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Title: Serum microRNA signatures identified by Solexa sequencing predict sepsis patients mortality: A prospective observational study

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Body: Background: Sepsis is the leading cause of death in Intensive Care Unit. Novel biomarkers and targets of treatment were still needed to improve the mortality. Our goal of the prospective study was to investigate if serum miRNAs identified in genome-wide scans could predict sepsis mortality. Methodology/Principal findings: 214 sepsis patients participated in the study. Solexa sequencing followed by qRT-PCR were used to test for differences in the levels of miRNAs between survivors and non-survivors of sepsis patients. miR-223, miR-15a, miR-16, miR-122, miR-193* and miR-483-5p were significantly differentially expressed, and the area under curve of the six miRNAs predictive mortality value ranged from 0.610 (95%CI, 0.523-0.697) to 0.790 (95%CI, 0.719-0.861). Logistic regression analysis showed that sepsis stage, APACHE II score, miR-15a, miR-16, miR-193b* and miR-483-5p were correlated to the death of sepsis and area under curve of the six variables predictive value was 0.950 (95% Confident interval, 0.919-0.982), which was much higher than APACHE II score, SOFA score, and procalcitonin with area under curve of 0.782 (95% CI, 0.712-0.851), 0.752 (95% CI, 0.672-0.832) and 0.689 (95% CI, 0.611-0.784), respectively. When the cut off point set at 0.526, the predictive value of the six variables provided a 85.2% sensitivity and a 90.4% specificity. In addition, miR-193b* had highest odds ratio of 9.23(95% CI, 1.20-71.16). Conclusion/Significance: Six miRNAs expression profiles could be used to predict septic mortality. The predictive value was better than the indicators that used in clinical.