

Supplemental file 1. Survey for the general public

Sepsis is a relatively unknown yet deadly disease. Rapid treatment is crucial to limit the risk of death or permanent damage. With this survey, we want to map out what the Dutch population knows about sepsis. The results will be used to draw up an action plan to raise awareness of sepsis. The data are collected anonymously, so we guarantee the privacy of the participants. Because data are collected anonymously, we cannot send a response individually.

1. What is your age?

- (A) 15-26
- (B) 27-35
- (C) 36-45
- (D) 46-55
- (E) 56-65
- (F) 65+

2. Do you have a medical background? (e.g. study or work)

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

3. Which of the following diseases are familiar to you? (multiple answers possible)

- (A) Blood poisoning
- (B) AIDS
- (C) Flu

- (D) Influenza A
- (E) Sepsis
- (F) ALS
- (G) Pneumonia
- (H) None of the above

4. Via which channels have you heard of sepsis? (only for respondents who cross of sepsis on the previous question; multiple answers possible)

- (A) Television
- (B) Social media
- (C) Newspapers
- (D) Family/friends/acquaintances (E) Books/articles
- (E) Posters or flyers
- (F) Study
- (G) Work
- (H) Radio
- (I) Magazines
- (J) At an event (trade fair, conference, etc.)
- (K) Other:

5. Sepsis is often popularly referred to as blood poisoning. Did you know that blood poisoning and sepsis refer to the same clinical picture?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

Explanation: Sepsis is often popularly referred to as blood poisoning, though it can be argued that this term is not entirely accurate. Blood poisoning can indicate bacteria in the bloodstream or inflamed lymph nodes. Although sepsis can be associated with bacteria in the bloodstream or inflamed lymph nodes, sepsis can also occur without these abnormalities.

6. Do you know what sepsis entails?

- (A) I don't know
- (B) Severe reaction of the body to an infection causing damage to tissues and organs
- (C) Damage to blood vessels from excessive alcohol or drug use
- (D) Accumulation of fluid in the lungs causing severe shortness of breath

7. Which of the following symptoms do you think belong to sepsis? (multiple answers possible)

- (A) Fever
- (B) Poor sight
- (C) Drowsiness
- (D) Confusion
- (E) Ringing ears
- (F) Tingling hands
- (G) Flu feeling
- (H) Red bumps on the skin

- (I) Chest pain
- (J) Rapid and laboured breathing
- (K) Gray, pale or marbled skin
- (L) Fast heartbeat
- (M) I don't know

8. What do you think the mortality rate is for sepsis patients in the Netherlands?

- (A) 5-15%
- (B) 15-25%
- (C) 30-40%
- (D) 56-60%

9. Indicate whether these statements are true or false.

Sepsis is more common than breast cancer.

- (A) True
- (B) False
- (C) I don't know

ALS is more common than breast cancer.

- (A) True
- (B) False
- (C) I don't know

Sepsis is just as common as ALS and breast cancer.

- (A) True
- (B) False
- (C) I don't know

The awareness of sepsis should be increased through a national action plan. If people at home recognise the symptoms, the treatment can start faster. The following questions are about the channels that will be used.

10. Which channels do you use daily? (multiple answers possible)

- (A) Television
- (B) Social media
- (C) Newspapers
- (D) Magazines
- (E) Other:

11. Via which channels would you like to be informed about sepsis? (multiple answers possible)

- (A) Website about sepsis
- (B) Radio
- (C) Social media
- (D) Newspapers
- (E) Television
- (F) Events
- (G) Posters/flyers
- (H) Other:
- (I) I don't know