

Evaluation of Some Biomarkers in Diagnosis of Bacterial Bloodstream Infection in Children

Dear Editor,

In the July–December 2021 issue of the *Mustansiriya Medical Journal*, Abood *et al.*^[1] assessed the role of C-reactive protein (CRP) and procalcitonin (PCT) as biomarkers of pediatric sepsis (PS). They found that the mean levels of serum CRP and PCT in the Gram-negative and Gram-positive groups differed significantly from the control group.^[1] They concluded that the utilization of these biomarkers as diagnostic tests might help in the early diagnosis of PS.^[1] Indeed, serum levels of CRP and PCT are not only reliable in the diagnosis of PS but also in predicting the overwhelming progression of the septic patient.^[2,3] A concern exists considering the clinical implication of measuring serum CRP and PCT as there is a need to utilize optimal cutoff levels of CRP and PCT with a regard to various pediatric age groups. Importantly, these cutoff values have been constructed for certain pediatric populations to be employed in the researches centers and clinical practice.^[4,5] Regrettably, no similar cutoff levels are yet present in Iraq. The study by Abood *et al.*^[1] truly triggers the need to formulate Iraqi pediatric cutoff values of CRP and PCT. Meanwhile, it would be prudent to study the diagnostic value of CRP versus PCT in predicting PS in Iraq.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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