**Supplemental Digital Content - Table 2. Ferritin levels best predictive to differentiate between two disease groups.**

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| **Cohort** | **OR(95 % CI)** | **P value** | **AUC(95 % CI)** | **Ferritin[µg/L]** | **Sensitivity/****Specificity** |
| HLH versus septic shock | 3.517(2.604 - 4.749) | < 0.001 | 0.937(0.912 - 0.961) | 11565 | 90.0 % /89.0 %  |
| HLH versus sepsis | 4.512(3.210 - 6.343) | < 0.001 | 0.963(0.946 - 0.980) | 9104 | 92.5 % /92.6 % |
| HLH versus other | 5.197(3.345 - 8.076) | < 0.001 | 0.981(0.971 - 0.991) | 5425 | 95.0 % /93.4 % |
| Septic shock versus sepsis | 1.034(0.936 - 1.142) | 0.506 | 0.548(0.519 - 0.576) | 1641 | 48.1 % /57.2 % |
| Septic shock versus other | 1.278(1.118 - 1.462) | < 0.001 | 0.662(0.635 - 0.690) | 1146 | 67.9 % /57.9 % |
| Sepsis versus other | 1.262(1.131 - 1.407) | < 0.001 | 0.616(0.591 - 0.641) | 1212 | 59.8 % /60.6 % |

AUC, *Area under the curve*; CI, *confidence interval;* OR, *Odds ratio.
Multivariable logistic regression analyses were performed with HLH, septic shock and sepsis, respectively, as dependent variable (cohort of the respective two groups) and age, sex, body mass index, maximum ferritin, maximum sequential organ failure assessment score as covariables. Corresponding ROC analyses were run to find most predictive maximum ferritin levels to differentiate between the respective cohorts.*