Published in final edited form as:

Crit Care Med. 2016 April ; 44(4): e237. doi:10.1097/CCM.0000000000001546.

In Response to: Time for a randomized controlled trial to investigate optimal time to antibiotics for patients with sepsis

Sarah A. Sterling, MD, Michael A. Puskarich, MD, and Alan E. Jones, MD

Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine,
2500 N State St., Jackson, MS 39216, USA

Keywords

sepsis; septic shock; antibiotics; time to antibiotics; PHANTASi trial

To the Editor

We read with interest the letter from Drs. Alam and Nanayakkara, “Time for a randomized controlled trial to investigate optimal time to antibiotics for patients with sepsis” (1). We congratulate the authors on their ongoing multi-center, randomized control trial, Prehospital Antibiotics against Sepsis (PHANTASi) trial (Clinicaltrials.gov; identifier : NCT01988428), which hopes to further evaluate the effect of time to antibiotics on outcomes in sepsis by utilizing pre-hospital personnel to administer early antibiotics compared to standard care. While the effect of early recognition and initiation treatment by pre-hospital personnel alone has the potential to lead to overtreatment and unforeseen consequences, the study design seems to provide an ethical alternative to further evaluate the effect of time to antibiotics on outcomes in severe sepsis and septic shock that would not be possible in a hospital based setting, and has the potential to yield important insights into this complex problem. We look forward the authors’ findings and commend the authors for undertaking such a large and complex trial.

Acknowledgments

Copyright form disclosures: Dr. Puskarich’s institution received funding (Dr. Puskarich received salary support from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences [K23GM113041]).

References

1. Alam N, Nanayakkara PWB. Time for a randomized controlled trial to investigate optimal time to antibiotics for patients with sepsis. *Crit Care Med.* 2016 in press.

Contact Information: Alan E. Jones, MD, Chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Mississippi Medical Center, 2500 N State Street, Jackson, MS 39216, Tel: +1601-984-5572, Fax: +1601-984-5583, aejones@umc.edu.

The remaining authors have disclosed that they do not have any potential conflicts of interest.