

Usefulness of Presepsin as a Biomarker for Sepsis: A One-year Clinical Diagnosis Review

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INTRODUCTION

Sepsis remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, demanding prompt diagnosis and effective management. Presepsin, a soluble subtype of the CD14 receptor, has emerged as a promising biomarker for early sepsis detection and prognostic evaluation. Recent studies highlight the diagnostic utility of presepsin in critically ill patients, demonstrating its correlation with sepsis severity, organ dysfunction, and patient outcomes. Compared to traditional biomarkers such as procalcitonin (PCT) and C-reactive protein (CRP), presepsin offers faster kinetics, enabling earlier detection. We reviewed the usefulness of presepsin for one year at one teaching hospital in Korea.

PURPOSE

We reviewed the EMR (electric medical record) for usefulness of presepsin for 1 year at one teaching hospital in Korea.

METHODS

The PATHFAST Presepsin (PHC corporation, Japan) IVD certified by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) was implemented by the manufacturer's instructions. The limit of detection (LoD) and precision were tested with the serially diluted quality control samples with diluents before the implementation. For quantitative report, below 300 pg/mL was negative and above 500 pg/mL was positive. Between value (300-500 pg/mL) was reported as equivocal. From July 2024 to June 2025, we collected the presepsin results, sex, age, department of clinician and clinical diagnosis. Sepsis related diagnosis were counted with the results of presepsin.

TABLES

Table 1. The presepsin using medical department and percent of sepsis related diagnosis.

Department	Sepsis related	(%)	Non-related	(%)	Total	(%)
Emergency Medicine	210	5.9%	3,328	94.1%	3,538	91.1%
General Surgery	16	7.7%	193	92.3%	209	5.4%
Nephrology	2	2.2%	91	97.8%	93	2.4%
Hemato-oncology		0.0%	20	100.0%	20	0.5%
Orthopedics Surgery		0.0%	8	100.0%	8	0.2%
Family Medicine		0.0%	4	100.0%	4	0.1%
Infectious Diseases	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	3	0.1%
Neurology	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	0.1%
Gastroenterology		0.0%	2	100.0%	2	0.1%
Endocrinology		0.0%	2	100.0%	2	0.1%
General Internal Medicine		0.0%	1	100.0%	1	0.0%
Rehabilitation Medicine		0.0%	1	100.0%	1	0.0%
Rheumatology		0.0%	1	100.0%	1	0.0%
Neurosurgery		0.0%	1	100.0%	1	0.0%
Total	231	5.9%	3,654	94.1%	3,885	100.0%

TABLES

Table 2. The presepsin testing patients by age groups and sepsis related diagnosis.

Age group	Sepsis related			Sepsis non-related		
	M	F	Sub total	M	F	Sub total
10-19				5	7	12
20-29				43	62	105
30-39	1	1	2	67	68	135
40-49	2		2	101	76	177
50-59	12	5	17	189	133	322
60-69	25	12	37	355	201	556
70-79	23	28	51	393	329	722
80-89	38	64	102	587	721	1,308
90-99	9	11	20	105	199	304
100-109				6	7	13
Total	110	121	231	1,851	1803	3,654

Table 3. The presepsin level and increasing diagnostic rate of sepsis

Presepsin level	Sepsis related	Sepsis non-related	Total
0-100		63	63
100-200	6	426	432
200-300	15	585	600
Negative			
300-400	13	508	521
400-500	13	413	426
Equivocal			
500-600	19	303	322
Positive			
600-700	20	223	243
700-800	19	174	193
800-900	11	127	138
900-1000	12	110	122
1000-1100	13	81	94
1100-1200	7	64	71
1200-1300	10	53	63
1300-1400	9	38	47
1400-1500	3	49	52
1500-1600	3	30	33
1600-2000	11	87	98
2000-2400	10	68	78
2400-2800	9	44	53
2800-3200	6	34	40
3200-3600	2	24	26
3600-4000	2	22	24
4000-4400	3	16	19
4400-4800	3	12	15
4800-5200	1	5	6
>5200	11	95	106
Total	231	3,654	3,885

Table 4. The detail diagnosis of sepsis related patients

Diagnosis	M	F	Total
Septic shock	69	49	118
Shock	9	20	29
Sepsis(septicemia)	15	13	28
Sepsis due to Escherichia coli[E.coli]	3	15	18
Other specified sepsis	2	9	11
Severe sepsis	3	6	9
Hypovolemic shock	4		4
Sepsis due to Staphylococcus aureus		3	3
septic arthritis, knee		2	2
Sepsis due to klebsiella	1	1	2
Biliary sepsis	1	1	2
Others	3	2	5
Total	110	121	231

FIGURES

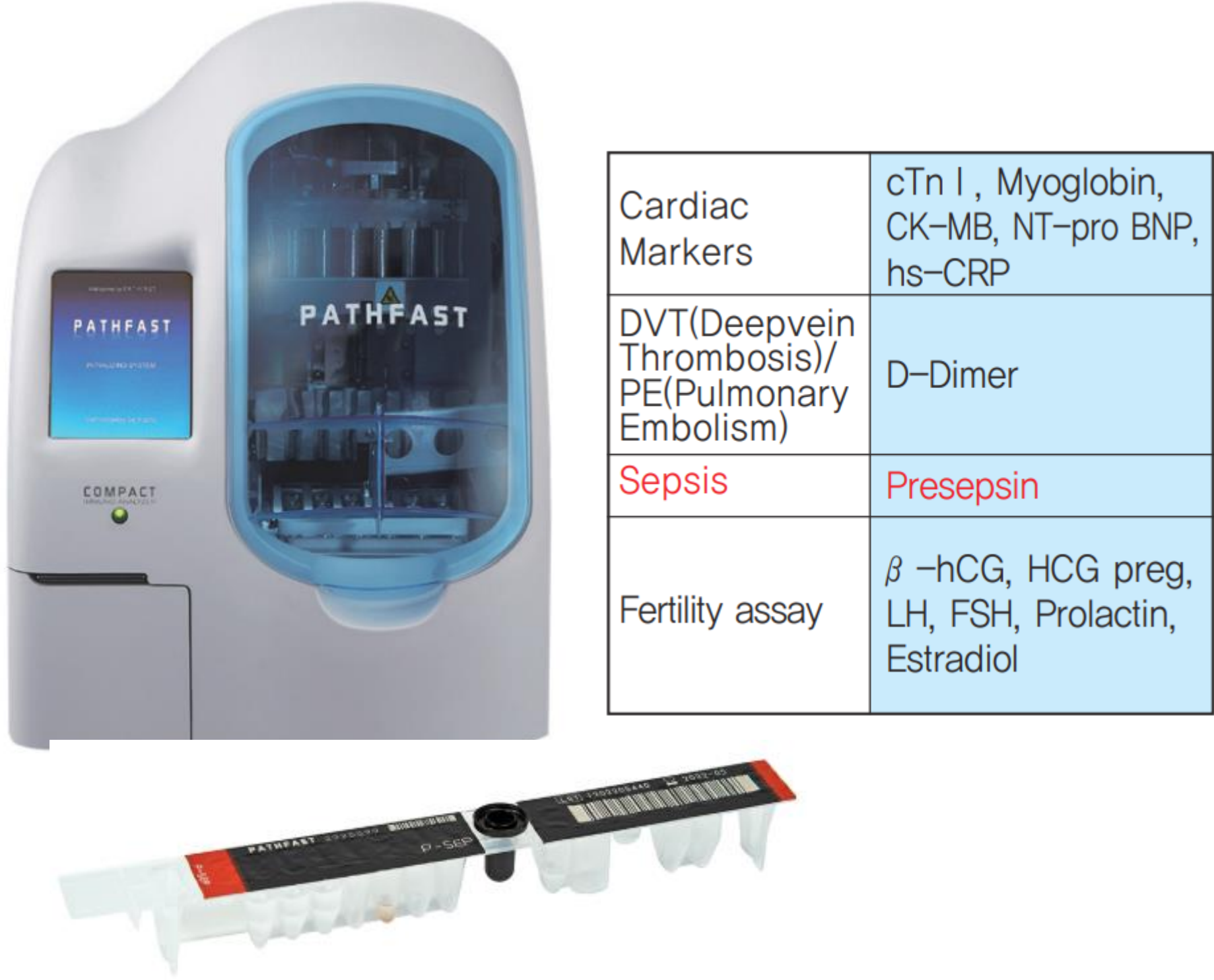


Fig. 1. The PATHFAST IVD and presepsin cartridge.

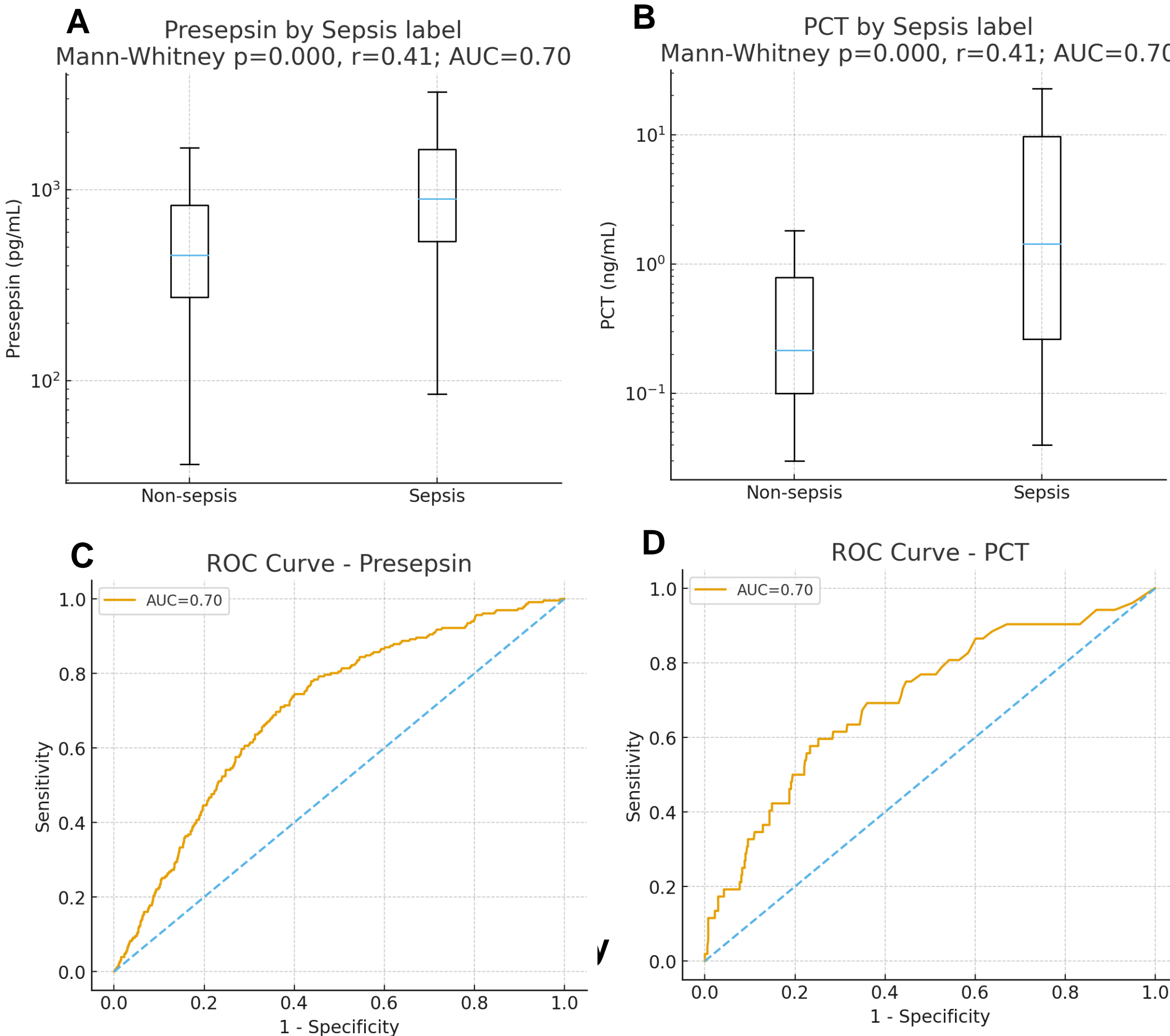


Fig. 2. The presepsin (A) and procalcitonin (B) level by sepsis related diagnosis, presepsin ROC curve (C), PCT ROC curve (D).

RESULTS

A total 3,885 presepsin tests were done during the study period 1,961 male and 1,924 female. Average age was 70.6 for male and 73.9 for female group. Most common presepsin using department was emergency medicine (91.1%), and next was general surgery (5.4%). The number of positive, equivocal and negative were 1,843, 947, 1,095 patients respectively. Sepsis related diagnosis rates were different by presepsin result groups. The negative and equivocal groups only had 3.8% and 3.7% clinical diagnosed as sepsis related conditions. However, the positive group demonstrated 11.1% patients was diagnosed as sepsis. As increased positive cut off from 500 to 700 or 1,000 pg/mL, the positive rate were increased to 13.7% and 16.5% respectively. ROC analysis showed the best threshold was 563 pg/mL.

CONCLUSIONS

Presepsin demonstrated clinical utility as a supportive biomarker for early sepsis detection, particularly in emergency settings. Use of higher cutoff thresholds may enhance diagnostic specificity without compromising early identification.