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Proven Tactics to Promote Better Patient Outcomes for the Elderly Septic Population

Texas Health Resources
Harris Methodist Ft. Worth Hospital

APRIL 21, 2017

FOUNDER PRESENTER
Theresa Posani, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CORN, CNE
Med/Surg CHS/Septic Coordinator



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THR Harris Methodist Ft. Worth Hospital

- 632 Beds
- Hospital
- Level I Trauma Center
- Top 100 Hospital (Thompson Reuters)
- Magnet designated, 3 times redesignated
- NICHE designated since 2011
- Exemplar status
- Part of the Texas Health Resources network here in north Texas

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Agenda

1. Sepsis in the elderly
2. How does the electronic medical record help
3. Ongoing education of patient/family/staff and monitoring
4. Latest research efforts to identify diagnostic tools for identifying sepsis in the elderly

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Sepsis in the elderly



What are you looking for in this large group of potentially septic patients?


- Altered mental status
- Urinary tract infections
- Pneumonia
- Chronic diseases
- Frequent falls

What are the symptoms to be aware of in the elderly?

- Change in body temperatures
- Rapid heart rate
- Rapid breathing
- Shaking
- Confusion

FORUM PRESENTER
Theresa Pagan, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CCRN, CNE
Med/Surg CNE/Sepsis Coordinator

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How can the electronic medical record assist in identifying potentially septic older patients?

Tools to use:

- 1) AMS scales; i.e. non-ICU CAM
- 2) SIRS
- 3) MEWS
- 4) Shock index
- 5) Sepsis summary flowsheet
- 6) Listing of previous hospital/ED encounters

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Ongoing education for patient/family and healthcare providers . . .

Start with healthcare providers . . .

- * S/S sepsis in the older patient
- * Case studies
- * Grand rounds
- * NICHE training



Think of the potential for sepsis in discharge teaching on sepsis . . .


- * EMMI
- * Patient/family handouts on sepsis

Think of the patient recovering from sepsis . . .

- * Surviving sepsis

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Ongoing research to identify commonalities and diagnostic tools . . .

Currently have 4 facilities involved in retrospective research study:

- * Identify which diagnostic tool most often assists in early ID
- * Identify common factors; i.e. AMS, HR, RR, U/O, labs
- * Will qSOFA
- * Is there a difference with sepsis vs. severe sepsis vs. septic shock

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MedSurg CHESepsis Coordinator



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CASE STUDY:

Scenario
Discussion
When did you identify sepsis?

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References

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www.sepsis.org

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MedSurg CHESepsis Coordinator

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