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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Sepsis is a serious condition with high morbidity and mortality for which clinical diagnostic criteria lack sensitivity and specificity. Early initiation of appropriate antibiotics and goal directed therapies reduce mortality. Conversely, overuse and misuse of antibiotics, including continuing antibiotics longer than necessary for cure can result in adverse events and add to the increasing problem of antibiotic resistance. Several serum biomarkers have been identified in recent years that have the potential to help diagnose local and systemic infections, differentiate bacterial and fungal infections from viral syndromes or noninfectious conditions, prognosticate, and ultimately guide management, particularly antibiotic therapy. Among these, procalcitonin is the most extensively studied biomarker. Numerous studies have investigated the potential roles of procalcitonin in diagnosing and managing local and systemic infections. However, its clinical utility in the diagnosis and management of patients with suspected infections remains unclear. A Comparative Effectiveness Review (CER) was prepared by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Technology Evaluation Center Evidence-based Practice Center (BCBSA TEC EPC) on Procalcitonin-Guided Antibiotic Therapy. The objective of the CER was to synthesize comparative studies examining the various uses of procalcitonin in the clinical management of patients with suspected local or systemic infection. The patient populations included those with suspected sepsis or other serious bacterial infections in critically ill adults, neonates with suspected early neonatal sepsis, patients with upper and lower respiratory tract infections, children with fever of unknown source, and postoperative patients with infection. The following Key Question formed the basis for the CER: In selected populations of patients with suspected local or systemic infection, what are the effects of using procalcitonin measurement plus clinical criteria for infection to guide initiation, discontinuation, or a change...



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