

1 **Appendix 1: Definitions of organ failures**

2 1. Hematologic failure: a platelet count  $< 80,000/\text{mm}^3$  or a 50% decrease in the platelet count  
3 from the highest value recorded over the previous 3 days.

4 2. Thoracic failure: a ratio  $< 200$  of the partial pressure of oxygen in the patient's arterial  
5 blood to the fraction of oxygen in the inspired air.

6 3. Cardiovascular failure: systolic blood pressure (SBP) of  $\leq 90$  mmHg; a mean arterial  
7 pressure (MAP)  $\leq 65$  mmHg for at least 1 hour despite adequate fluid resuscitation; or the  
8 need for vasoactive agents (dopamine  $\geq 5$  mg/kg/min) to maintain SBP  $\geq 90$  mmHg or  
9 MAP  $\geq 65$  mmHg.

10 4. Kidney failure: a creatinine level  $\geq 2$  mg/dL, or oliguria with an average urine output  $< 0.5$   
11 mL/kg/h for 4 hours despite adequate fluid resuscitation

12 5. Metabolic acidosis (failure): a pH  $\leq 7.30$ , or a base deficit  $\geq 5.0$  mEq/L and a plasma  
13 lactate level  $> 3$  mmol/L.

14 6. Hepatic failure: a serum bilirubin level markedly higher than  $\geq 4$  mg/dL.

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