**Additional File 2. Inter-study heterogeneity and threshold effect.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Heterogeneity | Threshold effect | AUC |
| Sensitivity | Specificity |
| Presepsin | $χ^{2}=11.17, $*P* = 0.0108 | $χ^{2}=65.78, $*P* < 0.0001 | -0.938 (-0.999, 0.234) | 0.925 |
| CRT | $χ^{2}=10.10$, *P* = 0.0064, | $χ^{2}=13.06$, *P* = 0.0015 | - | 0.715 |
| PCT | $χ^{2}=5.92$, *P* = 0.0518 | $χ^{2}=2.41$, *P* = 0.3000 | - | 0.820 |
| Total | $χ^{2}=68.84$, *P* < 0.0001 | $χ^{2}=87.37$, *P* < 0.0001 | 0.131 (-0.543, 0.703) | 0.833 |

CRP, C-reactive protein; PCT, procalcitonin; AUC, area under the curve. Heterogeneity of the sensitivity and specificity variables was evaluated with a χ2 test. *P* < 0.10 for χ2test indicates substantial heterogeneity. Threshold effect calculated using Spearman’s correlation coefficient, r. Threshold effect when r ≥ 0.6.