



**PHARMACY
VISION
20/20**

CSHP SEMINAR 20 • OCTOBER 21-25
Disneyland
RESORT

DOES AN ORANGE A DAY KEEP THE DOCTOR AWAY?

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DISCLOSURE

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Summarize the current sepsis and septic shock treatment guidelines.
2. Evaluate the literature for ascorbic acid and hydrocortisone in septic shock.
3. Discuss recent findings of the CITRIS-ALI and VITAMINS trials.
4. Discuss the integration of current literature findings into everyday practice.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADRENAL-adjunctive glucocorticoid therapy in patients with septic shock

APROCCHSS-Activated protein C and corticosteroids for human septic shock

CITRIS-ALI- Vitamin C infusion for treatment in sepsis induced acute lung injury

HAT- Hydrocortisone, ascorbic acid, thiamine

HYPRESS- Hydrocortisone for prevention of septic shock

HYVCTTSS-Combined Treatment with Hydrocortisone, Vitamin C, and Thiamine for Sepsis and Septic Shock

SOFA- Sequential organ failure assessment

SIRS- Systemic inflammatory response syndrome

SEPSIS & SEPTIC SHOCK TREATMENT GUIDELINES

NEW BUNDLE



Hour 1 bundle

Initial resuscitation for sepsis and septic shock (begin immediately)

- 1 Measure lactate level*
- 2 Obtain blood cultures before administering antibiotics
- 3 Administer broad-spectrum antibiotics
- 4 Begin to rapidly administer 30mL/kg crystalloid for hypotension or lactate ≥ 4 mmol/L
- 5 Apply vasopressors if hypotensive during or after fluid resuscitation to maintain a mean arterial pressure ≥ 65 mm Hg

*Remeasure lactate if initial lactate elevated (>2 mmol/L)

CORTICOSTEROIDS IN SEPSIS & SEPTIC SHOCK

Does your institution's sepsis protocol or order-set include the use of corticosteroids?

Yes

No

CORTISOL AND SEPSIS

- Inflammatory response → activation of hypothalamic-pituitary adrenal axis
- ↑ cortisol
 - ↓ nitric oxide effects
 - Potentiates catecholamine effects
 - ↑ vasopressin synthesis
- Corticosteroid insufficiency

CORTICOSTEROIDS IN SEPSIS GUIDELINES

We suggest against using IV hydrocortisone to treat septic shock patients if adequate fluid resuscitation and vasopressor therapy are able to restore hemodynamic stability. If this is not achievable, we suggest IV hydrocortisone at a dose of 200 mg per day (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).

HYPRESS TRIAL

- Enrolled 380 patients with sepsis
 - ≥ 2 SIRS criteria, proven infection, and ≥ 1 organ with new dysfunction
- IV hydrocortisone 200 mg x 5 days followed by dose tapering for total of 11 days

	IV Hydrocortisone	Placebo	P value
Septic shock 14 days	21.1%	22.9%	0.70
28 day Mortality	8.8%	8.2%	0.86
Delirium	11.2%	24.5%	0.01

ADRENAL TRIAL

- 3658 patients with septic shock requiring vasopressors and mechanical ventilation

	IV Hydrocortisone	Placebo	P value
90 day mortality	27.9%	28.8%	0.50
Median time to shock reversal (days)	3	4	<0.001
Median time to extubation (days)	6	7	<0.001
Median ICU length of stay (days)	10	12	<0.001
Use of RRT	30.6%	32.7%	0.18

APROCCHSS TRIAL

- 1241 patients on hydrocortisone + fludricortisone vs placebo

	Steroids	Placebo	P value
90 day mortality	49.1	43.0	0.03
Median vasopressor free days	19	23	<0.001
Median ventilator free days(days)	4	10	0.07
Median organ failure-free days(days)	12	19	0.003
≥ 1 episode superinfection	28.4%	31.1%	0.3

STEROIDS- TO GIVE OR NOT TO GIVE?

Pros

- ↓ duration of vasopressors
- ↓ mortality
- ↓ time to shock reversal

Cons

- ↑ infection
- ↑ blood glucose
- ↑ sodium

VITAMIN C

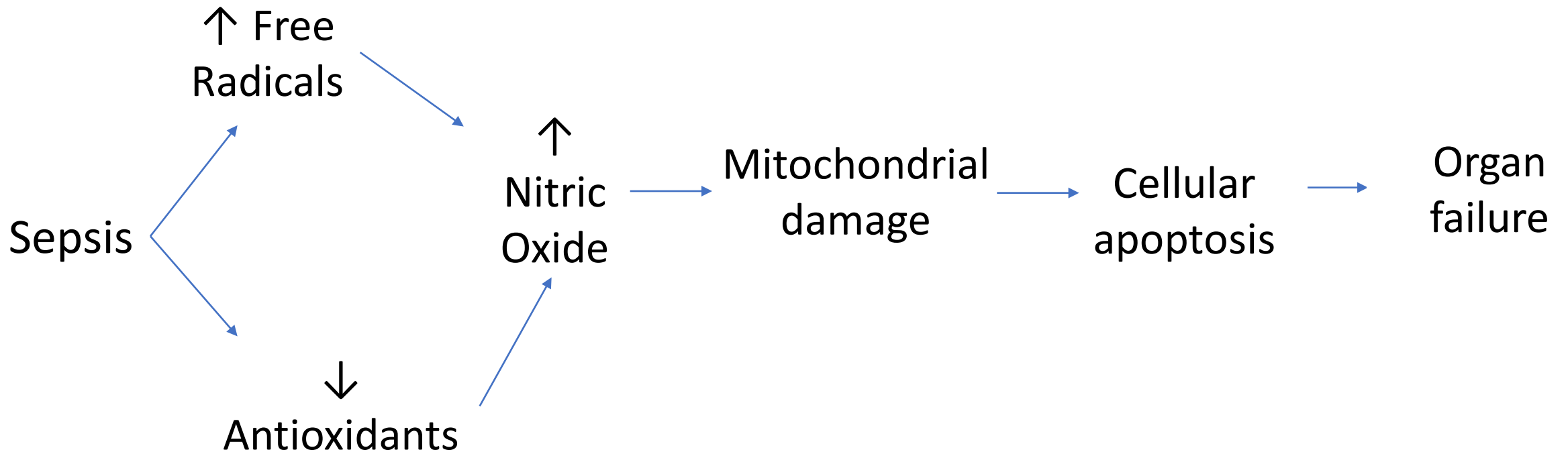
SEPSIS & SEPTIC SHOCK

Does your institution's sepsis protocol or order-set include the use of Vitamin C?

Yes

No

OXIDATIVE STRESS IN SEPSIS



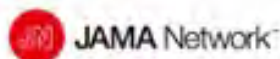
WHAT'S THE HARM?

- Systematic review
- 74 studies, 2801 patients
- High dose vitamin C
 - Marik's trial: 1.5 g IV q6 h
 - Median dose in this paper 22.5 g/day

WHAT'S THE HARM?

- 5 cases of oxalate nephropathy
- 5 cases of hypernatremia
- 3 cases of hemolysis in patients with G6PD deficiency
- 2 cases of glucometer error
- 1 case of kidney stones

CITRIS-ALI TRIAL



QUESTION Can intravenous administration of high-dose vitamin C reduce organ failure scores and biomarkers of inflammation and vascular injury in patients with sepsis and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)?

CONCLUSION This randomized clinical trial found that in patients with sepsis and ARDS, high-dose vitamin C compared with placebo did not significantly reduce organ failure scores or improve biomarker levels.

POPULATION

90 Men
77 Women



Adults in the intensive care unit (ICU) with sepsis and ARDS for <24 hours

Mean age: 55 years

LOCATIONS

7 ICUs in the United States



INTERVENTION



84

Vitamin C

Intravenous vitamin C infusion, 50 mg/kg every 6 hours for 96 hours total

167 Patients analyzed

83

Placebo

Dextrose infusion every 6 hours for 96 hours total



PRIMARY OUTCOME

Change in organ failure assessment (mSOFA), biomarkers of inflammation (C-reactive protein), and vascular injury (thrombomodulin)

FINDINGS

Change in mSOFA score, points (range 0-20)

Vitamin C 3 points **Placebo** 3.5 points

C-reactive protein at 168 hours, µg/mL

Vitamin C 54.1 µg/mL **Placebo** 46.1 µg/mL

Thrombomodulin at 168 hours, ng/mL

Vitamin C 14.5 ng/mL **Placebo** 13.8 ng/mL

Between-group differences were not significant:

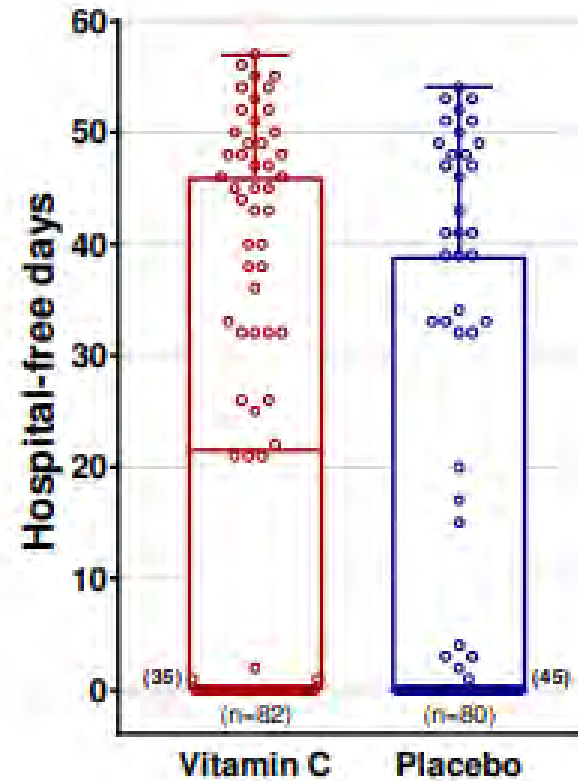
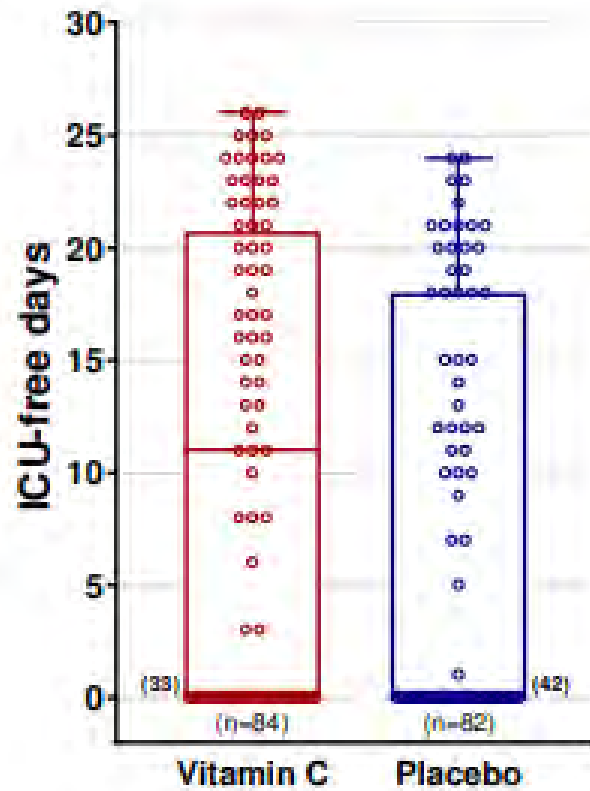
mSOFA, **-0.10** (95% CI, -1.23 to 1.03)

C-reactive protein, **7.94 µg/mL** (95% CI, -8.2 to 24.11)

Thrombomodulin, **0.69 ng/mL** (95% CI, -2.8 to 4.2)

Fowler III AA, Trowil JD, Hite RD, et al. Effect of vitamin C infusion on organ failure and biomarkers of inflammation and vascular injury in patients with sepsis and severe acute respiratory failure: the CITRIS-ALI randomized clinical trial [published October 1, 2019]. *JAMA*. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.11825

CITRIS-ALI TRIAL



CITRIS-ALI TRIAL

- Higher doses of IV vitamin C
- Included intubated patients with ARDS
- Primarily a “negative” study
 - Until mortality is factored in
- Primarily a “positive” trial
 - When safety is factored in

HYDROCORTISONE, VITAMIN C, THIAMINE IN SEPSIS & SEPTIC SHOCK

Does your institution's sepsis protocol or order-set include the use of Hydrocortisone, thiamine, and vitamin C?

Yes

No

MARIK TRIAL

- Vitamin C + Hydrocortisone + Thiamine vs. standard treatment
 - 1.5g QDS Vitamin C intravenously for 4 days or until ICU discharge
 - Hydrocortisone 50mg QDS intravenously for 7 days or until ICU discharge followed by a taper over 3 days
 - 200mg thiamine BD for 4 days or until ICU discharge

MARIK TRIAL- OUTCOMES

Primary Outcome: Hospital mortality (vitamin C vs. standard)

- 8.5% (4 of 47) vs. 40.4% (19 of 47) $p < 0.001$


Secondary Outcomes: (Vitamin C vs standard)

- Mean duration of vasopressor therapy: 18.3 ± 9.8 hrs vs. 54.9 ± 28.4
 $P < 0.001$
- 72-hour delta SOFA score 4.8 ± 2.4 vs. 0.9 ± 2.7 $p < 0.001$.

MARIK TRIAL

- High mortality in the control group
- Multiple interventions and therefore not possible to determine which, if any, are associated with improved outcome
- The treatment and control periods were not concurrent and occurred during different seasons

VITAMINS TRIAL

 JAMA Network[®]

QUESTION Does treatment with vitamin C, hydrocortisone, and thiamine lead to a more rapid resolution of septic shock compared with hydrocortisone alone?

CONCLUSION The findings of this clinical trial suggest that treatment with intravenous vitamin C, hydrocortisone, and thiamine does not lead to a more rapid resolution of septic shock compared with intravenous hydrocortisone alone.

POPULATION



133 Men 78 Women

Adult ICU patients meeting Sepsis-3 definition of septic shock

Mean age: 62 years

LOCATIONS

10 ICUs in Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil

INTERVENTION



107

Intervention

Intravenous vitamin C (1.5 g every 6 hours), hydrocortisone (50 mg every 6 hours), and thiamine (200 mg every 12 hours)

216 Patients randomized
211 Patients analyzed



104

Control

Intravenous hydrocortisone (50 mg every 6 hours)

PRIMARY OUTCOME

Duration of time alive and free of vasopressor administration through day 7

FINDINGS

Median time alive and free of vasopressor administration

Intervention

122 hours (IQR, 76-145 hours)

Control

125 hours (IQR, 82-147 hours)

Median of differences,

-0.6 hours

(95% CI, -8.3 to 7.2 hours); $P = .83$

Fujii T, Luethi N, Young PJ, et al. Effect of vitamin C, hydrocortisone, and thiamine vs hydrocortisone alone on time alive and free of vasopressor support among patients with septic shock: the VITAMINS randomized clinical trial [published online January 17, 2020]. *JAMA*. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.23176

VITAMINS TRIAL

- No significant difference in the median time alive and free of vasopressors up to day 7 after randomisation between the intervention group and the control group
 - 122.1 hours [IQR, 76.3-145.4] vs. 124.6 hours [IQR, 82.1-147.0]
 - Median difference between groups, -0.6 hours [95% CI, -8.3 to 7.2]; $P = 0.83$

VITAMINS TRIAL

- VITAMINS trial shows that ascorbic acid and thiamine add nothing to hydrocortisone
- HAT was administered after initial resuscitation- efficacy compromised?

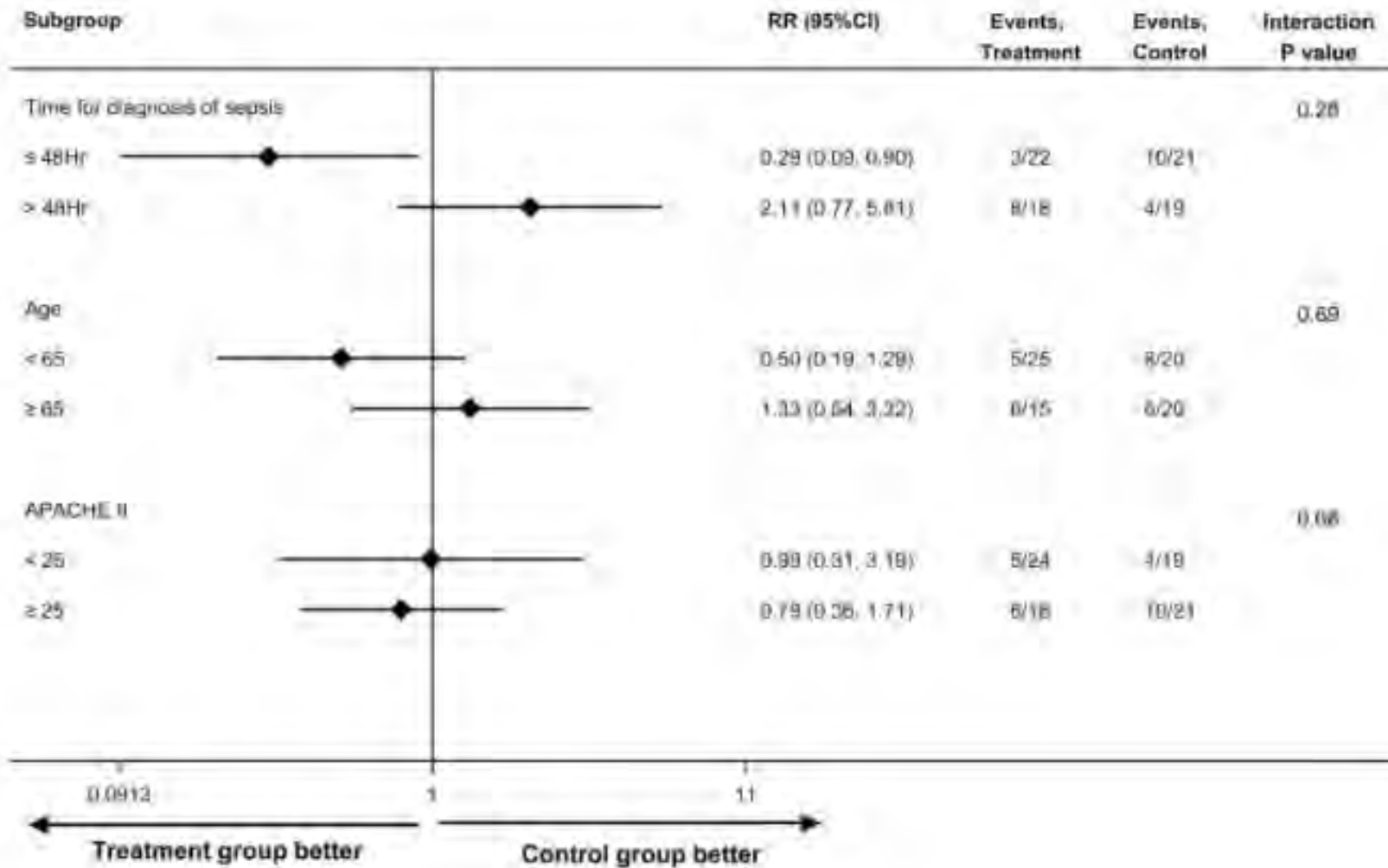
HYVCTTSS TRIAL

- Initial intent to enroll 140 patients
 - Final enrollment of 80
- Patients were included if they met the definition of sepsis-3 AND had a procalcitonin >2 ng/mL
- Treatment:
 - Hydrocortisone 50 mg q6 h x 7 days
 - Thiamine 200 mg q12 h x 4 days
 - Vitamin C 1.5 g q6 h x 4 days

HYVCTTSS TRIAL

- Primary endpoint
 - 28 day mortality 27.5 % vs. 35% (Vitamin C vs placebo) , $p = 0.47$
- Secondary endpoints
 - Comparable between groups for 28 day mortality, ICU length of stay, new AKI after entering ICU, procalcitonin clearance at 72 hr, lactate clearance at 72 hr and duration of mechanical ventilation
 - Duration of vasopressor 46 vs 58.5 hrs, $p = 0.70$
 - Change in SOFA score at 72 hr 3.5 ± 3.3 vs 1.8 ± 3.0 , $p = 0.02$

HYVCTTSS TRIAL



ORANGES TRIAL

Randomized to:

- Ascorbic Acid 1500 mg q6hr, thiamine 200 mg q12hr, and hydrocortisone 50 mg q6hr for a maximum of 4 days
- Placebo: saline placebo for a maximum of 4 days

ORANGES TRIAL

- Primary outcomes
 - Resolution of shock (Time from starting blinded study medications to discontinuation of all vasopressor support)
 - Change in SOFA score (initial SOFA score minus the day 4 SOFA score)

ORANGES TRIAL

- Secondary outcomes:
 - 28d mortality ; ICU mortality; Hospital mortality
 - Procalcitonin clearance (PCT-c) = $(\text{initial PCT} - \text{PCT at 96hrs}) / \text{initial PCT} \times 100$
 - Hospital LOS; ICU LOS
 - Ventilator-free days
 - Acute kidney injury = \uparrow in serum creatinine (SCr) $>0.3\text{mg/dL}$, or a level $>1.5\text{x}$ the baseline value or initiation of RRT

ORANGES TRIAL

- Safety:
 - Serum creatinine
 - Urine oxalate = 24-hour urine collection on day 4
 - Adverse reactions

ORANGES TRIAL

- Primary outcomes
 - Resolution of shock (Time from starting blinded study medications to discontinuation of all vasopressor support)
 - HAT 27 ± 22 hrs vs. Placebo 53 ± 58 hrs ($p < 0.001$)
 - Change in SOFA score (initial SOFA score minus the day 4 SOFA score)
 - HAT 3 vs. Placebo 2 ($p = 0.17$)

HYDROCORTISONE, VITAMIN C, THIAMINE IN PRACTICE

HYDROCORTISONE

- Consider using when:
 - Fluids and vasopressors are not sufficient
 - Adrenal insufficiency
 - Early start is feasible?

THIAMINE AND VITAMIN C

- Consider using in:
 - Patients with ARDS (Citris-Ali)

HYDROCORTISONE, THIAMINE, AND VITAMIN C

- Consider using
 - When the ends justify the means
 - Newer studies
 - Effects of ascorbic acid, corticosteroids, and thiamine on organ injury in septic shock (Aug 2020)
 - Combination therapy of vitamin C and thiamine for septic shock: a multi-centre, double blinded randomized, controlled study (August 2020)

REVIEW QUESTIONS

The surviving sepsis campaign guidelines includes the use of corticosteroids as part of the 1 hour bundle.

True

False

The surviving sepsis campaign guidelines includes the use of corticosteroids as part of the 1 hour bundle.

True

False

Which of the following trials showed benefit of hydrocortisone, ascorbic acid, and thiamine in patients with ARDS and sepsis?

- Oranges
- HYVCTTSSS
- VITAMINS
- CITRIS-ALI

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- Oranges
- HYVCTTSSS
- VITAMINS
- CITRIS-ALI

A 47 YOM cuts his thumb while attaching an accessory to one of his mowers. Upon their arrival at the ER, the man's temperature has reached 39.7°C. He is flushed and ill-appearing, with a HR of 125, RR 33, and BP of 90/60 mm Hg. (His normal BP is 145/85 mm Hg.) He is initiated on norepinephrine, vasopressin, cefzolin, and lactated ringers. He is currently progressively hypotensive and has mild acute kidney injury.

Which of the following is most appropriate at this time?

- Start phenylephrine drip
- Start thiamine 10 mg PO QD
- Give 150 mg IV hydrocortisone q12h
- Give ascorbic acid 250 mg q8h

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