

Additional file 3. Prevalence of combined keywords.

The prevalence of combined keywords [1] in the entire population of septic patients presenting to the emergency department of Södersjukhuset during 2013 and prevalence based on mode of arrival.

Order	Combined keyword [1]	Prevalence						P-value*
		Entire sample (N=479)		EMS patients (n=357)		non-EMS patients (n=122)		
		Number	Percent (%) and 95% CI	Number	Percent (%) and 95% CI	Number	Percent (%) and 95% CI	
1	Abnormal, or suspected abnormal temperature In turn including primary keywords shivering OR hypothermia OR the following combined keywords:	319	66.6 (62.3-70.7)	232	65.0 (60.0-69.8)	87	71.3 (62.7-78.6)	0.201
	-Confirmed or suspected fever Fever defined as statement fever or statement temperature >38° OR suspected fever defined as statement feeling hot/warm, increasing temperature or similar expressions	296	61.8 (57.4-66.0)	214	59.9 (54.8-64.9)	82	67.2 (58.5-74.9)	0.154
	-Confirmed abnormal temperature (confirmed fever or hypothermia) Statement fever or statement temperature >38° OR statement hypothermia or temperature <36°	286	60.0 (55.3-64.0)	212	59.4 (54.2-64.4)	74	60.7 (51.8-68.9)	0.805
2	Pain Abdominal/extremity/back/undefined/urinary tract/joint/chest/general/headache/throat/wound/painful muscle cramp/positive Pasternatsy's sign (costovertebral angle tenderness)	230	48.0 (43.6-52.5)	143	40.1 (35.1-45.2)	87	71.3 (62.7-78.6)	<0.001
3	Abnormal breathing Tachypnea, low oxygen saturation, airway secretions, breathing difficulties, cough, or obstructive breathing	210	43.8 (39.5-48.3)	185	51.8 (46.7-57.0)	25	20.5 (14.3-28.5)	<0.001
4	Risk factors for sepsis Known ongoing or recent infection, current antibiotic treatment, recent invasive procedures, substance abuse, compromised immune system), chronically compromised breathing	172	36.0 (31.7-40.3)	110	30.8 (26.3-35.8)	62	50.8 (42.1-59.5)	<0.001

5	Abnormal circulation Weak pulse or difficulties to palpate the pulse, peripheral coldness, cardiac arrest, tachycardia, low blood pressure, prolonged capillary refill time or non-measurable circulatory variables	163	34.0 (29.9-38.4)	137	38.4 (33.5-43.5)	26	21.3 (15.0-29.4)	0.001
6	Gastrointestinal symptoms Vomiting, diarrhoea, reduced amount of stool, gastrointestinal bleeding, obstipation, pale faeces	137	28.6 (24.7-32.8)	104	29.1 (24.7-34.1)	33	27.0 (20.0-35.5)	0.660
7	Acute altered mental status Abnormal behaviour or level of consciousness (excluding previously known dementia or mental retardation without statement worse) OR abnormal verbal response defined as no/decreased verbal response	127	26.5 (22.8-30.6)	111	31.1 (26.5-36.1)	16	13.1 (8.2-20.2)	<0.001
8	Abnormal skin Paleness, wounds or wound infection, sweaty, cyanosis, redness, icterus, mottling, bruises, rash, blisters or petechiae, change of skin turgor, exuding skin	125	26.1 (22.4-30.2)	96	26.9 (22.6-31.7)	29	23.8 (17.1-32.1)	0.498
9	Abnormal urination Abnormal urination (such as haematuria without trauma, bad smelling or cloudy urine, increased frequency of urination) OR urinary tract pain OR decreased urinary volumes OR dysfunction of urinary catheters defined as obstruction/leakage/problematic urinary catheters including nephrostomias	118	24.6 (21.0-28.7)	92	25.8 (21.5-30.6)	26	21.3 (15.0-29.4)	0.324
10	Decreased mobility In turn including primary keywords remained sitting or lying in an abnormal way OR decreased miscellaneous mobility OR the following combined keywords: -Weakness of the legs Decreased ability to stand or walk including need to carry/lift the patient OR fallen OR found on the floor or corresponding place -Fallen or being found on the floor or corresponding place	106	22.1 (18.6-26.1)	93	26.1 (21.8-30.8)	13	10.7 (6.3-17.4)	<0.001
		93	19.4 (16.1-23.2)	81	22.7 (18.7-27.3)	12	9.8 (5.7-16.4)	0.002
		59	12.3 (9.7-15.6)	57	16.0 (12.5-20.1)	2	1.6 (0.5-5.8)	<0.001
11	History of deranged laboratory tests taken previous to EMS arrival High blood sugar OR history of high CRP OR history of positive findings in blood culture taken previous to EMS arrival	43	9.0 (6.7-11.9)	30	8.4 (6.0-11.7)	13	10.7 (6.3-17.4)	0.452

12	Abnormal neurology Focal neurological findings, photosensitivity, sound sensitivity, seizures or dysarthria	40	8.4 (6.2-11.2)	32	9.0 (6.4-12.4)	8	6.6 (3.4-12.4)	0.407
13	Soiled patient Bloodstained or wetted from stool or urine	18	3.8 (2.4-5.9)	16	4.5 (2.8-7.2)	2	1.6 (0.5-5.8)	0.154
14	Mood change Anxiety or fear OR feeling of depression	12	2.5 (1.4-4.3)	8	2.2 (1.1-4.4)	4	3.3 (1.3-8.1)	0.512 (F*)

EMS= Emergency Medical Services, CI=Confidence Interval, IV= Intravenous, CRP= C-Reactive Protein

*for comparison between EMS and non-EMS patients. P-values are presented without adjustment for multiple comparisons. In total 18 tests were performed. Bonferroni-adjusted significance level is 0.05/18=0.0028. P-values indicating significant differences after adjustment for multiple comparisons by Bonferroni correction are bolded and considered significant in the current study.

F* Fischer's exact test was used for statistical analysis due to expected count being <5.

References:

1. Wallgren UM, Bohm KEM, Kurland L. Presentations of adult septic patients in the prehospital setting as recorded by emergency medical services: a mixed methods analysis. Scand J Trauma Resusc Emerg Med. 2017;25(1):23.