	<0.00001
30-Day Mortality	0	12 (70%)	<0.00001
180-Day Mortality	0	18 (100%)	
Disposition at discharge			0.035
Home	26 (29%)	1 (6%)	
LTAC	4 (4%)	0	0.404
IPR	11 (12%)	1 (6%)	
Hospital	2 (2%)	0	
Other	2 (2%)	0	0.319
SNF	19 (21%)	2 (11%)	
Residential facility	0	0	
Home with services	21 (24%)	0	<0.00001
AMA	1 (1%)	0	
Death	1 (1%)	13 (72%)	
Hospice facility	2 (2%)	0	
Home with hospice	0	1 (6%)	

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214 **Supplemental Figure 1. Absolute Lymphocyte Counts in SEPSIS and CINS Cohorts at**
 215 **Different Time Intervals and Healthy Subjects.** Whole blood was collected at different time
 216 points and total and absolute lymphocyte counts were determined. Both SEPSIS and CINS
 217 resulted in a significant decline in total lymphocytes when compared to healthy subjects on
 218 days 1, 4 and 7, while absolute lymphocyte counts were lower in SEPSIS than in CINS
 219 patients on day 1. Healthy control subjects were sampled only once but values are presented
 220 at each time point for comparison. * $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$ as determined by
 221 Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA and post-hoc analyses using the Dunn test. Values are two sided
 222 and represent raw p values.



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