

# Effect of a Machine Learning-Based Severe Sepsis Prediction Algorithm on Patient Survival

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Abstract

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## Introduction/Hypothesis:

Severe sepsis is a leading cause of death in the United States and costs health care systems up to \$20 billion annually. Methods have been developed to electronically monitor patients for severe sepsis, but few have provided predictive capabilities to enable early intervention.

We hypothesize, patient length of stay (LOS) and in-hospital mortality rate decrease with the use of a machine learning-based severe sepsis prediction algorithm in the intensive care unit.

## Methods:

A randomized clinical trial was conducted at two mixed medical-surgical intensive care units at UCSF from December 2016 to February 2017. This factorial, open label trial was designed to test whether InSight®, a machine learning-based severe sepsis prediction algorithm, was better than the current Electronic Health Record (EHR)-based severe sepsis detection system. All adult patients (18+) admitted to the participating

units were eligible for study. Enrolled patients were automatically assigned to a trial arm according to a random allocation sequence. Participants randomized to the experimental group were screened by InSight and the existing severe sepsis detection method. Using only the most commonly recorded measurements in the electronic health record, primarily vital signs and age, Insight predicted sepsis onset and alerted the appropriate care team. Upon receiving an alert from the prediction algorithm, the care team evaluated the patient for severe sepsis and initiated the severe sepsis bundle, if appropriate. The primary outcome was LOS. The secondary outcome was in-hospital mortality rate.

**Results:**

Outcomes (75 control patients, 67 experimental) were analyzed. There was a significant ( $P = .04$ ) decrease in hospital LOS (13 d vs. 10.3 d) and a 58.0% reduction in in-hospital mortality rate when using Insight (21.3% vs 8.96%), ( $P = .02$ ). No adverse events were reported during this trial.

**Conclusions:**

A machine learning-based sepsis prediction tool may improve patient outcomes and decrease sepsis-related costs.

**Patient Type:**

Adult

**Category:**

Sepsis

**Category Alternate 1 (optional):**

Infectious Diseases

**Category Alternate 2 (optional):**

Sepsis

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