



Berlin, April 2020

World Health Organization Presents Global Maternal Sepsis Study with Data on Incidence and Outcomes of Maternal Infections in 52 Countries

Berlin/Geneva – A study with the most comprehensive data to date on the frequency, outcomes, and management of maternal infections was published for the first time in the journal "The Lancet" in late April. This new research, led by the WHO Global Maternal Sepsis Study Research Group (GLOSS), shows that worldwide infections and associated complications – such as sepsis – lead to maternal deaths much more frequently than previously thought.

2 850 women from 52 low-, middle-, and high-income countries were included in the study. The prerequisite was that they had an infection during or until 42 days after their pregnancy and were treated in healthcare facilities. The study shows that infections during pregnancy, after childbirth or abortion are more common than previously assumed. Deaths in mothers due to infections were mainly caused by sepsis. Early detection and treatment of infections is the key to preventing sepsis and the associated burden of disease and mortality among mothers worldwide.

More than one third of women suffered from infections with complications or severe courses of disease resulting in death. Infections of the uterine lining, skin, mucous membrane, and respiratory tract were the main triggers. More than 60% of the women suffered from less severe infections, most commonly in the urinary tract. In one third of all women neither complete vital parameters were measured nor were antimicrobial drugs given at the time of suspicion or diagnosis of the infection.

About the Global Sepsis Alliance

The GSA is a non-profit charity organization with the mission to provide global leadership to reduce the worldwide burden of sepsis. The GSA is the initiator of World Sepsis Day on September 13 and World Sepsis Congress, a series of free online congresses bringing knowledge about sepsis to all parts of the world, among other initiatives. The GSA works closely with its over 100 member organizations, patient advocacy groups, professional societies, healthcare authorities, and governments to implement changes on how sepsis is prioritized, diagnosed, and treated all around the world, as laid out by the WHO Resolution on Sepsis.

Links

[Publication in The Lancet](#)

[WHO Newstpost](#)

[GSA Interview with Study Lead Dr. Mercedes Bonet](#)

Your Contact

Marvin Zick

+49 1511 9464773

Marvin.Zick@global-sepsis-alliance.org

President

Konrad Reinhart

Vice President

Dennis Kredler

Vice President

Niranjana 'Tex' Kissoon

General Manager

Marvin Zick

Executive Committee

Dennis Kredler, BE

Emmanuel Nsutebu, AE

Flavia Machado, BR

Imrana Malik, US

Konrad Reinhart, DE

Luis Antonio Gorordo, MX

Maha Aljuaid, SA

Niranjana 'Tex' Kissoon, CA

Ron Daniels, GB

Simon Finfer, AU

Founding Organizations

World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine

World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies

World Federation of Critical Care Nurses

International Sepsis Forum

Sepsis Alliance

Contact

Konrad Reinhart

+49 30 450551419

Konrad.Reinhart@charite.de

Marvin Zick

+49 30 450551416

Marvin.Zick@global-sepsis-alliance.org

Visitor Address

Global Sepsis Alliance

c/o Charité University Hospital

Hindenburgdamm 27

12203 Berlin

Germany

We support

World Sepsis Day – September 13

worldsepsisday.org