

Question 5 – September 1

1. Which of the following interleukins has been shown to be a potential early marker of the severity of acute pancreatitis, predicting complications?
 - A. Interleukin 1
 - B. Interleukin 6
 - C. Interleukin 8
 - D. Interleukin 10
 - E. Interleukin 18

Answer: B

Patients with severe acute pancreatitis have elevated values of various cytokines due to the systematic inflammatory response, such as interleukins 6, 8 and 10. However, interleukin 6 has better sensitivity and specificity, and was the only parameter able to predict a complicated pancreatitis course.

References:

1. Stimac D et al. Prognostic values of IL-6, IL-8, and IL-10 in acute pancreatitis. *J Clin Gastroenterol.* 2006 Mar; 40(3):209-12.