

#EUSEM18: Sepsis in the over 70s presents differently



Patients over 70 who present to the emergency department with sepsis have a higher disease severity, and therefore different risk stratification is needed, says Bas De Groot, Leiden University Medical Centre. He presented his recommendations at the European Society of Emergency Medicine annual congress, which met in Glasgow this week.

Their research group found in an observational multicentre study that older patients presented to the emergency department with a higher disease severity, as shown by the PIRO (Predisposition, Infection, Response, Organ dysfunction) score. After adjusting for do not resuscitation (DNR) orders, more older patients were admitted to the ICU.

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Key Points

- Commonly used screening and risk stratification tools are inappropriate in older patients
- A normal systolic blood pressure maybe much higher than you ever thought
- Older patients possibly receive too little fluids when they present with a 'normal' systolic blood pressure.
- Older patients may have medical devices fitted, co-morbidities, lowered immunity, and frailty.

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