

Natural killer cell activity in patients with septic shock

Maturana, Patricio

Puente, Javier

Miranda, Dante

Sepulveda, Cecilia

Wolf, Marion E.

Mosnaim, Aron D.

Natural killer cell activity (NKCA) was studied in a group of patients (n = 11) with septic shock. When compared with controls (n = 10), these individuals showed a statistically significant reduction in NKCA at each of the three different effector to target cell ratios examined (10:1, 0.6 ± 0.2 and 19.6 ± 6.0 , $P < .02$; 20:1, 2.9 ± 1.0 and 31.0 ± 6.5 , $P < .005$; 40:1, 9.5 ± 2.8 and 49.5 ± 5.5 , $P < .001$, respectively). Most individual patients presented NKCA values below the range of the corresponding control group, suggesting that these findings represent a general phenomena that should be considered when treating patients with septic shock. © 1991.