

May 1st, 8:00 AM - Aug 17th, 12:00 AM

Why Sepsis Diagnosis is Missed in the Emergency Department

Elizabeth Nolan
mabbs18@yahoo.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/nursing-colloquium>



Part of the [Critical Care Nursing Commons](#)

Nolan, Elizabeth, "Why Sepsis Diagnosis is Missed in the Emergency Department" (2016). *Grace Peterson Nursing Research Colloquium*. 55.

<https://via.library.depaul.edu/nursing-colloquium/2018/summer/55>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Nursing at Via Sapientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in Grace Peterson Nursing Research Colloquium by an authorized administrator of Via Sapientiae. For more information, please contact wsulliv6@depaul.edu, c.mcclure@depaul.edu.

Abstract

Background: More than 1.5 million people are diagnosed with sepsis in the United States each year. Sepsis has a spectrum of severity in which the mortality rates rise as the severity increases. In the United States, 15-30 % of the over one million people diagnosed with sepsis each year, die. One of the reasons that so many people die from sepsis in the US, is because nurses are not trained in recognizing early onset symptoms.

Objectives: The purpose of this integrative literature review was to identify what the common and early signs and symptoms of sepsis are, and what training is optimal to determine early and accurate treatment of sepsis that was diagnosed in the emergency department.

Method: An integrative literature review was conducted that underwent an extensive search to identify existing sepsis protocols and how they are implemented. Two databases were used to acquire relevant research articles and materials.: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Health Literature (CINAHL) and PubMed.

Results: Varied patient presentation, lack of education and compliance of sepsis protocols by nursing staff and the lack of national sepsis criteria were found to all be contributing factors to why a sepsis diagnosis is missed.

Conclusions: While the implementation of sepsis protocols has been studied extensively, the outcome of sepsis diagnosis and associated rates because of the protocol implementations are less researched. Education and protocol adherence are the keys to catching a sepsis diagnosis early.

Keywords: *sepsis, emergency department, diagnosis and nursing*