Table 2: Characteristics of studies included in the narrative review.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First author/year** | **Location of main study sitea** | **Income Levelb** | **Number of sites** | **Sepsis definition criteria** | **No. of patients**c | **Variables discussed** | **Outcome** |
| Aljabari S, 2019 | United States | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC  | 99 | Severe sepsis  | composite of NPMODS & mortality |
| Carrol ED, 2005 | United Kingdom | HIC | 1 | Otherd | 94 | Cut-offs of CRP of 86 mg/L & procalcitonin 43 ng/mL  | septic shock |
| Fitzgerald JC, 2016 | United States | HIC | 128 | 2005 IPSCC | 493 | AKI  | composite of NPMODS & mortality |
| Gupta S, 2018 | India | LMIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC  | 122 | Shock index cut-offs at 1 hour increments from time 0 to 6 hours  | mortality |
| Haque A, 2015 | Pakistan | LMIC | 1 | ACCM 2007 | 71 | VIS cut-off of 20 | mortality |
| Khanbabaee G, 2018 | Iran | UMIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC  | 306 | Red cell distribution width elevation | sepsis and mortality |
| Kortz TB, 2017 | Tanzania | LMIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 405 | LODS and AVPU scores  | mortality |
| Lautz AJ, 2020 | United States | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 181 | LVEF cut-offs of 45% and 65% | mortality |
| Lin JC, 2017 | United States | HIC | 128 | 2005 IPSCC | 567 | Severe sepsis | NPMODS |
| Lindell RB, 2017 | United States | HIC | 128 | 2005 IPSCC | 567 | Hematopoietic cell transplant | mortality |
| Moustafa AA, 2018 | Egypt | LMIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 119 | Lactate/albumin ratio cut-off of 1.17 | mortality |
| Niederwanger C, 2018e | Austria | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 164 | Anti-thrombin III of 41.5% (< 1 year) and 67.5% (≥ 1 year) | mortality |
| Oliveira NS, 2008 | Brazil | UMIC | 1 | 2001 SCCM/ESICM/ACCP/ATS/SIS | 218 | Serum troponin > 1 ng/dL | mortality |
| Onwuneme C, 2015 | Ireland | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 120 | 25-hydroxy vitamin < 50 nmol/L | sepsis |
| Ozdemir R, 2016 | Turkey | UMIC | 1 | 2001 SCCM/ESICM/ACCP/ATS/SIS  | 93 | Tp-e/QT ratio on ECG | mortality |
| Pizarro CF, 2005 | Brazil | UMIC | 1 | ACCM 2002 | 57 | Baseline cortisol cut-off of 20 µg/dL and post ACTH stimulation of ≤ 9 µg/dL | mortality |
| Reed L, 2013 | United States | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC  | 139 | Serum lactate cut-off of 3 mM | sepsis |
| Rey C, 2007 | Spain | HIC | 1 | 1992 ACCP/SCCM  | 94 | CRP & procalcitonin cut-offs (numerous) | sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock |
| Saleh NY, 2018 | Egypt | LMIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 160 | Serum zinc  | sepsis and mortality |
| Sankar J, 2014 | India | LMIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 60 | Systolic (55% ejection fraction) and diastolic dysfunction (numerous ECHO measurements) | mortality |
| Schlapbach LJ, 2018 | Australia, New Zealand | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 3200 | Organ dysfunction score cut-offs | sepsis and mortality |
| Scott HF, 2016 | United States | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 77 | Serum lactate clearance (decrease of ≥10%) and normalization (< 2 mmol/L) | persistent MODS |
| Signoff JK, 2018 | United States | HIC | 1 | 2005 IPSCC | 192 | Fibrinogen cut-offs |  |
| Vermont CL, 2005 | The Netherlands | HIC | 1 | Otherd | 57 | Serum HDL, LDL and cholesterol | mortality |
| Yildizdas D, 2004 | Turkey | UMIC | 1 | Bones  | 72 | Thyroid hormone | mortality |

aFor multi-centre studies, this was the site of the corresponding author.

bCountries were identified as low-(LIC), low-middle-(LMIC), upper-middle-(UMIC) and high-income countries (HIC) according to the World Bank classification of 2019-2020.

cThe number of sepsis, severe sepsis and/or septic shock patients included in the study.

dDefined as per Carrol ED, Thomson AP, Mobbs KJ, et al: The role of RANTES in meningococcal disease. J Infect Dis 2000; 182:363-366. Vermont defined meningococcal sepsis as presence of petechiae and/or purpura fulminans, tachycardia, tachypnea, and a body temperature of < 36 or > 38.5°C.

eNiederwanger et al, 2018, *PeerJ*.

fAbbreviations: ACCP = American College of Chest Physicians; AKI = acute kidney injury; AVPU = alert, verbal, pain, unresponsive; ATS = American Thoracic Society; CRP = c-reactive protein; ECG = electrocardiogram; ECHO = echocardiography; ESICM = European Society of Critical Care Medicine; HDL = high density lipoprotein; IPSCC = International Pediatric Sepsis Consensus Conference; LDL = low density lipoprotein; LODS = logistic organ dysfunction score; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; NPMODS = new or progressive multiorgan dysfunction syndrome; SCCM = Society of Critical Care Medicine; SIS = Surgical Infection Society; VIS = vasoactive inotropic score.