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| **Table S1: Patient characteristics controlled for collector contamination rate** |
|  **Characteristics** | **BCx From Collectors with Contamination Rate (<5%)** | **BCx Obtained Collectors with Contamination Rate (≥5%)** |
| **Cases****n = 75** | **Controls****n = 2,423** | **Cases****n = 929** | **Controls****n = 8663** |
| **Age, Mean (SD)** | 60.3 (17.9) | 55.7 (18.1) | 58.3 (18.4) | 56.6 (18.1) |
| **Female, n (%)** | 34 (45.3) | 1,235 (51.0) | 511 (55.0) | 4,486 (51.8) |
| **Race, n (%)** |  |  |
|  White | 38 (50.7) | 1,411 (58.2) | 508 (54.8) | 5,214 (60.2) |
|  Black | 36 (48.0) | 907 (37.4) | 400 (43.1) | 3,147 (36.3) |
|  American Indian | 0 (0.0) | 7 (0.3) | 2 (0.1) | 9 (0.1) |
|  Other | 1 (1.3) | 74 (3.1) | 16 (17.2) | 2,222 (25.7) |
|  Unknown | 0 (0) | 13 (0.5) | 1 (0.0) | 31 (0.0) |
| **BMI, n (%)** |  |  |  |  |
|  Underweight (<18 kg/m2) | 6 (8.0) | 160 (6.6) | 60 (6.5) | 539 (6.2) |
|  Normal (18-25 k/m2)  | 20 (26.7) | 827 (34.1) | 271 (29.2) | 2,867 (33.1) |
|  Overweight (25-30 kg/m2)  | 20 (26.7) | 588 (24.3) | 224 (24.1) | 2,281 (26.3) |
|  Obese (30-40 kg/m2) | 25 (33.3) | 572 (23.6) | 233 (25.1) | 1,982 (22.9) |
|  Morbid obesity (>40 kg/m2) | 4 (5.3) | 194 (8.0) | 105 (11.3) | 718 (8.2) |
| **Comorbidity, n (%)** |  |  |  |  |
|  CHF | 16 (21.3) | 494 (20.4) | 217 (23.4) | 1,735 (20.0) |
|  COPD | 30 (40.0) | 1,010 (41.7) | 442 (47.6) | 3,634 (41.9) |
|  Paralysis | 8 (10.7) | 116 (4.8) | 62 (6.7) | 372 (4.3) |
|  DM | 29 (38.7) | 694 (28.6) | 280 (30.1) | 2,387 (27.6) |
|  HTN | 46 (61.3) | 1,199 (49.5) | 485 (52.2) | 4,341 (50.1) |
|  Liver Disease | 7 (9.3) | 372 (15.4) | 139 (15.0) | 1,230 (14.2) |
|  PVD | 12 (16.0) | 310 (12.8) | 116 (12.5) | 1,033 (11.9) |
|  CKD | 14 (18.6) | 560 (23.1) | 224 (24.1) | 1,851 (21.4) |
|  Drug Abuse | 13 (17.3) | 370 (15.3) | 138 (14.9) | 1,235 (14.3) |
|  Metastatic Cancer | 3 (4.0) | 262 (10.8) | 67 (7.2) | 963 (11.1) |
| **SIRS Criteria Met, n (%)** |  |  |  |  |
|  1 | 21 (28.0) | 736 (30.4) | 233 (25.1) | 2,532 (29.2) |
|  2 | 26 (34.7) | 872 (36.0) | 322 (34.7) | 3,164 (36.5) |
|  3 | 17 (22.7) | 429 (17.7) | 200 (21.5) | 1,657 (19.1) |
|  4 | 2 (2.7) | 60 (2.5) | 50 (5.4) | 222 (2.6) |
| **Sepsis Status, n (%)** |  |  |  |  |
|  No Sepsis | 27 (36.0) | 873 (36.0) | 299 (32.2) | 2,849 (32.9) |
|  Sepsis-Shock **a** | 14 (18.6) | 643 (26.5) | 227 (24.4) | 2,319 (26.8) |
|  Sepsis+Shock **a** | 34 (45.3) | 907 (37.4) | 403 (43.4) | 3,495 (40.3) |
|  “Code-Sepsis” Activated | 42 (56.0) | 1,434 (59.2) | 271 (29.2) | 2,973 (34.3) |
| **Abbreviations:** BCx, blood culture; BMI, Body Mass Index; CHF, congestive heart failure; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; DM, diabetes mellitus; HTN, hypertension; PVD, peripheral vascular disease ; CKD, chronic kidney disease; SIRS, systemic inflammatory response syndrome**a** Shock refers to systolic blood pressure <100 mmHg |