



A survey in 5 European countries about sepsis demonstrates the lack of awareness and an expectation for faster diagnostic capabilities

Marcy l'Étoile, France and London, UK – September 13th, 2021 – On World Sepsis Day, bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, and the UK Sepsis Trust, an internationally renowned charity committed to help put an end to preventable deaths from sepsis and improve outcome for its survivors, reveal the results of a survey conducted in Europe* regarding knowledge and attitudes towards sepsis. The findings demonstrate the need to accelerate awareness and education of the general population about this life-threatening condition.

Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by an excessive immune response to a serious infection. Every year worldwide 49 million people develop sepsis, of whom 11 million do not survive.

bioMérieux has long been committed to the fight against sepsis and is working alongside with the UK Sepsis Trust to improve general public knowledge on this subject and to educate health professionals on the crucial role of timely diagnostics.

bioMérieux and the UK Sepsis Trust have together commissioned a survey in five European countries* to better understand awareness, attitudes and expectations of the general population vis à vis sepsis. The main findings of this survey can be summarized as below:

Awareness of the term “sepsis” is low among the surveyed adult (18+) general population

Knowledge of the term “sepsis” is low among the surveyed general adult population. Only 52% have heard of sepsis, the lowest awareness in comparison to other listed conditions. Awareness of sepsis varies greatly between countries: it is highest in the UK (**82%**) and Germany (**83%**), it is lower in Sweden (**55%**), and significantly lower in Italy (**33%**) and France (**7%**).

Moreover, only **56%** of those aware of sepsis know at least one of the listed symptoms of sepsis, among which the most frequent are: lack of energy and being difficult to wake (**29%**), mottled or discolored skin (**26%**), and bluish or pale skin (**24%**). Awareness of symptoms is higher in the UK and in adults under the age of 40.

Attitudes towards sepsis highlight the importance of education

Only 29% of surveyed adults stated that they are personally concerned about getting sepsis. Among those who had heard of Sepsis, if they were with someone who was worried they had this condition, only two thirds (**66%**) would either go to the emergency department or call an emergency line, which is the right behaviour in such a situation.



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Dr Ron Daniels BEM, Chief Executive and founder, UK Sepsis Trust declared: *"For a condition which is responsible for 1 in 5 deaths worldwide, these important results highlight significant issues with regard to awareness of sepsis in some countries. They demonstrate that there is huge geographical variation and that, in a decision which could literally make the difference between life and death, one in three adults would still respond inappropriately. We call on all European governments to prioritize sepsis awareness, particularly relevant as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic."*

High expectations of national health systems, drug manufacturers, diagnostic manufacturers and vaccine manufacturers

From a list of actions, surveyed adults are most likely to agree that the following would improve the management of sepsis and the problem of antimicrobial resistance: more education for the general public on early sepsis symptoms (78%), better access to easy-to-understand information about sepsis (75%), and **faster diagnostic tools that can be used to confirm sepsis (75%)**.

Mark Miller, Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, bioMérieux explained: *"This survey shows the need for both awareness and timely diagnostics to combat sepsis. Diagnostics are key tools to allow the clinician to diagnose sepsis and the related infection, to adapt antimicrobial treatment and to manage organ failures."*

Despite sepsis having such a large global impact and mortality rate, general awareness of the condition is low on average in Europe. These results only reinforce our conviction and commitment to greater education and awareness in the fight against sepsis. It also calls for a stronger commitment of public authorities, civil society as well as healthcare industries in order to address this major health issue and help end preventable deaths. In that respect, bioMérieux strives to keep working in close collaboration with patient associations such as the UK Sepsis Trust.

[See the results of the survey](#)

** On behalf of bioMérieux and The UK Sepsis Trust, Ipsos MORI UK Ltd conducted an online survey among a representative sample of 7,701 adults aged 18+ across 5 countries (UK n=1,549, France n=1,509, Germany n=1,515, Sweden n=1,613, Italy n=1,515) between 1st June and 22nd June 2021. To identify a representative sample of adults aged 18+, quotas were set by age within gender, geographic area of residence, level of education and work status. Weighting has been applied to bring the sample in line with the known population profile of these audiences. The overall total results are based on country averages across the five countries and each country was weighted equally.*

ABOUT UK SEPSIS TRUST

The UK Sepsis Trust was founded in 2012 by world-leading sepsis expert, NHS consultant Dr Ron Daniels BEM. Our goal is to end preventable deaths from sepsis and improve outcomes for sepsis survivors. We believe that earlier diagnosis and treatment across the UK and beyond could save thousands of lives. Our critical expertise is based on the charity's grassroots origins: our doctors and nurses have front line experience of sepsis and their passion is born of a uniquely comprehensive understanding of what needs to be done. The urgent need to improve sepsis care in the UK drives us forward as we continue to work in hospitals, while advancing the sepsis agenda.

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Pioneering Diagnostics

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for over 55 years, bioMérieux is present in 44 countries and serves more than 160 countries with the support of a large network of distributors. In 2020, revenues reached €3.1 billion, with over 90% of international sales (outside of France).

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (systems, reagents, software and services) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are mainly used for diagnosing infectious diseases. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.



bioMérieux is listed on the Euronext Paris stock market.

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