

Sepsis Management: Optimizing Treatment and Subtype Classification using Machine-Learning

¹Geetha C. Megharaj, ²Thara Devi M, ³Ashwin M, ⁴Bhavesh S Jain, ⁵Maaz Ahmed Risaldar, ⁶Mohammed Zubair

Department of CSE, Dr. T. Thimmaiah Institute of Technology, KGF, India

Abstract: Sepsis is a medical emergency that has to be diagnosed quickly and treated individually. Conventional detection techniques frequently fall short in reliably identifying subtypes or early onset. This study introduces a hybrid machine-learning framework that utilizes supervised learning (Random Forest) for early sepsis prediction and unsupervised learning (K-Means Clustering) for the classification of sepsis subtypes using clinical biomarkers, vitals, and infection-related features. Our dataset includes microbiological test results, site-of-infection data, and inflammatory biomarkers to enrich prediction and enable clinically relevant clustering. We test model performance using measures such as AUC ROC, accuracy, and recall, and investigate clusters based on severity, biomarker profiles, and clinical presentation. This integrated approach enhances both predictive accuracy and clinical interpretability, supporting precision care pathways in sepsis management.

Keywords: Sepsis, Supervised Learning, Unsupervised Clustering, Sepsis Subtypes, Machine-learning, Clinical Decision Support

I. INTRODUCTION

Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening condition that develops in response to the body's massive immune response to infection, which can quickly progress to tissue damage, organ failure, and death if not treated promptly. Outdated detection approaches rely on clinical observation and laboratory diagnosis, leading to poor prognosis and a late response to treatment. Healthcare has even opened many new doorways of earlier discovery and productive care for such severe diseases with the help of Machine Learning (ML). However, predicting sepsis remains complex due to the variability in patient responses, underlying diseases, and infection types.

This paper proposes a sepsis management system that use machine-learning methods for early prediction and subtype classification in order to get around these challenges. Heterogeneous profiles of patients and different classes of response to the infection impose adaptable models. Static threshold-based methods may not encode these fine nuances, which result in misclassification or delayed alarms. Our solution

requires data preprocessing of patient data such as vitals and electronic health records (EHR), and the use of machine learning (ML) models such as Random Forest for early detection of sepsis. Interpretation Supervised (e.g., XGBoost, Random Forest Support Vector Machine, and Decision Tree) and unsupervised (e.g., K-Means clustering) learning can be used to identify meaningful subgroups of patients for personalized therapy.

Besides, the problems of system integration, data inconsistency and sensor calibration in hospital environment are recognized and dealt with by the use of reliable data pipelines and monitoring systems adopted. By incorporating real-time clinical data with machine-learning, our method intends to offer timely warnings, decrease death rates, improve treatment and help clinicians deal with sepsis in a more efficient way.

II. RELATED WORKS

In [1], the authors *Kasara Sai Pratyush Reddy et al.* implemented a machine-learning model to predict patient outcomes by analyzing clinical features. They employed a **decision tree algorithm** on patient health records to predict sepsis onset. Alerts were generated

and sent via email to healthcare providers, but **manual intervention** was required for treatment decisions, thus not fully automating the care process.

The work by *M. Senthil Vadivu et al.* in [2] introduced a system aimed at improving patient monitoring in intensive care units. Their model facilitated **remote observation of vitals** through a mobile application and allowed doctors to adjust treatment protocols based on live sensor data. This **remote accessibility** empowered caregivers to react promptly to early signs of deterioration.

In [3], *Narmadha S. et al.* explored the **impact of IoT-driven solutions** in healthcare, particularly in reducing treatment delays. Their framework analyzed real-time patient data to prevent critical care delays. The study emphasized how **IoT-enabled early warnings** could significantly improve outcomes in sepsis-prone patients.

Muhammad Ibrar et al. in [4] proposed a **real-time monitoring system** to track biomarkers indicating potential sepsis. Their work provided **continuous updates** to clinicians about patient status using IoT infrastructure, aiming for a cost-effective and most efficient way of managing patient data and improving sepsis outcomes.

In [5], *Sameer Quazi et al.* presented a comprehensive review of **AI and IoT integration in smart healthcare** systems. They discussed current sepsis detection models, analyzed emerging trends in AI-enabled diagnosis, and emphasized the role of data-driven decision-making in **bridging the gap between timely diagnosis and treatment**.

Dhanashri Jadhav et al. in [6] developed a framework focused on **reducing unnecessary resource usage** in medical treatments. By applying machine-learning to analyze treatment efficacy and patient response, they demonstrated how data analytics can **optimize medication plans** and reduce adverse outcomes in sepsis cases.

In [7], *Keyurbhai A. Jani et al.* proposed a system to **integrate various clinical sensors** with ML models for comprehensive patient monitoring. Their model

ensured low- cost, scalable analysis of multiple vital signs and biomarkers, making it suitable for real-time **sepsis subtype classification** and early alerts based on symptom progression.

Susan A. O'Shaughnessy et al. in [8] applied the **CWSIT- TT (Clinical Water Stress Index Tool - Threshold Trigger)** methodology to guide intervention schedules. This analogy can be translated into healthcare where **stress indices derived from vitals** can help guide personalized treatment schedules for sepsis management.

In [9], *Amarendra Goap et al.* developed an open-source solution for predicting the **treatment needs of patients** by considering multiple health parameters. Their work emphasizes **parameter integration and predictive modeling**, which aligns well with the goals of individualized sepsis treatment planning.

Finally, in [10], *Anat Goldstein et al.* designed a sensor-driven approach for **real-time monitoring and treatment planning**. Data from multiple sensors were consolidated to create **custom weekly treatment plans**, akin to how sepsis patients can benefit from personalized therapy based on evolving clinical data.

III. PROPOSED METHOD

A. Proposed System Architecture

Using machine learning techniques, the proposed Sepsis Management System is intended to automate the prediction and categorization of sepsis and its variants. Beginning with the collection of clinical data from hospital databases, such as blood pressure, glucose, insulin, and BMI, the design proceeds in an organized manner. The quality of the data for further analysis is then guaranteed by pre-processing this raw data by normalization and cleaning, which eliminates duplicates, outliers, and missing values. In order to find hidden sepsis subcategories including Septic Shock, Hyperinflammatory Sepsis, and Resolved Sepsis, the data is cleaned and then run through a K-Means clustering algorithm. Based on comparable physiological characteristics, these clusters assist in grouping patients into clinically meaningful categories, enhancing therapy suggestions tailored to individual

subtypes.

After clustering, the likelihood that the patient would be septic is predicted using a supervised classification model, in this case a Random Forest classifier. In addition to displaying the sepsis subtype, the model offers an AI-generated therapy recommendation specific to that subtype if the prediction is positive. The findings are then shown on a web application built on Streamlit, which enables users or medical professionals to input patient information and get results right away. In real-time clinical settings, its modular design guarantees early intervention and better patient outcomes by enabling both intelligent decision support and precise prediction. The overall system architecture is illustrated in Fig. 1.

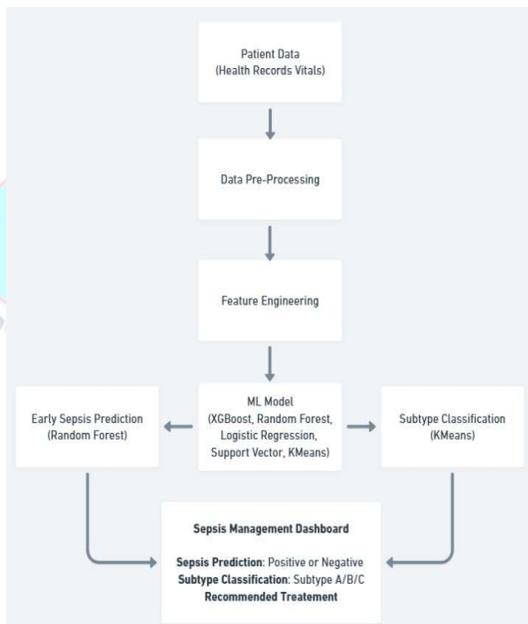


Fig. 1: Proposed System Architecture

B. Data Flow Diagram

The system is designed to predict the sepsis subtype and suggest optimized treatment based on patient-specific data. As shown in Fig. 2, the system collects clinical parameters (vital signs, lab results, demographics), preprocesses the data (normalization and cleaning), clusters patients into subtypes using K-means, and then classifies or suggests treatment pathways.

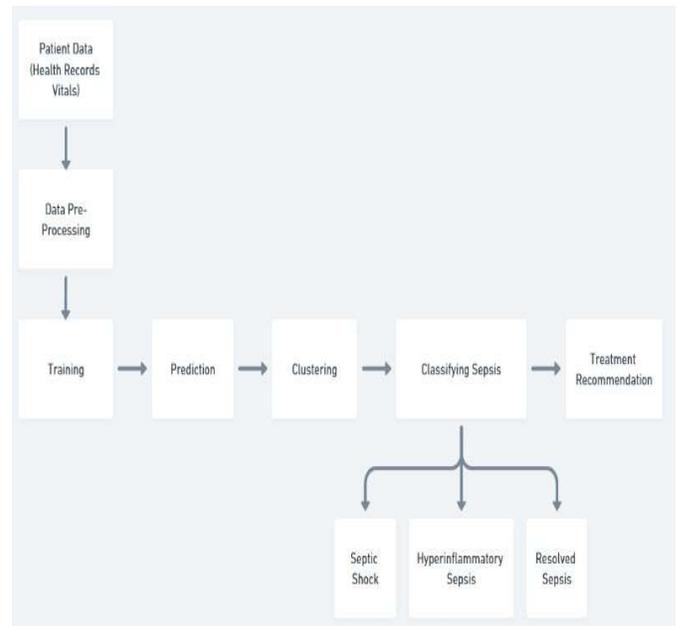


Fig. 2: Dataflow Diagram for Proposed System

C. Data Generation

In this system, data is collected from structured hospital databases and electronic medical records (EMRs), which store patient health records in tabular format. The dataset comprises clinical measurements routinely recorded during lab tests, and patient history. These values are critical for early prediction and classification of sepsis.

The primary clinical features used in this system include:

- **PRG:** Number of pregnancies (applicable mainly for female patients)
- **PL:** Plasma glucose concentration (mg/dL), a key marker for metabolic health
- **PR:** Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg), indicative of cardiovascular condition
- **SK:** Skinfold thickness of the triceps (mm), which serves as a stand-in for body fat percentage.
- **TS:** 2-hour serum insulin (mu U/ml), relevant for assessing insulin resistance
- **M11:** Body Mass Index (BMI), computed as weight

in kg divided by height in meters squared

- **BD2:** Diabetes pedigree function, representing hereditary influence on diabetes
- **Age:** Age of the patient in years, a fundamental demographic and risk factor

This data is collected for patients diagnosed with or suspected of having sepsis. It is then labeled (for supervised learning) or unlabeled (for clustering) and fed into the pipeline for preprocessing and analysis.

D. Pre-Processing

In our proposed Sepsis Prediction and Sub-Type Classification System, data preprocessing plays a critical role in preparing the raw clinical input data for accurate machine-learning model training. Since clinical data often originates from ICU monitors and electronic health records (EHRs), it may include missing entries, outliers, or redundant features. Preprocessing helps clean, scale, and structure this data to ensure consistency and optimal performance of the model.

Let the input dataset be represented as $X = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. Where each patient record $x_i = \{x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{id}\}$ represents d clinical features for the i -th patient, and:

- n = total number of patients
- d = number of medical features per patient
- x_{ij} = j -th clinical feature (e.g., blood pressure, insulin, BMI, age, etc.) of the i -th patient

The preprocessing steps specific to this sepsis-focused system are:

1. Normalization

Normalization is a key preprocessing technique used to scale patient data, such as vital signs and lab results, into a uniform range, typically between 0 and 1. To ensure each feature contributes equally during clustering or classification, we normalize all continuous variables. This is particularly crucial for physiological data that functions on several scales, such as blood pressure and glucose levels.

Normalization formula used:

$$x_{normalized} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

where:

- x : raw feature value
- x_{min} / x_{max} : minimum and maximum values of the feature across the dataset.

This scaling compresses all values into the $[0, 1]$ range, preventing high-magnitude features from overpowering others.

2. Data cleaning

Data cleaning in sepsis datasets addresses common real-world issues such as missing values, outliers, and duplicate records — often caused by faulty ICU sensors or manual entry errors. Cleaning improves data reliability for training and testing.

Key data cleaning tasks include:

- **Handling Missing Values:** Remove or impute missing entries using statistical methods (mean, median) or model-based imputation.
- **Eliminating Duplicates:** Detect and remove repeated patient records.
- **Consistency Checks:** Verify that every feature value falls within ranges that are deemed appropriate by doctors.
- **Outlier Removal:** Eliminate extreme numbers that do not match physiological norms by using outlier removal.

Data Cleaning Algorithm:

Input: Dataset X with n patient records

Output: Cleaned dataset \bar{X} with m records (where $m < n$)

Begin

1. For each record $x_i \in X$:
 - a. If x_i has any null (missing) values, remove or impute.
 - b. Check if all feature values lie within medically defined thresholds.
 - c. If $x_{ij} < \text{min threshold}$, remove or correct the

value.

d. If $x_{ij} > \text{max threshold}$, remove or correct the value.

2. Remove any duplicate records from X .

End

E. Training

The training phase in the proposed sepsis management system involves developing a machine-learning model capable of predicting the appropriate treatment or identifying subtypes of sepsis from patient data. The model is trained using a labeled dataset that includes various clinical features such as vital signs, laboratory test results, and treatment histories. The objective is to enable the model to learn patterns and associations in the clinical data that can later assist in making accurate decisions for new, unseen patient records. In this stage, the input patient health dataset \bar{X} is iteratively partitioned into K clusters using the K-Means clustering algorithm. Each cluster ideally represents a group of patients with similar clinical patterns or progression of sepsis. This clustering helps in distinguishing sepsis subtypes for more targeted analysis and treatment strategies.

The process follows four main steps:

- **Initialization:** Randomly select k centroid vectors $\bar{v}_r \in \bar{X}$, where $r = 0, 1, \dots, k-1$.

- **Distance Measurement:** Compute the **Euclidean distance**

between each patient vector \bar{x}_l and centroid \bar{v}_r

$$D(\bar{x}_l, \bar{v}_r) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_{lj} - v_{rj})^2}$$

- **Assignment:** Assign each data point \bar{x}_l to the nearest cluster C_r

- **Centroid Update:** Recalculate the centroid of each cluster:

$$\bar{v}_r = \frac{1}{|C_r|} \sum_{x_i \in C_r} x_i$$

- **Repeat:** Continue steps 2-4 until convergence, that is, if the centroids do not change significantly.

F. Classification

In the proposed sepsis management system, classification refers to identifying the specific sepsis subtype—Septic Shock, Hyperinflammatory Sepsis, or Resolved Sepsis—based on real-time clinical parameters. This phase follows the clustering process, where labels derived from unsupervised learning are used to train a supervised model to recognize patterns in patient data.

The classifier learns a mapping between clinical features and the target subtype, enabling accurate predictions for new patient records. The classification task in this system is multi-class, where each input patient record is categorized into one of the three medically relevant subtypes:

- Septic Shock
- Hyperinflammatory Sepsis
- Resolved Sepsis

The classification model utilizes eight key features extracted from the patient dataset:

Table 1: Features present in the patient dataset

Sl. No.	Name	Description
1	PRG	No. of pregnancies
2	PL	Plasma glucose concentration (mg/dL)
3	PR	Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg)
4	SK	Triceps skinfold thickness (mm)
5	TS	2-hour serum insulin
6	M11	Body Mass Index (BMI)
7	BD2	Diabetes pedigree function
8	Age	Age of the patient (in years)

This clustering process continues iteratively until the centroids stabilize or a stopping criterion is met. It helps uncover latent subtypes in sepsis progression, which are useful for downstream classification and treatment optimization.

K-Means Algorithm Input:

1. Patient Clinical dataset $\bar{X} = \{x_{ij}\}$
2. Initial centroid vector set $\bar{V} = \{v_r\}$

Output: Distinct sepsis subtypes in form of clusters $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}$

Steps:

1. Randomly initialize k centroid vectors $\bar{v}_r \in \bar{X}$.
2. Calculate Euclidean distance between patient vectors and centroids
3. Assign each patient vector to the closest centroid
4. Update centroid values based on assigned patient data
5. Repeat steps 2 – 4 until convergence

The classification output directly supports personalized treatment recommendations, enabling early intervention and improved patient outcomes.

G. Evaluation Metrics

Assessing the performance of machine learning algorithms on a clinical prediction system like the proposed sepsis management framework requires multiple statistical evaluations to validate precision and safety for real-world use. Detecting sepsis is highly delicate as falsely identifying it may lead to overtreatment while not recognizing it may result in an intervention being delayed for a dangerously long time. So, to empirically evaluate models, multiple different metrics are leveraged.

- **Accuracy:** Accuracy describes the ratio of patients correctly identified as having sepsis and those not identified as having sepsis to the total number of predictions made.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

where TP , TN , FP , and FN represent true positives, true negatives, false positives, and false negatives respectively. While accuracy gives a general overview of model performance, it may be misleading in imbalanced datasets

- **Precision:** Precision or Positive Predictive Value, quantifies the measure of true positive predictions already made against all the model's predictions.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

This is especially important in clinical settings to avoid false alarms.

- **Recall:** Recall assesses the ability of a model in identifying all actual cases of sepsis. It shows how many of the true septic patients have been detected correctly.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

High recall is essential in healthcare applications to ensure that actual sepsis cases are not missed.

- **F1-Score:** The F1 score is derived from precision and recall, thus is their harmonic mean. It balances both factors, particularly if one of them needs to be compromised.

$$F1 - Score = 2 * \frac{Precision * Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

It is particularly useful in imbalanced classification tasks where one class dominates.

The effectiveness of each of the five algorithms—Random Forest, Logistic Regression, XGBoost, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Decision Tree—for the binary problem of sepsis prediction may be evaluated from Fig. 3. Four measures were used to evaluate the models. Accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score are the evaluation metrics.

	Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
0	Random Forest	0.72	0.60	0.67	0.63
1	Logistic Regression	0.71	0.57	0.71	0.63
2	XGBoost	0.72	0.60	0.64	0.62
3	SVM	0.71	0.57	0.64	0.61
4	Decision Tree	0.70	0.57	0.57	0.57

Fig. 3: Comparative Evaluation of Classification Models

Among all models, Random Forest had the greatest F1-score of 0.63, 0.72 accuracy, 0.60 precision, and 0.67 recall, indicating the best balance across all measures. As a result, it is the most reliable and superior model. Logistic Regression performed poorly on accuracy scoring 0.57, meaning it would categorize many instances as positive when they are not, even though it also obtained an F1-score of 0.63 and a higher recall of 0.71.

In order to improve generalization and reduce overfitting, Random Forest, an ensemble learning technique, constructs numerous decision trees and retains the varied collection of predictions. As is frequently the case with clinical data, they excel at handling non-linear relations, missing data, multicollinearity, and outliers. By returning feature significance values that rank the predictive factors that have the most influence on the result, it also adds clarity.

Random Forest was selected for the aforementioned reasons, but above all else, because it is reliable and offers strong performance across a broad range of clinical contexts and datasets.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Fig. 4 illustrates the functional layout of the proposed system. Patient data including no. of pregnancies, plasma glucose concentration, diastolic blood pressure, body mass index, etc., is fed into the system. This information is processed by the trained machine-learning model to classify sepsis into subtypes (e.g., septic shock, resolved sepsis and hyperinflammatory sepsis) and suggest appropriate treatment protocols. The system is implemented using Python with

machine-learning libraries like Scikit-learn and integrated into a user-friendly GUI using Streamlit for clinical use.

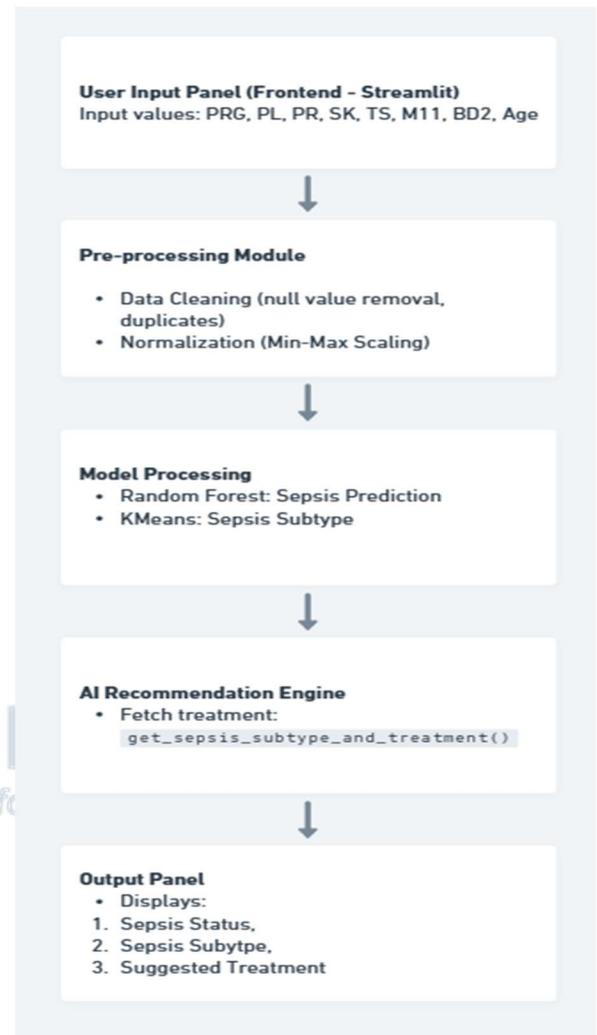


Fig. 4: Sepsis Management System Functional Layout – Front View

V. RESULTS

Fig. 5 shows the graphical interface of the main application page developed for the sepsis management system. The interface is designed to be user-friendly for clinical professionals. It includes features such as patient ID selection, real-time input of vital parameters (e.g., temperature, heart rate, blood pressure), and an option to upload lab test data. The interface also provides access to the subtype classification results and recommended treatment protocols based on the trained machine-learning.

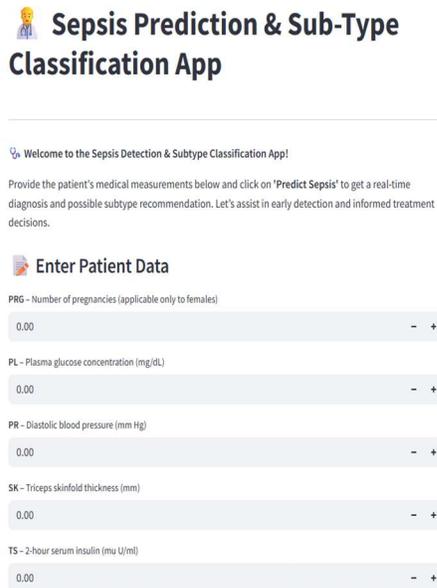


Fig. 5: Graphical Interface of Sepsis Management System

Fig. 6 shows the patient data collected, including vital signs and laboratory parameters such as temperature, heart rate, white blood cell count, and lactate levels. These inputs were fed into the trained machine-learning model — specifically a clustering algorithm like K-Means—to classify the patients into different sepsis subtypes. Based on the identified subtype, the model further aids in suggesting optimized treatment plans tailored to each patient’s condition.

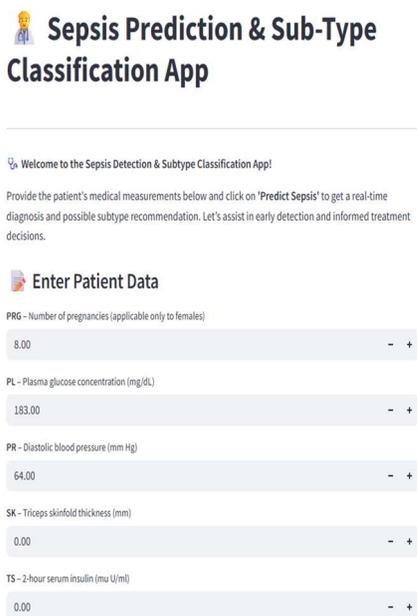


Fig. 6: Patient Data Inputs

Fig. 7 shows the output interface of the constructed Sepsis Prediction and Management System. Upon entering patient- specific clinical readings including the plasma glucose, the diastolic B P, the skin fold thickness, and the BMI of individual, the application estimates the sepsis status (Positive or Negative) using Random Forest Classifier. If the outcome is positive the system proceeds with subtype classification based on K-Means clustering; i.e., the system checks if the patient is in the class Hyperinflammatory Sepsis, Septic Shock or Resolved Sepsis. Moreover, the interface retrieves AI-guided treatment recommendations corresponding to the identified subtype and provides clinicians with evidence-based insights for early intervention. This structured, responsive output design enables visual interpretation by users of diagnostic and prescriptive information.

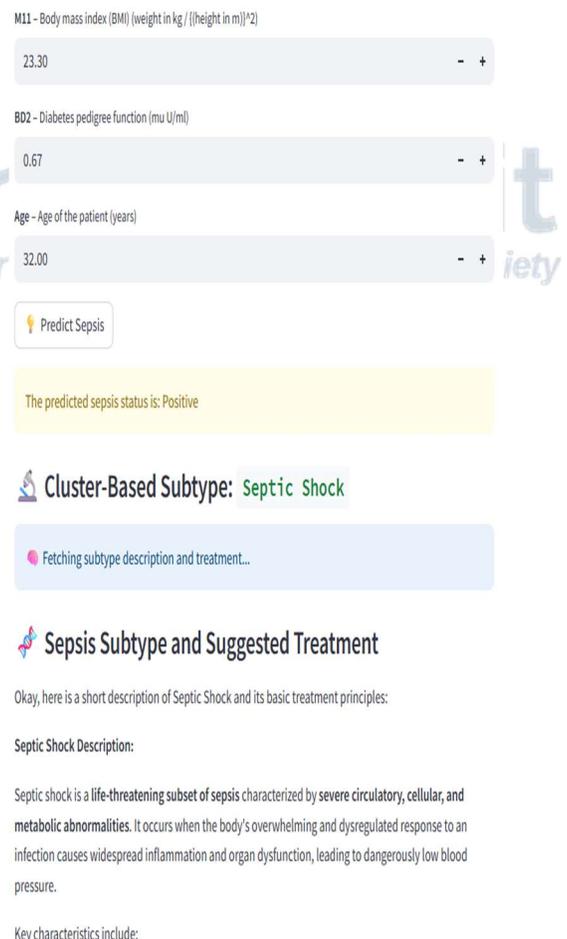


Fig. 7: Sepsis Prediction and Subtype Classification using Machine-Learning

Fig. 8 shows the treatment recommendation interface from the Sepsis Management System. After a patient has been labeled as sepsis positive and classified into a certain type (Hyper-inflammatory Sepsis, Septic Shock or Resolved Sepsis) the system uses an integrated AI model to generate personalized recommendations. The output shown involving clinically relevant activities like fluid resuscitation, vasopressor support or corticosteroid therapy, as appropriate to the severity and profile of the subtype.

Key characteristics include:

1. **Persistent Hypotension:** Low blood pressure that requires vasopressors to maintain a Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) of 65 mmHg or higher, despite adequate fluid resuscitation.
2. **Elevated Serum Lactate:** A lactate level greater than 2 mmol/L despite adequate fluid resuscitation, indicating impaired tissue perfusion and cellular hypoxia.
3. **High Mortality Risk:** Patients in septic shock have a significantly higher risk of death compared to those with sepsis alone.

Basic Treatment Principles (Standard Initial Management):

Treatment is critically time-sensitive and focuses on rapid resuscitation and controlling the source of infection. Standard initial approaches typically include:

1. **Rapid Fluid Resuscitation:** Administration of intravenous crystalloid fluids (e.g., 30 mL/kg) to restore blood volume and improve tissue perfusion in patients with hypotension or elevated lactate.
2. **Vasopressor Support:** If hypotension persists despite fluid resuscitation, medications like norepinephrine are started to constrict blood vessels and raise blood pressure to maintain adequate organ perfusion (target MAP > 65 mmHg).
3. **Prompt Antibiotic Administration:** Broad-spectrum antibiotics are given as soon as possible (ideally within the first hour after recognition) to target the presumed source of infection, switching to more specific agents once culture results are available.
4. **Source Control:** Identifying and rapidly controlling or eliminating the source of infection (e.g., draining an abscess, removing an infected catheter, debriding infected tissue) is crucial.
5. **Supportive Care:** Monitoring and supporting failing organ systems (e.g., respiratory support with mechanical ventilation, renal support with dialysis).
6. **Monitoring:** Close monitoring of vital signs, urine output, mental status, and laboratory markers (like lactate) to assess response to treatment.

This aggressive initial management is crucial to restore perfusion, combat the infection, and improve the patient's chances of survival.

Fig. 8: Suggested Treatment based on the subtype

VI. CONCLUSION

The aim of this project is to develop a system that leverages machine-learning techniques to optimize sepsis detection and subtype classification for personalized treatment. The proposed system (Sepsis Management System) works towards this goal by combining early prediction with precise patient stratification. In the initial stages, we have successfully implemented the data-collection process using clinical records and patient data, including no. of pregnancies,

plasma glucose concentration, diastolic blood pressure, body mass index, etc. The data is processed to ensure quality, and it is confirmed that there are no missing values in the datasets. For the machine-learning models, we have applied supervised learning techniques such as Random Forest and XGBoost for early sepsis prediction, along with unsupervised learning techniques like K-Means clustering for classifying patients into meaningful subtypes based on severity and clinical profiles. We have also developed a user interface that displays the real-time predictions and classifications for healthcare professionals. The interface allows medical staff to access patient information, visualize predicted sepsis risks, and identify the appropriate subtype for tailored treatment plans. By classifying patients into distinct categories and providing early alarms for sepsis detection based on the outputs of the machine-learning model, the system helps make better informed decisions. The system's effectiveness is evaluated using performance metrics such as AUC ROC, precision, and recall, ensuring that it provides accurate and clinically relevant insights. By combining clinical data with machine-learning, the system aims to enhance the timeliness and accuracy of sepsis management, thereby reducing mortality rates and improving patient outcomes through personalized care.

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