CLAIMS:

1. A method for predicting the risk of having ~~an organ failure selected from the group consisting of~~ respiratory failure~~, renal failure and thrombopenia~~ in a septic patient comprising a step consisting of measuring the concentration of endocan in a blood sample obtained from said septic patient~~.~~ and a step of comparing the concentration of endocan with a predetermined threshold value representing the concentration measured in average in patients that will not develop respiratory failure,
wherein a lower concentration than the predetermined threshold value predicts respiratory failure at 48-72 hours following ICU admission of septic patients.