

Severe acute pancreatitis (SAP) is thought to carry a poor prognosis, particularly if associated with infection and necrosis of the pancreas. The aim of this audit was to assess the outcomes of patients with severe acute pancreatitis, admitted to the Gold Coast Hospital ICU.

The study consisted of a retrospective chart and database review from January 1999 to January 2008.

During the study period there were 42 patients with 45 admissions with pancreatitis to ICU and 536 to the hospital. The mortality was 10/42 (23.8%), and 24/536 (4.5%) respectively. Of the ICU admissions 27 had simple oedematous and 15 had necrotizing pancreatitis on contrast CT (mortality 6/27 = 22.2% and 4/15 = 26.7% respectively).

5/27 (18%) of the oedematous pancreatitis were infected, of which 2/5 died. Out of the group with necrotizing pancreatitis, 10/15 were infected, all had surgery, and 3 patients died.

	Survivors 32	Non-survivors 10	P-value	RR	Confidence interval
Necrosis	11 (34%)	4 (40%)	0.746	1.06	0.74–1.53
Infection	10 (31%)	5 (50%)	0.280	1.22	0.82–1.82
Age (mean)	60.34	77.67	0.000		
Age over 70	9 (28%)	8 (80%)		1.74	1.09–2.76
Gender (male)	16 (50%)	8 (80%)	0.094	1.33	0.96–2.76
Gallstones	17 (53%)	5 (50%)	0.863	0.97	0.69–1.36
Alcohol	7 (22%)	0 (0%)	0.105	0.71	0.58–0.88
Surgery	19 (59%)	6 (60%)	0.247	1.01	0.71–1.42
Apache II (mean)	15.16	22.50	0.013		
Ranson (mean)	5.26	5.22	0.494		

None of the patients with alcohol induced pancreatitis died during their hospital admission, and Ranson's scoring was not predictive of death.