

settings	(criterion not reported) and neutropenia (ANC $< 0.5 \times 10^9$ /l or expected to decrease to that level). Study period was 2003.
Participants	110 FN episodes in 20 patients. Median age was 41 years. Clinically documented infections in 16/110, microbiologically documented in 18/110 and fever of unknown origin in 76/110.
Study design	Observational study (unclear whether prospective). Consecutive sample. Tunisia.
Target condition and reference standard(s)	Mortality from any cause Septic shock: defined as the presence of 2 or more SIRS criteria in the setting of a documented or presumed infection, with signs or symptoms of haemodynamic instability related to the onset of bacteraemia.
Index and comparator tests	Tests were done at study entry, ANC and temperature were recorded daily serum lactate: threshold 3 mmol/l serum bicarbonate: threshold 17 nmol/l
Follow-up	Mortality was reported at day 28.
Notes	