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Title: C-reactive protein (CRP) as a marker of disease severity in community acquired pneumonia patients with sepsis

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Body: INTRODUCTION: C - Reactive Protein (CRP), an early sensitive marker of inflammation is studied extensively in various common medical disorders. Until recently CRP measurement was not studied widely in Pneumonias . We intended to study its usefulness for assessment of disease severity in patients of Community acquired pneumonia (CAP) with Sepsis. OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the utility of C - Reactive Protein as a marker of disease severity in patients of Community acquired pneumonia with Sepsis. METHODS: Study design: Prospective observational study. Setting: 12 bedded ICU of a multi speciality hospital in Abudhabi, UAE. Subjects: 40 patients admitted during June 2010 - January 2012, fulfilled the study criteria. CAP and Sepsis were defined based on the ATS and ACCP/SCCM 1992 criteria respectively. RESULTS: Patients were divided into two groups, Group A with CRP < 300 mg/ L and Group B with > 300 mg/ L with mean age being 36.5 and 42.6 years respectively. Characteristics of disease severity were compared in both the groups.

Table1. Disease severity

Characteristics	Group A	Group B	p value
Septic shock	1	12	0.0128
Severe sepsis	5	23	0.0002
Organ dysfunction > 2 organs	3	20	0.0003
Mech ventilation	0	4	>0.05
Mortality	0	3	>0.05

Presentation of septic shock, severe sepsis and multiorgan dysfunction was significantly higher in group B

($p < 0.05$). Mean CRP value among nonsurvivors was 355.33 mg / L and 257.56 mg/L among survivors ($p < 0.05$). CONCLUSION: CRP value of greater than 300 mg / L within first 48 hours of admission in ICU appears to be a good marker of disease severity in patients of Community acquired pneumonia with Sepsis and may be useful to identify high risk patients.