

Biomarkers in sepsis - The perennial search

The World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, adopted a resolution in May 2017 to recognise sepsis as a global health priority. Some important recommendations include the emphasis of sepsis as a time-critical medical emergency, and the promotion of research to develop innovative means to prevent, diagnose and treat sepsis. Biomarkers in sepsis have key potential functions in the diagnosis, prognosis and prediction of response to treatment. However, despite many decades of research being done, more questions than answers have arisen. The main issue stems from the complex nature of sepsis pathophysiology and variable host response to infection that render the discovery and validation of useful biomarkers to fulfil the abovementioned objectives arduous. We discuss some of these biomarkers that may be more valuable than others as adjuncts to the clinical management of the ever-growing incidence of sepsis globally.