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JOURNAL READING

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The use of the pulse oximetric saturation/fraction of inspired oxygen ratio for risk stratification of patients with severe sepsis and septic shock[☆]

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Introduction

- Severe sepsis and septic shock are commonly complicated by acute hypoxic respiratory failure

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- Acute hypoxic respiratory failure : low PaO₂ to fraction of inspired oxygen (FIO₂) (P/F) ratio.
- 1994 American European Consensus Conference: **P/F ratios ≤ 300 and ≤ 200** are used to define **acute lung injury** and **acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)**

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- PaO₂ correlate** with pulse oximetric saturation (**SpO₂**) for saturations in the range of 80% to 100% .
- SpO₂ /FIO₂ (S/F) ratio** have recently been determined to assist in the diagnosis of acute lung injury and ARDS

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- The aims of this study : S/F ratio in patients with severe sepsis and septic shock could **predict hospital mortality** and to compare its prognostic power of P/F ratio.

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Methods

- 2-center **retrospective cohort study** conducted between 2008 and 2009 in a mixed 11-beds ICU in a University Hospital in Brazil and between 2011 and 2012 in a mixed 32-bed ICU in a university hospital in the Netherlands.

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Study population

- Patients: older than 18 years, who were admitted to the ICU with severe sepsis or septic shock.

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Measurements and data collection

- record demographic data (age, sex, site of origin before ICU arrival), chronic comorbidities (chronic heart failure and chronic pulmonary obstructive disease)
- Data : first available ABG draw, ≤ 8 hours following arrival in the ICU.

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- SpO₂ accuracy improvement

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Statistical analysis

- The S/F ratio is analyzed by tertiles.
- Differences in S/F ratio between survivors and nonsurvivors were analyzed using the **Mann-Whitney rank sum test**.
- Survival analysis using **Cox proportional hazard models**.
- Severity of illness assessed by **APACHE IV score**

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- The correlation between S/F ratio and P/F ratio : **Pearson correlation coefficient** and graphically by a **scatter plot**.
- **ROC curves** : assess the degree of discrimination between P/F ratio < 100 and P/F ratio > 300 .
- The comparison of variables between tertiles of S/F ratio was conducted by analysis of variance.
- cutoff values found by Rice et al .

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Results

- 273 patients met the inclusion criteria during the study period. 13 were excluded due to incomplete follow-up.

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Table 1 Baseline characteristics of the study patients stratified by S/F tertile

Patient characteristics	No. (%) of patients ^a	Tertile 1 ^b (n = 86)	Tertile 2 ^c (n = 86)	Tertile 3 ^d (n = 88)	P
Age, y (mean ± SD)	62.80 ± 15.03	62.26 ± 12.10	60.06 ± 16.64	66.47 ± 15.00	.061
Female sex	102 (39.2)	30 (34.8)	32 (37.2)	40 (45.4)	.030
Baseline P/F ratio (mean ± SD)	232.99 ± 119.8	163.94 ± 110.1	222.52 ± 110.6	299.32 ± 89.46	<.0001
Baseline S/F ratio (mean ± SD)	201.29 ± 72.62	123.81 ± 27.24	199.97 ± 21.71	278.31 ± 50.80	<.0001
SOFA score (mean ± SD)	10.89 ± 6.16	11.34 ± 5.36	11.27 ± 8.31	10.08 ± 4.37	.338
APACHE IV score (mean ± SD)	83.58 ± 29.96	87.05 ± 30.41	84.45 ± 29.69	78.66 ± 29.39	.310
Arterial pH	7.32 ± 0.13	7.31 ± 0.13	7.32 ± 0.16	7.34 ± 0.12	.280
PacO ₂ , mm Hg	42.41 ± 14.42	46.86 ± 16.56	40.63 ± 10.92	39.82 ± 15.00	.002
HCO ₃ ⁻ , mEq/L	22.05 ± 6.54	23.05 ± 6.29	21.65 ± 6.48	21.45 ± 7.12	.227
Arterial lactate, mmol/L	3.32 ± 3.63	3.44 ± 4.57	3.71 ± 3.89	2.61 ± 2.07	.182
PiO ₂ , %	53.46 ± 20.21	75.99 ± 17.5	48.27 ± 5.66	35.70 ± 5.70	<.0001
Pulse oximetry, %	94.35 ± 8.42	90.90 ± 13.53	95.38 ± 3.49	96.56 ± 2.45	<.0001
Alveolar-arterial gradient, mm Hg	275.49 ± 157.26	407.00 ± 130.31	254.18 ± 108.3	180.94 ± 138.44	<.0001
Chronic comorbidities					
Chronic heart failure	51 (19.6)	9 (10.4)	19 (22.0)	23 (26.1)	.052
COPD	48 (18.4)	17 (19.7)	15 (17.4)	16 (18.1)	.213
Condition					
Septic shock	215 (82.6)	73 (84.8)	67 (77.9)	75 (85.2)	.092
Mortality					
In-ICU	63 (25)	27 (31.3)	17 (19.7)	15 (17)	.352
In-hospital	72 (28)	31 (36)	21 (24.4)	21 (23.8)	.046
Length of stay, median (IQR) (h)					
ICU	174.5 (93.2-353.2)	202.5 (97-445)	182 (72-354)	140 (83-291)	.092
Hospital	432 (240-846)	444 (264-942)	432 (240-768)	408 (204-768)	.825

COPD indicates chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; IQR, interquartile range.

^a Unless otherwise indicated.

^b S/F less than 164.

^c S/F 164 to 236.

^d S/F more than 236.

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- the mean S/F and P/F ratio was 201.29 (SD, 72.62) and 232.99 (SD, 119.8),
- patients with S/F more than 236 (n = 88) constituted the upper tertile (reference group),
- patients with S/F between 164 and 236 (n = 86) and S/F less than 164 (n = 86) made up the middle and lower tertiles.

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- Characteristics of the patients stratified by the severity of disease and according to cutoff values found by Rice et al are shown in.

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Association between S/F ratio and mortality

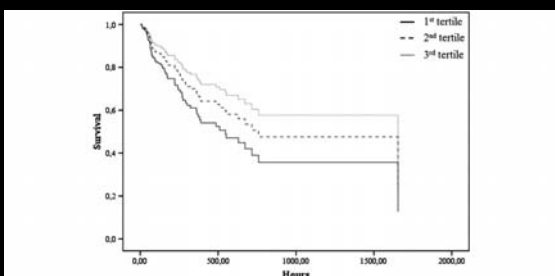


Fig. 1 Cox survival curves, adjusted for APACHE IV, are shown for S/F tertiles at ICU admission. First tertile (black line), second tertile (black dotted line), and third tertile (grey line).

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Crude and adjusted hazard ratios (HRs) were calculated relative to the highest tertile of S/F ratio. All HRs are presented with 95% CIs.

- Lower S/F ratio tertile predicted in-hospital mortality.

Table 2 Hazard ratio (95% CIs) for death according to S/F ratio tertiles

S/F ratio	Adjusted HR vs tertile 3 and cutoff >241
Tertiles	
2	1.351 (0.720-2.537)
1	1.871 (1.026-3.413)
Cutoff	
241-192	1.704 (0.769-3.778)
192-154	1.641 (0.659-4.082)
<154	2.054 (1.107-3.813)

Adjusted for APACHE IV.

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Stratification by disease severity

- In patients with **severe sepsis**, the differences in mortality among tertiles of S/F did not reach statistical significance (Figure E1).
- patients with **septic shock**, those in the lower tertile of S/F ratio had increased mortality compared with those in the reference group (HR, 2.04 [95% CI, 1.05-3.94]; P = .034) (Figure E2).

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Fig. 2 shows adjusted HRs for death, stratified by subgroup of patients.

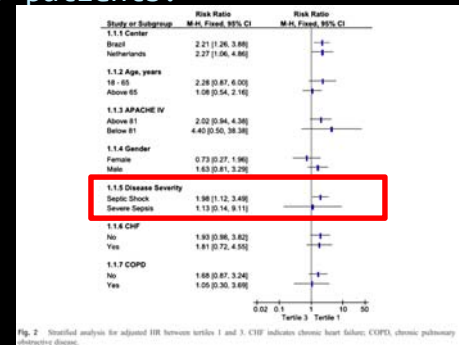


Fig. 2 Stratified analysis for adjusted HR between tertiles 1 and 3. CHF indicates chronic heart failure; COPD, chronic pulmonary obstructive disease.

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- According to S/F cutoffs found by Rice et al, patients in the **lower tertile** (< 235) showed **increased mortality** compared with those in the reference group (HR, 5.016 [95% CI, 1.50-16.67]; P = .009).

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Correlation between S/F and P/F ratio

- A scatter plot of concurrent S/F and P/F measurements at ICU admission.

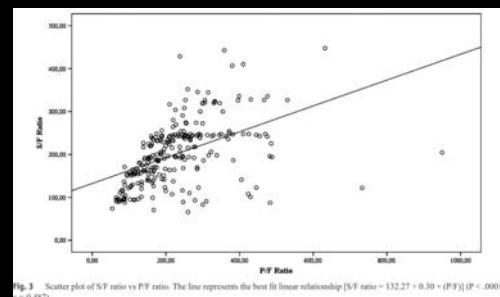


Fig. 3 Scatter plot of S/F ratio vs P/F ratio. The line represents the best fit linear relationship [S/F ratio = 132.27 + 0.30 × (P/F)] (P < .0001; r = 0.87).

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- S/F ratio = 132.27 + 0.30 × (P/F) [95% CI, S/F = (115.22 - 149.31) + (0.235 - 0.367) × P/F] (P < .0001; r = 0.48)
- excellent ability to discriminate between patients with or without **severe hypoxemia** (P/F ratio < 100; area under the curve, 0.926) and
- excellent ability to discriminate : with or without **hypoxemia** (P/F ratio < 300; area under the curve, 0.743).

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linear regression equation

- S/F ratio 154-241
- P/F ratio 100-300

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Discussion

- increases in the HR of death with decreasing S/F ratio tertiles appeared to be independent of severity of illness.
- first study on the use of the S/F ratio as independent predictor of mortality in adult septic shock patients.

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- significant correlation between S/F and P/F ratios at ICU admission.
- represent the first study of the relationship between SpO₂ and PaO₂ in critically ill patients with sepsis.

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- Limitations of SpO₂ monitoring : patient's race, oximeter location, and low cardiac output states or methemoglobinemia .
- The " gold standard " for arterial oxygenation determination : PaO₂ , influenced by patients' agitation, position, and endotracheal suctioning .

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- decrease inappropriate use of blood in ICU patients and to increase the use of invasive techniques.

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- The advantages of the S/F ratio in the diagnosis
- Many organ failure scores use P/F ratios
- Using S/F ratio as a surrogate measure of hypoxemia.

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- Pandharipande et al : total Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) scores calculated with S/F ratio are highly correlated with the total SOFA scores calculated with the P/F ratio.
- Leteurtre et al : S/F ratio could be used instead of P/F for calculating Pediatric Index of Mortality 2.

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limitation

- retrospective cohort study

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- undocumented confounders.
- directly affect the P/F ratio

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Conclusions

- low *S/F ratio* upon ICU admission is associated with an *increased risk of mortality* in patients presenting with *septic shock*.

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