

Table 1 Demographic and clinical characteristics and risk factors for sepsis in the study groups of patients

Variable	Severe sepsis (n = 27)	Sepsis (n = 25)	Controls (n = 28)	χ^2 -value	P-value
<i>Age (years) [mean (range)]</i>	62.7 (43.9–71.5)	53.1 (44.1–69.0)	50.2 (40.0–60.5)		0.1
<i>Sex ratio (no. of males/females)</i>	16/11	15/10	19/9	0.53	0.76
<i>APACHE II score [mean (range)]</i>	19.5 (16.0–27.0)	16.5 (12.0–21.5)	n/a	2.42	0.01
<i>Deaths (no.)</i>	15	4	n/a	8.7	0.003
<i>Risk factors (no. of patients)</i>					
Older age (> 60 years)	18 ^a	9	4	16.0	< 0.001
Hospitalization > 48 h	27	25	5 ^a	15.5	< 0.001
Corticosteroid therapy	5 ^b	3	0	5.4	0.06
<i>Instrumentation</i>					
Mechanical ventilation	27 ^a	14	10	25.5	< 0.001
Central venous catheter	20 ^a	12 ^b	6	15.3	< 0.001
Urinary catheter	27 ^a	20 ^b	13	21.5	< 0.001
Post-surgery	4	4	6	0.47	0.78
Cardiovascular disease	2	3	5	1.38	0.50
Hepatic disease	7	5	5	0.57	0.75
Renal disease	3	6	6	1.62	0.44
CNS disease	2	4	6	2.15	0.34
Polytrauma	10 ^a	3	0	14.3	< 0.001
Diabetes mellitus	9 ^a	2	0	13.9	< 0.001

^aSignificant difference versus other groups; ^bSignificant difference versus controls.

APACHE = Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation; CNS = central nervous system; n/a = not applicable.