

BD DAYS - Sepsis:

Case study - Italian consensus paper

6 September 2019

BD European HQ - Eysins, Switzerland



**Assoc Prof Giovanni Gherardi,
Clinical Pathology,
University Campus Bio-Medico**

**Deputy Director, School of
Specialisation in Clinical
Microbiology and Virology,
Faculty of Medicine,
Rome, Italy**



Prof Gherardi began by saying that the incidence and mortality of blood stream infections (BSIs), including sepsis, are increasing, often because of inappropriate antibiotics prescribed within the first 24 hours¹. Misuse of antibiotics may lead to antimicrobial resistance¹. Blood culture is the gold standard for detecting BSIs¹. Ensuring best practice during the preanalytical phase could lead to improved BSI diagnoses and better antibiotic management according to Prof Gherardi.

Several studies showed varying practices in blood culture procedures in Italy¹. A multidisciplinary group of Italian experts, including Prof Gherardi, decided to carry out a literature review and create a document on best practice¹. Their work resulted in a consensus document called *Execution, transport and preservation procedures for sampling for blood culture in cases of suspected sepsis*².

In the first section, they summarise general concepts on blood culture and in the second section, they give practical recommendations on handling blood culture samples (from collection to transport)². These recommendations cover preparation, skin antisepsis, safety, blood volume, sampling strategy, blood culture media and transport time². Ensuring preanalytical best practice is crucial to delivering blood culture results accurately and rapidly¹



Assoc Prof Giovanni Gherardi

References

1. Gherardi G. Case study - Italian consensus paper. Presented at: BD DAYS – Sepsis; 6 September 2019; Eysins, Switzerland.
2. De Plato F, Fontana C, Gherardi G, et al. *Procedure di esecuzione, trasporto e conservazione del prelievo per emocoltura in caso di sospetta sepsi*. Milan, Italy: EDRA; 2018.

BD - Europe, Business Terre-Bonne Park - A4, Route de Crassier 17, 1262 Eysins, Switzerland

bd.com

