

Predictive Value of Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, Quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II, and New Early Warning Signs Scores Estimate Mortality of COVID-19 Patients Requiring Intensive Care Unit

Tri Pudy Asmarawati¹, Satriyo Dwi Suryantoro², Alfian Nur Rosyid³, Erika Marfiani⁴, Choirina Windradi⁵, Bagus Aulia Mahdi⁶, Heri Sutanto⁷

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Various mortality predictive score models for coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) have been deliberated. We studied how sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA), quick sequential organ failure assessment (qSOFA), acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II (APACHE II), and new early warning signs (NEWS-2) scores estimate mortality in COVID-19 patients.

Materials and methods: We conducted a prospective cohort study of 53 patients with moderate-to-severe COVID-19. We calculated qSOFA, SOFA, APACHE II, and NEWS-2 on initial admission and re-evaluated on day 5. We performed logistic regression analysis to differentiate the predictors of qSOFA, SOFA, APACHE II, and NEWS-2 scores on mortality.

Result: qSOFA, SOFA, APACHE II, and NEWS-2 scores on day 5 exhibited a difference between survivors and nonsurvivors ($p < 0.05$), also between ICU and non-ICU admission ($p < 0.05$). The initial NEWS-2 revealed a higher AUC value than the qSOFA, APACHE II, and SOFA score (0.867; 0.83; 0.822; 0.794). In ICU, APACHE II score revealed a higher AUC value than the SOFA, NEWS-2, and qSOFA score (0.853; 0.832; 0.813; 0.809). Concurrently, evaluation on day 5 showed that qSOFA AUC had higher scores than the NEWS-2, APACHE II, and SOFA (0.979; 0.965; 0.939; 0.933) in predicting mortality, while SOFA and APACHE II AUC were higher in ICU admission than NEWS-2 and qSOFA (0.968; 0.964; 0.939; 0.934). According to the cutoff score, APACHE II on day 5 revealed the highest sensitivity and specificity in predicting the mortality (sensitivity 95.7%, specificity 86.7%).

Conclusion: All scores signify good predictive values on COVID-19 patients mortality following the evaluation on the day 5. Nonetheless, APACHE-II appears to be the best at predicting mortality and ICU admission rate.

Keywords: APACHE, COVID-19, ICU, Infectious disease, Mortality, NEWS-2, qSOFA, SOFA.

Indian Journal of Critical Care Medicine (2022); 10.5005/jp-journals-10071-24170

INTRODUCTION

December 2019 was formerly a period when severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS CoV-2) emanated and caused an infectious disease named coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19), which began expanding immensely in numbers in Wuhan, China.¹⁻³ However, this pandemic is still way complex and uncontrolled, as evidenced by the new wave that triggered the rise of new cases so that several countries got to be surely prepared in handling COVID-19 patients. The government took step began opening of emergency hospitals, requesting for medical volunteers, and providing facilities that support the management of COVID-19 patients.³

Unfortunately, this pandemic has not yet reached an end as the virus transmission continues. Several studies have attempted to examine predictors of mortality from clinical, risk factors, and laboratories in order to assess outcomes in COVID-19 patients. On the other hand, some severe COVID-19 patients treated in the intensive or high care unit (ICU or HCU) provided satisfactory outcomes. Clinical assessment of disease severity is necessary for determining intervention, severity, outcome prediction, and prognosis.^{4,5}

^{1,2,4-6}Department of Internal Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Faculty of Medicine, Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

³Department of Pulmonary and Respiratory Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

⁷Department of Internal Medicine, Brawijaya University, Malang, Jawa Timur, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: Tri Pudy Asmarawati, Department of Internal Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Faculty of Medicine, Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia, e-mail: tpasmarawati@fk.unair.ac.id

How to cite this article: Asmarawati TP, Suryantoro SD, Rosyid AN, Marfiani E, Windradi C, Mahdi BA, *et al.* Predictive Value of Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, Quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II, and New Early Warning Signs Scores Estimate Mortality of COVID-19 Patients Requiring Intensive Care Unit. *Indian J Crit Care Med* 2022;26(4):466–473.

Source of support: This research was funded by Universitas Airlangga research grant

Conflict of interest: None

Diverse models of mortality prediction referring to disease severity have been initiated in patients with multiple diagnoses. Information derived from this predictor model can be used to evaluate hospitalization in the ICU, improve emergency interventions, and allocate resources appropriately.⁴ Regarding the condition of COVID-19 patients that changes instantly, a scoring model that can be evaluated easily on the bed-side and followed up from time to time makes it easier for clinicians to convey the condition to the patient's family.^{6–8}

Several studies attempted to map the prognosis of critically ill COVID-19 patients using scores, such as sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA), quick sequential organ failure assessment (qSOFA), and new early warning signs (NEWS-2).^{6,9–13} Acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II (APACHE II) itself has been involved in several studies aimed at evaluating critically ill patients requiring ventilatory care.^{14–16} These scores are intended to evaluate the complication sequence of the disease causing the morbidity, not to predict the outcome. Nevertheless, there is close relationship between organ failure and survival patient.

We calculated these four scores and followed them to define their relationship to mortality of COVID-19 patients requiring ICU care.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We conducted a prospective cohort study of moderate to severe COVID-19 patients hospitalized to Universitas Airlangga Hospital. We calculated the sample size for the predictive study and got a sample of 53 COVID-19 patients of moderate-to-severe grade. We used the calculation of the minimum number of samples using the

cross-sectional method with a sample size of 50. We used the consecutive sampling method and followed the patients from the beginning of admission to the day of discharge. We analyze qSOFA, SOFA, NEWS-2, and APACHE II scores at initial admission (baseline) and on day 5 during hospitalization. We calculate qSOFA by identifying and including respiratory rate, Glasgow coma scale, and systolic blood pressure. Furthermore, SOFA score quantifies PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio, platelets, total bilirubin, mean arterial pressure, Glasgow coma scale, creatinine, and urine output per day. Another score, named NEWS-2, measures respiratory rate, oxygen saturation (SaO₂), oxygen support, systolic blood pressure, pulse, consciousness, and temperature. APACHE-II assesses patients temperature, mean arterial pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygenation, arterial pH, serum sodium, serum potassium, serum creatinine, hematocrit, white blood count, Glasgow coma scale, serum bicarbonate (HCO₃). The main outcome of this study was mortality and ICU-admission in COVID-19 patients. Multivariate analysis through logistic regression was carried out to obtain the predictor value of the four scores on mortality.

Statistical Analysis

We analyzed the data using SPSS version 24 (Chicago, Illinois, USA; RRID: SCR_002865), which is an open-access alternative. Baseline characteristic subjects (Table 1) are described as mean ± standard deviation or median number. We analyzed predictors of mortality with univariate and multivariate cox regression analysis. Mortality threshold from each score of SOFA, qSOFA, NEWS-2, and APACHE II was performed; the receiver–operating curve (AUC) analysis associated with the area under the curve (AUC)

Table 1: Baseline characteristic of patients study

| Sex | <i>n</i> | % |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Male (<i>n</i> , %) | 27 | 49.1 |
| Female (<i>n</i> , %) | 26 | 50.9 |
| Age (mean/SD) | 53.49 | 12.49 |
| Duration hospitalization | 15.76 | 7.52 |
| Severity of COVID-19 | | |
| Moderate | 13 | 24.5 |
| Severe | 11 | 20.8 |
| Critically ill | 29 | 54.7 |
| Comorbid | | |
| DM (<i>n</i> , %) | 28 | 52.8 |
| HT (<i>n</i> , %) | 23 | 43.4 |
| Heart disease (<i>n</i> , %) | 6 | 11.3 |
| Tuberculosis (<i>n</i> , %) | 5 | 9.4 |
| Kidney disease (<i>n</i> , %) | 3 | 5.7 |
| Liver disease (<i>n</i> , %) | 2 | 3.8 |
| Critical status | | |
| ARDS (<i>n</i> , %) | 27 | 50.9 |
| Respiratory failure (<i>n</i> , %) | 32 | 60.4 |
| Sepsis (<i>n</i> , %) | 14 | 26.4 |
| Shock sepsis (<i>n</i> , %) | 10 | 18.9 |
| Ventilator (<i>n</i> , %) | 25 | 47.2 |
| Outcome | | |
| ICU admission (<i>n</i> , %) | 26 | 49.1 |
| Death (<i>n</i> , %) | 23 | 43.4 |

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Contd...)

| Sex | n | | % | |
|--|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Day 0 | | Day 5 | |
| Vital sign | | | | |
| Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg) | 119.08 | 22.78 | 104.55 | 30.53 |
| Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg) | 74.74 | 15.79 | 63.68 | 17.12 |
| Heart rate (x/minute) | 106.77 | 15.85 | 110.23 | 21.82 |
| Respiration rate (x/minute) | 23.58 | 3.89 | 21.89 | 2.87 |
| Temperature (°C) | 36.6 | 0.59 | 36.75 | 0.68 |
| Saturation oxygen (%) | 94.99 | 19.65 | 96.65 | 22.85 |
| Laboratory (median, SD) | Day 0 | | Day 5 | |
| Hb (g/dL) | 12.9 | 1.97 | 12.7 | 2.1 |
| Hct | 37.8 | 5.44 | 37 | 6.67 |
| WBC ($10^3/\mu\text{L}$) | 9.8 | 6.46 | 10.14 | 7.25 |
| Neutrophil (%) | 82 | 18.49 | 84 | 14.88 |
| Lymphocyte (%) | 9.9 | 12.99 | 9 | 11.37 |
| Absolute lymphocyte count ($/\mu\text{L}$) | 1426 | 1860.27 | 1100 | 1641.29 |
| NLR | 8.38 | 13.4 | 9 | 13.98 |
| CRP (mg/L) | 21.14 | 53.59 | 34.12 | 42.38 |
| Procalcitonin (ng/mL) | 0.86 | 3.82 | 0.58 | 2.03 |
| BUN (mg/dL) | 15.5 | 30.51 | 20.4 | 25.34 |
| Creatinine serum (mg/dL) | 0.88 | 2.32 | 0.9 | 1.98 |
| AST (μL) | 44 | 354.56 | 50 | 152.71 |
| ALT (μL) | 43 | 134.39 | 56 | 97.16 |
| Albumin (g/dL) | 3.48 | 0.53 | 3.4 | 0.75 |
| Total bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.57 | 3.69 | 0.6 | 5.8 |
| Electrolyte serum | | | | |
| Sodium (mmol/L) | 137 | 4.95 | 137 | 5.79 |
| Potassium (mmol/L) | 3.9 | 5.15 | 4 | 0.89 |
| Chloride (mmol/L) | 104 | 5.65 | 103 | 4.87 |
| Blood gas analysis | | | | |
| pCO ₂ level (mm Hg) | 32.6 | 12.6 | 41.9 | 18.11 |
| HCO ₃ level (mmol/L) | 20 | 5.02 | 22.7 | 7.23 |
| PF ratio | 155.1 | 90.88 | | |
| Scoring (mean; SD) | | | | |
| qSOFA | 1.38 | 0.94 | 1.64 | 1.18 |
| SOFA | 4.98 | 3.08 | 6.34 | 4.23 |
| APACHE II | 12.19 | 7.5 | 14.6 | 9.52 |
| NEWS-2 | 9.58 | 3.05 | 10.57 | 4.11 |

APACHE II, acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; ALT, alanine transaminase; AST, aspartate transaminase; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; CRP, C-reactive protein; DM, diabetes mellitus; HT, hypertension; ICU, intensive care unit; NLR, neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio; NEWS-2, new early warning signs; qSOFA, quick sequential organ failure assessment; SOFA, sequential organ failure assessment; WBC, white blood cell

was used to analyze optimal parameter value of the laboratory to predict the progression of mortality in the study group. Excellent AUC lies between 0.9 and 1; good if $0.8 < \text{AUC} < 0.9$; moderate if $0.7 < \text{AUC} < 0.8$; poor if $0.6 < \text{AUC} < 0.7$; and failed if $0.5 < \text{AUC} < 0.6$.

RESULT

Fifty-three eligible patients were included in the study. There were 27 male patients (50.9%) with a mean age of 53.49 ± 12.49 years. The study population required ICU with 29 (54.7%) patients were

in critical illness. Diabetes mellitus (52.8%) and hypertension were the most frequent comorbidities (43.4%). In general, patients required ICU treatment due to respiratory failure (32; 60.4%), acute respiratory stress disorders (ARDS) (27; 50.9%), and the requirement of a ventilator (25; 47.2%) (Table 1). The average SOFA score for nonsurvivors (6.74 and 10.09) was higher than that for survivors ($p < 0.05$). All predictive scores in this study, which are qSOFA, SOFA, NEWS-2, as well as APACHE II, statistically demonstrated a mean difference observed on the initial day and day 5 of hospitalization, and comparative data between survivor models are presented in

Table 2: Univariate analysis of the scoring system

| Scoring model | Survivors | | Nonsurvivors | | <i>p</i> value | Non-ICU admission | | ICU admission | | <i>p</i> value |
|---------------|-----------|------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------------------|------|---------------|-------|----------------|
| | 1* | 2** | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | |
| qSOFA | 0.9 | 0.8 | 2 | 2.74 | <0.05 | 0.89 | 0.74 | 1.88 | 2.58 | <0.05 |
| SOFA | 3.63 | 3.47 | 6.74 | 10.09 | <0.05 | 3.3 | 2.85 | 6.73 | 9.96 | <0.05 |
| APACHE II | 8.73 | 7.97 | 16.7 | 23.26 | <0.05 | 7.93 | 6.93 | 16.62 | 22.58 | <0.05 |
| NEWS-2 | 7.87 | 7.57 | 11.83 | 14.48 | <0.05 | 8 | 7.48 | 11.23 | 13.77 | <0.05 |

*model 1, taken on the day of admission; **model 2, taken on day 5 of hospitalization; APACHE II, acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II; NEWS-2, new early warning signs; qSOFA, quick sequential organ failure assessment; SOFA, sequential organ failure assessment

Table 3: Comparison of survivors vs nonsurvivors COVID-19 patients

| Scoring model | Chi-square | <i>p</i> value |
|---------------|------------|----------------|
| qSOFA1* | 1.316 | 0.518 |
| qSOFA2** | 1.857 | 0.395 |
| SOFA 1 | 1.404 | 0.966 |
| SOFA 2 | 7.166 | 0.412 |
| APACHE II (1) | 4.611 | 0.798 |
| APACHE II (2) | 11.863 | 0.157 |
| NEWS-2 (1) | 3.181 | 0.786 |
| NEWS-2 (2) | 9.522 | 0.3 |

*(1), taken on the day of admission; ** (2), taken on day 5 of hospitalization; APACHE II, acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II; NEWS-2, new early warning signs; qSOFA, quick sequential organ failure assessment; SOFA, sequential organ failure assessment

Table 2. The goodness of *t* Hosmer-Lemeshow test and *p*-value is shown in **Table 3**. The overall discriminative capability as determined by the AUC curve is shown in **Figure 1**. The initial NEWS-2 revealed a higher AUC value than the qSOFA, APACHE II, and SOFA score in estimating mortality (0.867; 0.83; 0.822; 0.794). Admission to ICU, APACHE II score revealed a higher AUC value than the SOFA, NEWS-2, and qSOFA score (0.853; 0.832; 0.813; 0.809). Concurrently, according to the evaluation of the scores on day 5, qSOFA and NEWS-2 AUC had higher scores in predicting mortality than the APACHE II and SOFA (0.979; 0.965; 0.939; 0.933), while SOFA and APACHE II AUC showed higher values in ICU admission than NEWS-2 and qSOFA (0.968; 0.964; 0.939; 0.934).

Referring to the cutoff analysis, it appeared that the four scores had poor sensitivity and specificity in the initial evaluation. However, on day 5, the sensitivity and specificity of the four scores showed high values. APACHE II had the highest sensitivity and specificity in predicting mortality (sensitivity 95.7% and specificity 86.7%) compared to others. Another four scores had poor sensitivity and specificity in estimating ICU admission. Furthermore, that NEWS-2 had the highest sensitivity with low specificity (sensitivity 96.4% and specificity 7.4%) (**Fig. 1**).

DISCUSSION

Several previous publications regarding predictor models of COVID-19 patient outcome have involved clinical, comorbid, and laboratory factors. Only a few have focused on the predictive value of scores in severe COVID-19 patients.¹⁷ The ideal score for assessing organ dysfunction needs to be objective, easy, uncomplicated, able to be evaluated regularly, organ-specific, having continuous variables, and independent.⁷ Evaluation of these scores is an attempt

to improve the quality of observation and therapy in treating COVID-19 patients in high and intensive care units.

SOFA was formed by consensus in 1994. The SOFA score is actually intended to determine the morbidity sequence of critically ill patients. SOFA score is usually evaluated when the patient is admitted to the ICU and every 24 hours during the treatment period.¹⁸

SOFA is a scoring system with high accuracy and has been widely practiced as a tool to identify a patient's organ function status.¹⁹ It should be noted that SOFA is not designed to predict mortality but to describe the sequence of complications of organ dysfunction in critically ill patients. Even though subsequent assessment has an impact on its relationship to mortality, SOFA is intended to assess patient morbidity. Some of the parameters that are routinely performed in the ICU setting may not be replaced by these scores, but SOFA or APACHE II is able to complete their function because patient's mortality rate tends to be related to the degree of organ failure, which seems relevant if the mortality outcome is related to the SOFA score.⁷

SOFA score contains parameters of respiration (PaO₂/FiO₂), coagulation (platelet), liver (bilirubin), cardiovascular (hypotension), central nervous system, and renal function. In our analysis, we showed that the SOFA model can predict in-hospital mortality of COVID-19 patients in the ICU. At the time of hospitalization, SOFA score <3 became a predictor for the survival of COVID-19 patients. The advantage of this SOFA score included the use of six parameters that were always evaluated during treatment. Research by Elhadi et al. and Liu et al. showed the same finding that survivors scored <3.^{19–21} Some SOFA components have also been the predictors of death in COVID-19 patients, such as low platelet count, increased serum creatinine, and bilirubin, as stated by Du.³

Recognition of sepsis is the cornerstone of therapy for severe infections. As previously written, SOFA is a score that can be used to predict and detect the occurrence of sepsis and risk stratification for critically ill patients. qSOFA is a score that was introduced to identify septic patients outside the ICU. However, qSOFA itself has a crucial practical parameter for the evaluation of critically ill patients requiring immediate intensive care.^{22,23}

The qSOFA score was originally established by Seymour et al. who analyzed 148,907 patients with suspected infection in both the ICU and non-ICU. The qSOFA score is a simple score consisting of three items: respiratory rate, altered mental status, and systolic blood pressure. A qSOFA ≥2 was found to be significantly predictive of increased mortality in patients outside of the ICU.²³ A meta-analysis involving 229,480 infected patients showed that qSOFA score performed well for predicting mortality. In addition, another study by Kovach et al. analyzed that qSOFA showed AUC >0.8.¹³

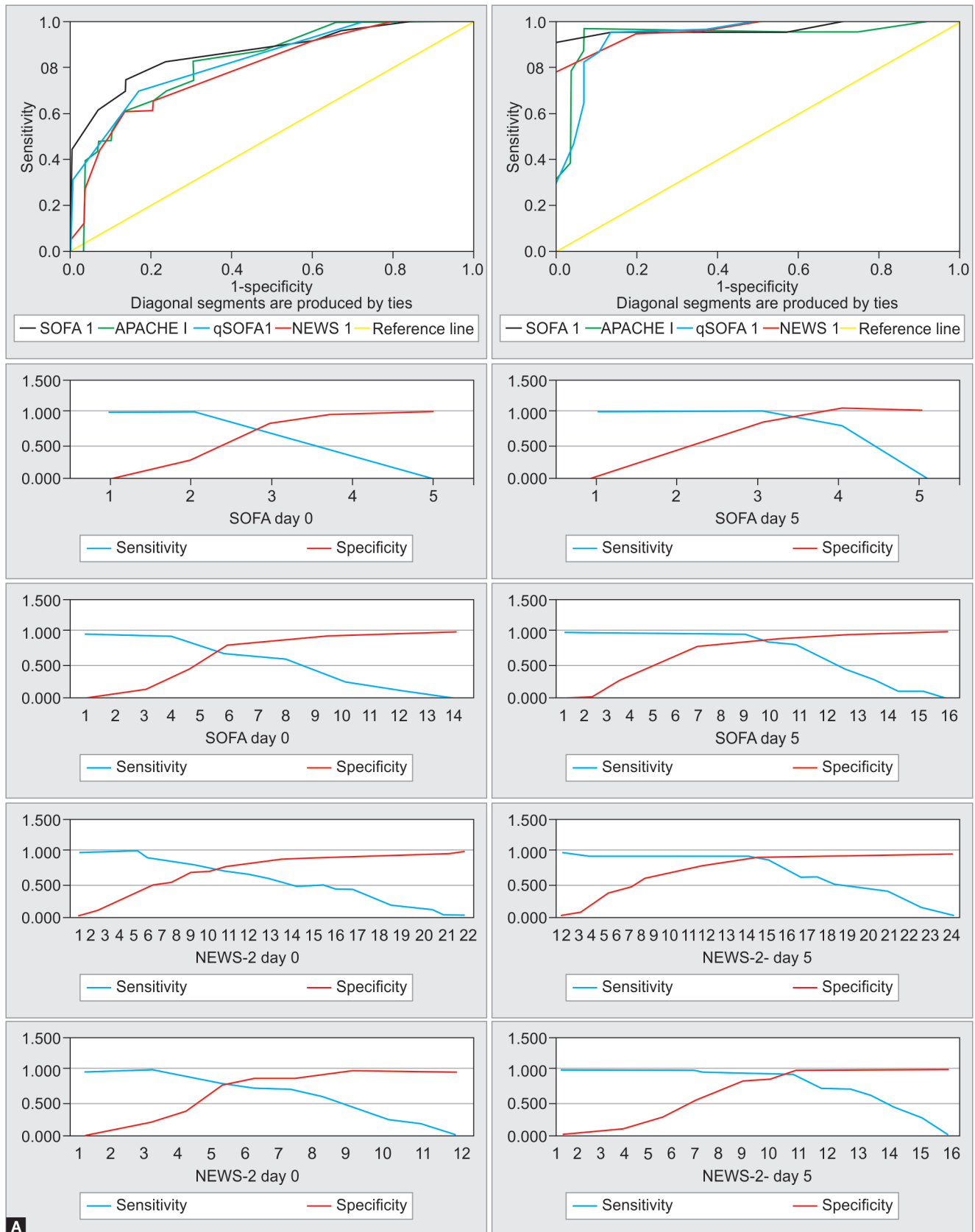


Fig. 1A: Area under the curve (AUC), sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA), quick sequential organ failure assessment (qSOFA), acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II (APACHE II), and new early warning signs (NEWS-2) score with mortality in COVID-19 patients

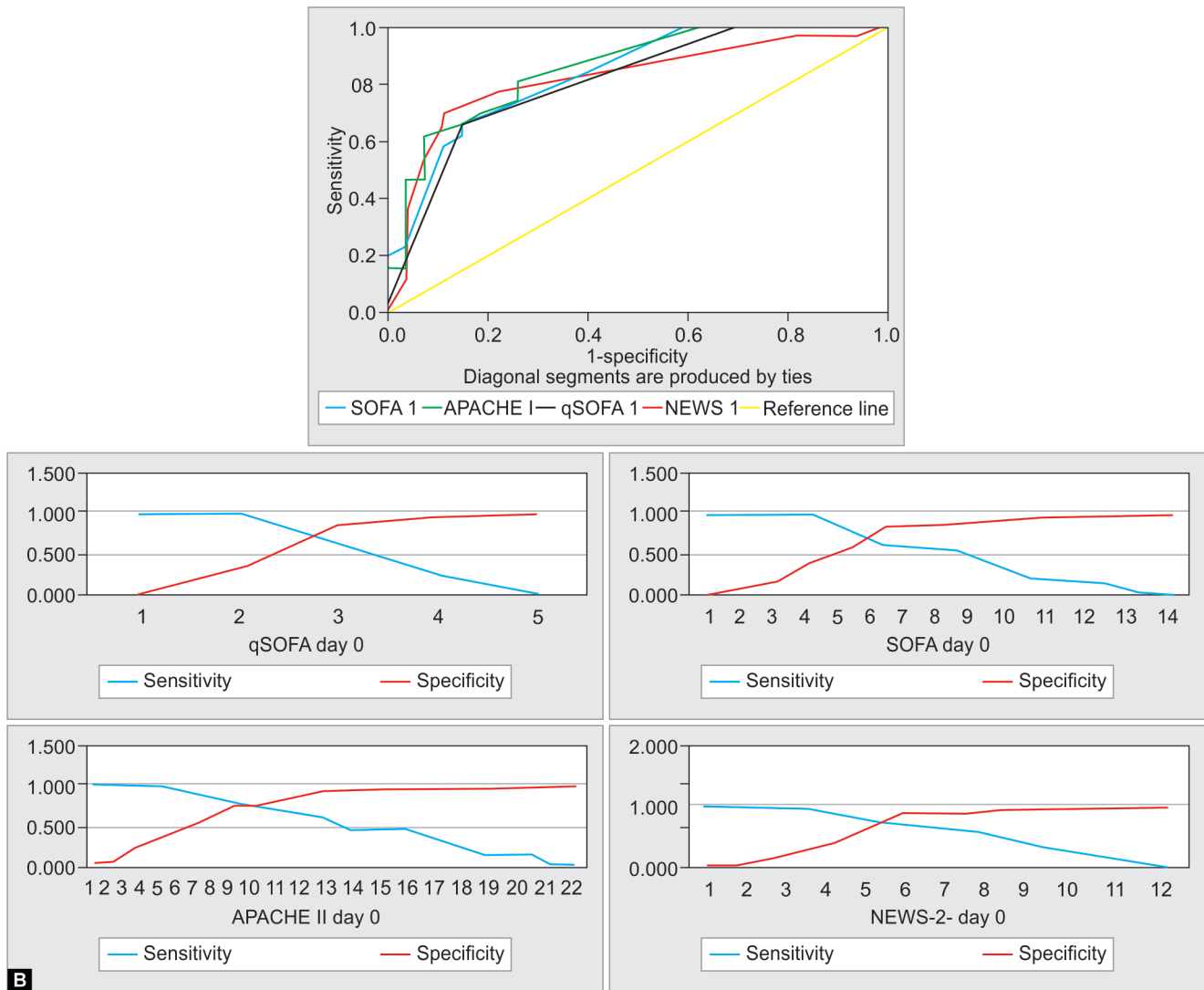


Fig. 1B: Area under the curve (AUC), sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA), quick sequential organ failure assessment (qSOFA), acute physiology and chronic health evaluation II (APACHE II), and new early warning signs (NEWS-2) score with ICU admission in COVID-19 patients

The study by Liu et al. comparing SOFA and qSOFA in COVID-19 patients showed that the subgroup of persons aged <65 years were 0.912 and 0.703, and the difference between them was not statistically significant ($p = 0.316$). The AUC of SOFA and qSOFA scores in the subgroup of persons aged 65 years were 0.921 and 0.773, and the difference between those two was found to be statistically significant ($p = 0.033$). This study shows that the total qSOFA ≥ 2 in critical COVID-19 patients is associated with a high mortality rate.¹³

From the research above, it was found that the accuracy of the area under curve from qSOFA is lower than the SOFA score, so it can be concluded that SOFA is more accurate. The advantage of using SOFA is that it involves more complete parameters than qSOFA. However, it cannot be ruled out that the qSOFA is a score that is easy, simple, and fast to use in patient settings in the emergency room.¹³ Our study showed that the predictive value for the qSOFA score revealed a higher AUC value than the SOFA score in predicting mortality. Performance score in initial evaluation showed AUC predictor on mortality qSOFA 0.83; SOFA 0.794 with a consistent evaluation on day 5 of treatment, the qSOFA had best result for

predicting mortality (AUC 0.979). This data also presented the most similar result from previous research which was a cutoff value of qSOFA ≥ 2 , while SOFA ≥ 5 indicated an increased risk of death in COVID-19 patients. Thus, the qSOFA score is able to appear as a practically quick scoring system to evaluate the deteriorating condition of critically ill patients.

NEWS-2 is an updated score from the NEWS score in 2017. NEWS-2 consists of six physiological parameters that can be obtained during patient visits. It is related to respiratory component, such as oxygen saturation and oxygen supplementation. Ideally, NEWS-2 is used in patients with ICU care and evaluated every 24 hours during treatment. In several studies, a score >5 NEWS-2 indicates an urgent response while a score of 7 or more triggers a clinical alert. The NEWS-2 score itself has the advantage of being able to represent hypoxia and oxygen supplementation. Therefore, NEWS-2 may perform better than the qSOFA score.¹⁰⁻¹²

A meta-analysis by Zhang examining the potential of the NEWS-2 score to predict clinical distress in COVID-19 patients showed good sensitivity and specificity were 0.75 (95% CI: 0.63, 0.84) and 0.65 (95% CI: 0.52, 0.76). This study also showed that threshold

5 shows good sensitivity (0.83), moderate specificity (0.65), and good discrimination (0.82).¹² So the score >5 is a warning for the paramedic team to immediately make the best intervention for COVID-19 patients.

In a Chinese study of 654 COVID-19 admissions, baseline NEWS2 predicted mortality with a AUC of 0.81 (95% CI 0.77–0.85). In a Norwegian study of 66 inpatients, baseline NEWS2 predicted a composite adverse outcome of inpatient mortality and/or ICU admission with AUC of 0.79 (95% CI 0.66–0.91) better than qSOFA 0.62 (0.45–0.81).⁹ In our study, the NEWS-2 score performed best prediction for mortality (0.867) with cutoff ≥ 5 .

APACHE II score is the sum of the components of physiology, age, and chronic conditions. APACHE II has become an accurate measure of the relationship between critical patient outcomes. This score has shown effectiveness, efficacy, and quality in each patient. In one study, the APACHE II score showed a general mortality predictor in the ICU with an area under the curve (AUC) from 0.74 to 0.86.²⁴

The APACHE II score is one of several ICU scores that functions to measure disease severity and describe patient morbidity and prognosis. The APACHE II score helps predict mortality by estimating disease severity. APACHE II components include 13 physiological variables and 4 disease history variables. The APACHE II assessment began at the time admission with a maximum score of 71. A score of 25 predicted 50% mortality, while 35 predicted 80% mortality.¹⁴ In our study, the APACHE II score had an under-curve area of 0.939 with $p < 0.05$. Similar to the study conducted by Sam et al., the APACHE II score appeared to be linearly correlated with outcome ($r = 0.347$).¹⁴ From this study, APACHE II ≥ 7 increased mortality risk and better predicted ICU admission with higher AUC value than the SOFA, qSOFA and NEWS-2 score (0.853; 0.832; 0.809; 0.813).

Furthermore, the study showed that the SOFA score is a highly sensitive marker of in-hospital mortality in COVID-19 patients and is prognostically superior to qSOFA in this setting. Nevertheless, there is a need to recognize that, as qSOFA is simple, fast, and acceptable accuracy, it can be used in the emergency room or at admission if the parameters of the SOFA cannot be acquired in time. We used the consecutive sampling method with an adequate number of samples so that this makes the internal validity sufficient. Its method was randomized by itself. Although the therapy and development of COVID-19 science have developed rapidly in a short time, the application of this score is expected to help stratify the risk of patients being treated. Therefore, considering that the COVID-19 wave has reached several peaks, it may be possible to find differences in the sensitivity of this score in some areas.

Our research was only carried out in a single-center hospital so that it may show distinct results due to population characteristics. There may be differences in the range of qSOFA, SOFA, NEWS-2 and APACHE II scores in assessing mortality in COVID-19 patients. We also did not include any evaluation of treatment options in COVID-19 patients, in regards to the ongoing development of COVID-19 treatment modalities, which might be a confounding factor.

CONCLUSION

SOFA, qSOFA, NEWS-2, and APACHE II scores seemed to finely predict the COVID-19 patients' mortality at the ICU after the fifth day. Nonetheless, APACHE-II appears to be the best at predicting

both mortality and ICU admission rate. At this point, taking further analysis comparing these four scorings into consideration is substantial.

ORCID

Tri Pudy Asmarawati  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9869-5098>

Satriyo Dwi Suryantoro  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0522-8659>

Alfian Nur Rosyid  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7042-996X>

Erika Marfiani  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1918-0414>

Choirina Windradi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3394-1400>

Bagus Aulia Mahdi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6634-6088>

Heri Sutanto  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4559-1839>

REFERENCES

1. Aly MH, Rahman SS, Ahmed WA, Alghamedi MH, Al Shehri AA, Alkalkami AM, et al. Indicators of critical illness and predictors of mortality in COVID-19 patients. *IDR* 2020;13:1995–2000. DOI: 10.2147/IDR.S261159.
2. Chatterjee A, Wu G, Primakov S, Oberije C, Woodruff H, Kubben P, et al. Can predicting COVID-19 mortality in a European cohort using only demographic and comorbidity data surpass age-based prediction: an externally validated study. *PLoS One* 2021;16(4):e0249920. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0249920.
3. Du R-H, Liang L-R, Yang C-Q, Wang W, Cao T-Z, Li M, et al. Predictors of mortality for patients with COVID-19 pneumonia caused by SARS-CoV-2: a prospective cohort study. *Eur Respir J* 2020;55(5):2000524. DOI: 10.1183/13993003.00524-2020.
4. Ganar A, Potey S. To evaluate and compare ability of two prognostic scoring systems in predicting the mortality of critically ill patients in adult intensive care unit. *IJCMR* 2019;6(3). DOI: 10.21276/ijcmr.2019.6.3.47.
5. Shukla U, Chavali S, Mukta P, Mapari A, Vyas A. Initial experience of critically ill patients with COVID-19 in Western India: a case series. *Indian J Crit Care Med* 2020;24(7):509–513. DOI: 10.5005/jp-journals-10071-23477.
6. Lambden S, Laterre PF, Levy MM, Francois B. The SOFA score—development, utility and challenges of accurate assessment in clinical trials. *Crit Care* 2019;23(1):374. DOI: 10.1186/s13054-019-2663-7.
7. Vincent JL, Moreno R, Takala J, Willatts S, De Mendonça A, Bruining H, et al. The SOFA (Sepsis-related Organ Failure Assessment) score to describe organ dysfunction/failure. On behalf of the Working Group on Sepsis-Related Problems of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. *Intensive Care Med* 1996;22(7):707–710. DOI: 10.1007/bf01709751.
8. Naqvi IH, Mahmood K, Ziaullah S, Kashif SM, Sharif A. Better prognostic marker in ICU-APACHE II, SOFA or SAP III? *Pak J Med Sci* 2016;32(5). DOI: 10.12669/pjms.325.10080.
9. Baker KF, Hanrath AT, Schim van der Loeff I, Kay LJ, Back J, Duncan CJA. National Early Warning Score 2 (NEWS2) to identify inpatient COVID-19 deterioration: a retrospective analysis. *Clin Med* 2021;21(2):84–89. DOI: 10.7861/clinmed.2020-0688.
10. De Socio GV, Gidari A, Sicari F, Palumbo M, Francisci D. National Early Warning Score 2 (NEWS2) better predicts critical Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) illness than COVID-GRAM, a multi-centre study. *Infection* 2021. DOI: 10.1007/s15010-021-01620-x.
11. Carr E, Bendayan R, Bean D, Stammers M, Wang W, Zhang H, et al. Evaluation and improvement of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS2) for COVID-19: a multi-hospital study. *BMC Med* 2021;19(1). DOI: 10.1186/s12916-020-01893-3.
12. Zhang K, Zhang X, Ding W, Xuan N, Tian B, Huang T, et al. The prognostic accuracy of national early warning score 2 on predicting clinical deterioration for patients with COVID-19: a systematic

- review and meta-analysis. *Front Med* 2021;8. DOI: 10.3389/fmed.2021.699880.
13. Liu S, Yao N, Qiu Y, He C. Predictive performance of SOFA and qSOFA for in-hospital mortality in severe novel coronavirus disease. *Am J Emerg Med* 2020;38(10):2074–2080. DOI: 10.1016/j.ajem.2020.07.019.
14. Sam KG, Kondabolu K, Pati D, Kamath A, Pradeep Kumar G, Rao PGM. Poisoning severity score, APACHE II and GCS: effective clinical indices for estimating severity and predicting outcome of acute organophosphorus and carbamate poisoning. *J Forensic Leg Med* 2009;16(5):239–247. DOI: 10.1016/j.jflm.2008.12.004.
15. Rojek-Jarmuła A, Hombach R, Krzyż Ł. APACHE II score cannot predict successful weaning from prolonged mechanical ventilation. *Chron Respir Dis* 2017;14(3):270–275. DOI: 10.1177/1479972316687100.
16. Kumar S, Gattani SC, Baheti AH, Dubey A. Comparison of the performance of APACHE II, SOFA, and mNUTRIC scoring systems in critically ill patients: a 2-year cross-sectional study. *Indian J Crit Care Med* 2020;24(11):1057–1061. DOI: 10.5005/jp-journals-10071-23549.
17. Raschke RA, Agarwal S, Rangan P, Heise CW, Curry SC. Discriminant accuracy of the SOFA score for determining the probable mortality of patients with COVID-19 pneumonia requiring mechanical ventilation. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2021;325(14):1469. DOI: 10.1001/jama.2021.1545.
18. For Southeast Asia Infectious Disease Clinical Research N, Lie KC, Lau C-Y, Van Vinh Chau N, West TE, Limmathurotsakul D. Utility of SOFA score, management and outcomes of sepsis in Southeast Asia: a multinational multicenter prospective observational study. *J Intensive Care* 2018;6(1):9. DOI: 10.1186/s40560-018-0279-7.
19. Liu F, Li L, Xu M, Wu J, Luo D, Zhu Y, et al. Prognostic value of interleukin-6, C-reactive protein, and procalcitonin in patients with COVID-19. *J Clin Virol* 2020;127:104370. DOI: 10.1016/j.jcv.2020.104370.
20. Elhadi M, Alsoufi A, Abusalama A, Alkaseek A, Abdeewi S, Yahya M, et al. Epidemiology, outcomes, and utilization of intensive care unit resources for critically ill COVID-19 patients in Libya: a prospective multi-center cohort study. *PLoS One* 2021;16(4):e0251085. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0251085.
21. Liu Y, Chen D, Hou J, Li H, Cao D, Guo M, et al. An inter-correlated cytokine network identified at the center of cytokine storm predicted COVID-19 prognosis. *Cytokine* 2020;155365. DOI: 10.1016/j.cyt.2020.155365.
22. Marik PE, Taeb AM. SIRS, qSOFA and new sepsis definition. *J Thorac Dis* 2017;9(4):943–945. DOI: 10.21037/jtd.2017.03.125.
23. Koch C, Edinger F, Fischer T, Brenck F, Hecker A, Katzer C, et al. Comparison of qSOFA score, SOFA score, and SIRS criteria for the prediction of infection and mortality among surgical intermediate and intensive care patients. *World J Emerg Surg* 2020;15(1). DOI: 10.1186/s13017-020-00343-y.
24. Akavipat P. Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II score—the clinical predictor in neurosurgical intensive care unit. *ACC* 2019. DOI: 10.20471/acc.2019.58.01.07.