

Medical intervention	Associated complications and tissue injury
Complications of central venous and pulmonary artery catheterization	Pneumothorax Arterial puncture with bleeding Infection Knotting of PA catheter Arrhythmias Pulmonary infarction, pulmonary artery rupture Inappropriate therapy (e.g. 'goal directed therapy')
Complications of intravenous fluid therapy	Unrecognized hypovolaemia Overtransfusion with crystalloid or colloid Excessive reductions in colloid oncotic pressure Massive generalized oedema Pulmonary oedema
Complications of inotropes and vasopressors	Arrhythmias Myocardial ischaemia/infarction Inappropriate vasoconstriction (especially dopamine/norepinephrine) Hyperglycaemia Metabolic acidosis (especially epinephrine) Dopamine-induced pituitary suppression 'Volutrauma'
Complications of mechanical ventilation	Haemodynamic disturbances Systemic cytokine release Immune suppression Hypotension and muscle wasting related to sedative and muscle relaxants
Complications of parenteral nutrition	Hyperglycaemia Hepatic steatosis and dysfunction Excessive CO <sub>2</sub> production Immunosuppression Gastrointestinal mucosa and lymphoid atrophy
Administration of toxic substances	Pulmonary oxygen toxicity Aminoglycosides High dose steroids NSAIDs

iatrogenic factors contributing to morbidity in sepsis

treatment of sepsis

basic treatment

Administer oxygen, ventilatory support if necessary Volume loading ± inotropic/vasoactive drugs guided by monitoring	
Basic bedside monitoring:	pulse rate, pulse oximetry, ECG, systemic arterial pressure (SAP) central venous pressure (CVP) temperature, urine output chest X-ray (CXR)
Basic laboratory monitoring:	arterial blood gas (ABG) blood lactate plasma electrolytes/creatinine blood sugar (BSL), haemoglobin platelet and white blood cell count INR (consider APTT, fibrinogen level) liver function tests

specific treatment

Culture blood Gram stain, microscopy and culture of specimens from suspected infected sites Test for specific antigens/serology as indicated Administer antibiotics Institute drainage/debridement Other measures as indicated: prophylaxis for stress ulceration oral/nasogastric amphotericin for anticandida gut colonization deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis	
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