Advances and controversies in the management of Sepsis and Meningitis.
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There are numerous national and international guidance documents on the recognition and management of Sepsis and Meningitis, including specific guidance on Meningococcal disease. Many of the recommendations made in these documents are based on consensus clinical opinion and current practice, rather than on results of randomised controlled trials. This talk will discuss the changing definitions of Sepsis, in adults and children, and clinical features used in diagnosis.

The recommendations for initial management of Sepsis with broad spectrum antibiotics, rapid fluid volume expansion, inotropes and early ventilation will be discussed in the light of physiology and recent published studies. Adjunctive treatments using anti-inflammatory agents and anti-coagulation will be reviewed.

The aim of the talk will be to critically evaluate current recommendations and discuss future directions for improving the evidence base for treatment of Sepsis and meningitis.