<table>
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</table>
| Svoboda, 2007 Hepatogastroenterology PMID: 17523274 | 72 adults with Severe sepsis after major abdominal surgery or surgery for multiple trauma  
• Microbiologically proven infection: not reported  
• Mean age 45.8 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: not defined  
Criteria for antibiotic cessation: not defined  
Other interventions: if severe sepsis with PCT >2 ng/mL, change antibiotics and intravascular devices | Usual care | Primary:  
• Mortality during hospitalization  
Secondary:  
• Duration of ICU stay, and others |
| Nobre, 2008 Am J Respir Crit Care Med PMID: 18096708 NCT00250666 | 79 adults with Suspected severe sepsis or septic shock admitted to the ICU  
• Microbiologically proven infection: 50%. Blood cultures positive in 32%  
• Mean age 67.7 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 3 if initial PCT value less than 1 μg/L, 5 if initial PCT value more than 1 μg/L  
Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value decreased over 90% or PCT value lower than 0.25 μg/L | Usual care | Primary:  
• Total duration of antimicrobial therapy  
Secondary:  
• Mortality during hospitalization and at 28 days  
• Duration of ICU and hospital stay |
| Schroeder, 2009 Langenbecks Arch Surg PMID: 19034493 | 27 adults with Severe sepsis after surgery and admitted to the surgical ICU  
• Microbiologically proven infection: 67%  
• Mean age 68.8 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  
Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT less than 1 ng/mL or declined more than 25% to 35% of the initial concentration within 3 days | Usual care | Primary:  
• Total duration of antimicrobial therapy  
Secondary:  
• Others |
| Hochreiter, 2009 Crit Care PMID: 19493352 ISRCTN10288268 | 110 adults with Sepsis (confirmed or highly suspected bacterial infection and at least two concomitant SIRS criteria) patients admitted to the surgical ICU  
• Microbiologically proven infection: not reported  
• Mean age 66.9 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1  
Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT less than 1 ng/mL or declined more than 25% to 35% of the initial concentration within 3 days | Standard regimen of antibiotics over 8 days | Primary:  
• Total duration of antimicrobial therapy  
Secondary:  
• Mortality at 90 days  
• Duration of ICU stay, and others |
| Layios, 2012 Crit Care Med PMID: 22809906 | 509 adults with Sepsis admitted to the ICU (per Layios Table 3, all had sepsis)  
• Microbiologically proven infection: 61% (87% of total ‘suspected’ of having infection)  
• Mean age 65.51 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 0  
Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L | Usual care | Primary:  
• Antibiotic consumption days  
Secondary:  
• Mortality in intensive care  
• Others |
| Annane, 2013 BMJ Open PMID: 23418298 NCT01025180 | 62 adults with non-microbiologically proven apparent severe sepsis admitted to the ICU  
• Microbiologically proven infection: 0%  
• Mean age 56.5 years | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 3  
Criteria for antibiotic cessation: PCT value lower than 0.5 μg/L for patients admitted to the medical ICU or lower than 9 μg/L for patients admitted to surgical ICU (less than 4% of patients) | Usual care | Primary:  
• Proportion of patients receiving antibiotics at day 5  
Secondary:  
• Mortality at 5 days, at ICU discharge, and at hospital discharge, total number of days on antimicrobial therapy, duration of ICU and hospital stay, and others |
<p>| Oliveira, 2013 | 94 adults with Severe sepsis or septic | First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 4 if initial PCT | Protocol based on the | Primary: |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>PMID</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Microbiological Proven Infection</th>
<th>PCT Criteria</th>
<th>Cessation Criteria</th>
<th>Comparator</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liu, 2013</td>
<td>[24225216](PMID: 24225216)</td>
<td>82 adults with Sepsis admitted to the ICU</td>
<td>Microbiologically proven infection: not reported but blood cultures positive in 30%</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1</td>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>Primary: Duration of antimicrobial therapy</td>
<td>Secondary: Duration of ICU and hospital stay, Mortality at 28 days, Others</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deliberato, 2013 Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease</td>
<td>[23711530](PMID: 23711530)</td>
<td>81 adults with Sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock admitted to the ICU</td>
<td>Microbiologically proven infection: 100%</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 5</td>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>Primary: Duration of antimicrobial therapy</td>
<td>Secondary: Mortality during intensive care or hospitalization, Duration of ICU stay, Duration of hospitalization.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shehabi (ANZICS Clinical Trials Group), 2014 Am J Respir Crit Care Med</td>
<td>[25295709](PMID: 25295709)</td>
<td>394 adults with suspected sepsis (bacterial infection with SIRS) admitted to the ICU</td>
<td>Microbiologically proven infection: 61%</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1</td>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>Primary: Duration of antimicrobial therapy at 28 days, hospital discharge, or death, whichever came first</td>
<td>Secondary: Duration of ICU and hospital stay, Mortality at 90 days, and others</td>
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<td>de Jong, 2015 Lancet Infect Dis</td>
<td>[26947523](PMID: 26947523)</td>
<td>1575 adults with critical illness admitted to the ICU with sepsis (per de Jong's Table 1, all had sepsis)</td>
<td>Microbiologically proven infection: not reported, but 'Unknown focus' was 9%</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 1</td>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>Primary: Duration of antimicrobial therapy</td>
<td>Secondary: Duration of ICU and hospital stay, Mortality at 28 days and 1 year, Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloos, 2015 JAMA Intern Med</td>
<td>[27428731](PMID: 27428731)</td>
<td>1089 adults with severe sepsis or septic shock admitted to the ICU</td>
<td>Mean age 65.7 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day antibiotic cessation allowed: 7</td>
<td>Usual care</td>
<td>Primary: Mortality at 28 days</td>
<td>Secondary: Duration of ICU and hospital stay, duration of antimicrobial therapy, Mortality at 90 days</td>
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