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Scoping Review to Assess Evidence on the Relationship Between Limited English Proficiency and Sepsis Mortality.

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Abstract

Background: Sepsis is a deadly syndrome accounting for the deaths of 48,000 people in the UK each year. Care continues to improve for these patients, but diagnosis is reliant on clear communication between patient and care provider. A significant proportion of the UK populous speaks little or no English, which poses challenges to clinicians for patient assessment.

Methods: This scoping review searched EMBASE, MEDLINE and Google Scholar. All relevant articles comparing Sepsis Mortality and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) were retrieved and screened. The primary outcome was to find articles that compared this exposure and outcome directly. Secondary outcomes assessed the risk of bias and qualitative discussion of paper results. No quantitative analyses were performed.

Results: Three relevant papers were discovered and included. There was diversity in outcomes relating to LEP depending on racial and ethnic background. The studies provided insight into a direct link between LEP and sepsis mortality. One found a 31% increase in patient mortality for Asian, White, and other races, one found a 29% increase in mortality for non-Hispanic White patients, whilst a third found a 17% decrease in all-cause mortality including sepsis patients if they had LEP.

Conclusions: Overall, there is a dearth of evidence in the subject area with no studies carried out in the UK. The research that does exist is conflicting and somewhat limited. Efforts should be focused on improving the research base with wider studies with greater varieties in patient locations.

Keywords: Scoping review | Limited English Proficiency | Sepsis | Mortality

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