**Supplementary Table 7. Comparison of the clinical and microbiological characteristics of first infections between positive and negative cultures**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **positive (n=620)** | **negative (n=568)** | ***P* *value*** |
| **Type of infection, n (%)** | 0.018 |
| Community acquired | 517 (83.4) | 501 (88.2) |  |
| Nosocomial | 103 (16.6) | 67 (11.8) |  |
| **Severity of infection, n (%)** |
| SIRS | 362 (58.4) | 313 (55.1) | 0.254 |
| qSOFA | 54 (8.7) | 36 (6.3) | 0.119 |
| Septic shock | 75 (12.1) | 29 (5.1) | < 0.001 |
| **Type of empirical antibiotic strategies\*, n (%)** | 0.689 |
| Classical | 188 (30.7) | 180 (31.8) |  |
| MDR coverage | 424 (69.3) | 386 (68.2) |  |
| **Change of antibiotic treatment, n (%)** |
| Escalation | 238 (38.8) | 146 (25.8) | < 0.05 |
| De-escalation | 57 (9.3) | 49 (8.7) | > 0.05 |
| No change | 318 (51.9) | 371 (65.5) | < 0.05 |
| **Clinical resolution, n (%)** | 328 (53.5) | 397 (70.1) | < 0.001 |

Data were presented as number (percent). Statistical analysis was performed by Chi-Squared test or Fisher exact test.

Abbreviations: SBP, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis; UTI, urinary tract infection; SIRS, systemic inflammatory response syndrome; qSOFA, quick sepsis-related organ failure assessment.