LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Define the following terms: systemic inflammatory response syndrome, sepsis, severe sepsis, and septic shock.
2. Describe the typical clinical presentation including signs, symptoms, hemodynamic measure, and laboratory tests for each condition above.
3. Describe the microbial pathogens of severe sepsis.
4. Describe the mechanism of sepsis, including the components involving inflammatory cytokines and other mediators and the coagulation system.
5. Describe the early goal-directed therapy of sepsis.
6. Describe the significance of prompt initiation of broad-spectrum antibiotics.
7. Determine appropriate fluid resuscitation for sepsis with colloids or crystalloids.
8. Recommend an appropriate antibiotic regimen for treatment of sepsis based on patient characteristics and primary site of infection.
9. Determine the role of vasoactive agents in supporting the physiologic function of a patient with sepsis, and select the appropriate vasoactive agents based on the details of a patient’s condition.
10. Explain the benefits of glycemic control in patients with sepsis.
11. Recommend the appropriate use of corticosteroids in severe sepsis and septic shock.
12. Describe an appropriate monitoring program for patients with sepsis.