

Supplementary Table 1. Definitions of Outcomes, Severity of Illness and Administration of Glucocorticoids

Outcomes	
28- or more-day mortality	Defined as the proportion of patients who had died by 28 days or more than 28 days after randomization for RCTs or after admission for observational studies
14- to 28-day mortality	The proportion of patients who had died by 14 to 28 days after randomization for RCTs or after admission for observational studies
7-day mortality	The proportion of patients who had died by 7 days after randomization for RCTs or after admission for observational studies. We used all-cause mortality rates to compute the pooled analysis on 7-day mortality unless actual 7-day mortality rates could be extracted from the published studies or be obtained from study authors.
Mortality-Including Composite Outcome	Defined as outcome including death together with mechanical ventilation or ICU admission
Severity of illness/ Clinical classification	
COVID-19 ^{1,2}	
Mild	The clinical symptoms are mild, and there was no sign of pneumonia on chest imaging.
Moderate	These patients had fever and respiratory symptoms. Radiologic assessments found signs of pneumonia
Severe	<p>Adults meet any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Shortness of breath, RR \geq30 times/min; (2) Oxygen saturation \leq93% at rest; (3) Alveolar oxygen partial pressure/fraction of inspiration O₂ (PaO₂/FiO₂) \leq300 mmHg (1 mmHg=133 kPa). At high altitudes (above 1000 meters), PaO₂/FiO₂ should be corrected according to the following formula: PaO₂/FiO₂*[Atmospheric Pressure (mmHg)/760]. <p>Patients whose pulmonary imaging showed significant progression of lesion >50% within 24-48 hours should be treated as severe type.</p> <p>Children meet any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Shortness of breath (<2 months of age, RR \geq60 beats/min; 2 to 12 months of age, RR \geq50 beats/min; 1 to 5 years old, RR \geq40 beats/min; >5 years old, RR \geq30 beats/min), excluding the effects of fever and crying; (2) In the resting state, the oxygen saturation is \leq92% (3) Assisted breathing (groaning, wing flaps, tri-retraction sign), cyanosis, intermittent apnea; (4) Lethargy and convulsions; (5) Refuse to feed, and have signs of dehydration.
Critically severe	<p>Patients meet any of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation;

	(2) Shock; (3) Patients combined with other organ failure needed ICU monitoring and treatment.
SARS^{3,4}	
Mild or Moderate (including early illness)	At least one lower respiratory illness (for example, cough, dyspnea, difficulty breathing) and with or without temperature > 38°C.
Severe or Critically severe	Patients meet both the following criteria (1) Meets clinical criteria of mild to moderate respiratory illness; (2) One or more of the following findings: radiographic evidence of pneumonia, or acute respiratory distress syndrome, or necropsy findings consistent with pneumonia, or acute respiratory distress syndrome without an identifiable cause.
Administration of Glucocorticoids	
Low dose	< 90 mg/day or <1.5 mg/kg/day (equivalent methylprednisolone)
Medium-high dose	90-250mg/day or <1.5-4 mg/kg/day (equivalent methylprednisolone)
Pulse	250-500 mg/day (equivalent methylprednisolone)
Early administration	Defined as glucocorticoids therapy within the first 48 hours of admission or within 10 days from illness onset to glucocorticoids therapy. We used the third quartile (Q3) days to estimate the timing of glucocorticoids therapy unless clear day commencing therapy could be extracted from the published studies or be obtained from study authors.

References

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