**Supplement 1. Search strategy**

**PubMed:**

((("adrenal cortex hormones"[Mesh] OR adrenal cortex hormone\*[tw] OR "glucocorticoids"[Pharmacological Action] OR corticoid[tw] OR corticoids[tw] OR glucocorticoid\*[tw] OR steroids[tw] OR steroid[tw] OR corticosteroid\*[tw] OR "cortico steroid"[tw] OR "cortico steroids"[tw] OR prednison\*[tw] OR dexamethason\*[tw] OR beclomethason\*[tw] OR cortison[tw] OR cortisone[tw] OR cortisons[tw] OR cortisones[tw] OR prednisolon\*[tw] OR budenosid\*[tw] OR alclometason\*[tw] OR betamethason\*[tw] OR Celeston\*[tw] OR ciclesonid\*[tw] OR Clobetasol\*[tw] OR clobetason\*[tw] OR clocortolon\*[tw] OR desoximethason\*[tw] OR Desoximetason\*[tw] OR dichlorison\*[tw] OR diflorason\*[tw] OR Diflucortolon\*[tw] OR difluprednat\*[tw] OR drocinonid\*[tw] OR Flumethason\*[tw] OR flumetason\*[tw] OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide"[tw] OR Fluocinonid\*[tw] OR Fluocort\*[tw] OR Fluorometholon\*[tw] OR fluperolon\*[tw] OR flupredni\*[tw] OR Flurandrenol\*[tw] OR Fluticason\*[tw] OR FX006[tiab] OR halometason\*[tw] OR medryson\*[tw] OR Melengestrol\*[tw] OR Methylpredni\*[tw] OR Paramethason\*[tw] OR prednicarbate\*[tw] OR rimexolon\*[tw] OR terofenamat\*[tw] OR Tobramycin\*[tw] OR Triamcinolon\*[tw] OR deltason\*[tw] OR hydrocortisone\*[tw] OR dehydrocortison\*[tw] OR 17-Ketosteroid\*[tw] OR Androstenedion\*[tw] OR Androsteron\*[tw] OR Dehydroepiandrosteron\*[tw] OR Estrone[tw] OR Etiocholanolon\*[tw] OR Hydroxycorticosteroid\*[tw] OR Desoxycorticosteron\*[tw] OR pregnenolon\*[tw] OR hydropregnenolon\*[tw] OR rectodelt[tw] OR sterapred[tw] OR ultracorten[tw] OR cortan[tiab] OR cortancyl[tw] OR panafcort[tw] OR cutason[tw] OR decortin[tw] OR dacortin[tw] OR decortisyl[tw] OR encorton\*[tw] OR enkortolon[tw] OR kortancyl[tw] OR meticorten[tw] OR Orasone[tw] OR panasol[tw] OR predni[tw] OR VB0R961HZT[tw] OR pronison\*[tw] OR "Depo-Medrol"[tw] OR hexadecadrol\*[tw] OR dexamethasone\*[tw] OR dexason\*[tw] OR millicorten[tw] OR dexpak[tw] OR maxidex[tw] OR oradexon\*[tw] OR decaject[tw] OR hexadrol[tw] OR 7S5I7G3JQL[tw] OR beclometason\*[tw] OR ascocortonyl[tw] OR beclocort[tw] OR beconase[tw] OR beclomet[tw] OR bronchocort[tw] OR mometason\*[tw] OR fludrocortisone\*[tw] OR budesonide\*[tw] OR cortisol[tw] OR cortisoles[tw] OR cortisols[tw] OR sofradex[tw] OR entocort[tw]) AND ("COVID-19"[Supplementary Concept] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[Supplementary Concept] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome cov 2"[all fields] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome cov2"[all fields] OR COVID-19\*[all fields] OR COVID19\*[all fields] OR COVID2019\*[all fields] OR COVID 2019\*[all fields] OR "acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[all fields] OR SARS-COV\*[all fields] OR SARSCOV\*[all fields] OR 2019ncov\*[all fields] OR 2019 ncov\*[all fields] OR ncov 2019\*[all fields] OR ncov2019\*[all fields] OR novel coronavir\*[all fields] OR novel corona\*[all fields] OR new corona\*[tw] OR sars2[all fields] OR "sars coronavirus 2"[all fields] OR "sars corona virus 2"[all fields] OR ((coronavir\*[all fields] OR corona[all fields] OR covid[all fields] OR cov[all fields] OR ncov[all fields])) NOT (("COVID-19"[Supplementary Concept] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[Supplementary Concept] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome cov 2"[all fields] OR "severe acute respiratory syndrome cov2"[all fields] OR COVID-19\*[all fields] OR COVID19\*[all fields] OR COVID2019\*[all fields] OR COVID 2019\*[all fields] OR "acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[all fields] OR SARS-COV\*[all fields] OR SARSCOV\*[all fields] OR 2019ncov\*[all fields] OR 2019 ncov\*[all fields] OR ncov 2019\*[all fields] OR ncov2019\*[all fields] OR novel coronavir\*[all fields] OR novel corona\*[all fields] OR new corona\*[tw] OR sars2[all fields] OR "sars coronavirus 2"[all fields] OR "sars corona virus 2"[all fields] OR ((coronavir\*[all fields] OR corona[all fields] OR covid[all fields] OR cov[all fields] OR ncov[all fields]))) AND ("Intensive Care Units"[Mesh] OR ICU[tiab] OR ICUs[tiab] OR "ICU's"[tiab] OR intensive care\*[tw] OR "Critical Care"[Mesh] OR critical care\*[tw] OR "Emergency Treatment"[Mesh] OR emergency care\*[tw] OR emergency treatment\*[tw] OR "Intubation"[Mesh] OR intubation\*[tw] OR intubating[tw] OR intubate\*[tw] OR "Critical Illness"[Mesh] OR critical ill\*[tw] OR critically ill\*[tw]))) AND ("2019/12/01"[PDat] : "3000/12/31"[PDat])

**Embase:**

(exp corticosteroid/ OR exp glucocorticoid/ OR corticoid\* OR glucocorticoid\* OR steroid OR steroids OR corticosteroid\* OR "cortico steroid\*" OR prednison\* OR dexamethason\* OR beclomethason\* OR cortison OR cortisone OR cortisons OR cortisones OR prednisolon\* OR budenosid\* OR alclometason\* OR betamethason\* OR Celeston\* OR ciclesonid\* OR Clobetasol\* OR clobetason\* OR clocortolon\* OR desoximethason\* OR Desoximetason\* OR dichlorison\* OR diflorason\* OR Diflucortolon\* OR difluprednat\* OR drocinonid\* OR Flumethason\* OR flumetason\* OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR Fluocinonid\* OR Fluocort\* OR Fluorometholon\* OR fluperolon\* OR flupredni\* OR Flurandrenol\* OR Fluticason\* OR FX006 OR halometason\* OR medryson\* OR Melengestrol\* OR Methylpredni\* OR Paramethason\* OR prednicarbate\* OR rimexolon\* OR terofenamat\* OR Tobramycin\* OR Triamcinolon\* OR deltason\* OR hydrocortisone\* OR dehydrocortison\* OR 17-Ketosteroid\* OR Androstenedion\* OR Androsteron\* OR Dehydroepiandrosteron\* OR Estrone OR Etiocholanolon\* OR Hydroxycorticosteroid\* OR Desoxycorticosteron\* OR pregnenolon\* OR hydropregnenolon\* OR rectodelt OR sterapred OR ultracorten OR cortan OR cortancyl OR panafcort OR cutason OR decortin OR dacortin OR decortisyl OR encorton\* OR enkortolon OR kortancyl OR meticorten OR Orasone OR panasol OR predni OR VB0R961HZT OR pronison\* OR "Depo-Medrol" OR hexadecadrol\* OR dexamethasone\* OR dexason\* OR millicorten OR dexpak OR maxidex OR oradexon\* OR decaject OR hexadrol OR 7S5I7G3JQL OR beclometason\* OR ascocortonyl OR beclocort OR beconase OR beclomet OR bronchocort OR mometason\* OR fludrocortisone\* OR budesonide\* OR cortisol OR cortisoles OR cortisols OR sofradex OR entocort) AND ("severe acute respiratory syndrome\*" OR exp Coronavirinae/ OR exp coronavirus infections/ OR coronaviri\* OR betacoronavir\* OR MERS OR "middle East respiratory" OR "COVID-19\*" OR exp sars-related coronavirus/ OR COVID19\* OR COVID2019\* OR "acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2" OR SARS OR SARSCOV\* OR 2019ncov\* OR "ncov2019\*" OR sars2 OR coronavir\* OR corona OR covid OR cov OR ncov) AND (exp Intensive Care/ OR ICU OR ICUs OR "ICU's" OR "intensive care\*" OR "critical care\*" OR exp Emergency Treatment/ OR "emergency care\*" OR "emergency treatment\*" OR exp Intubation/ OR intubation\* OR intubating OR intubate\* OR exp Critical Illness/ OR "critical ill\*" OR "critically ill\*")

**Web of Science:**

(corticoid\* OR glucocorticoid\* OR steroid OR steroids OR corticosteroid\* OR "cortico steroid\*" OR prednison\* OR dexamethason\* OR beclomethason\* OR cortison OR cortisone OR cortisons OR cortisones OR prednisolon\* OR budenosid\* OR alclometason\* OR betamethason\* OR Celeston\* OR ciclesonid\* OR Clobetasol\* OR clobetason\* OR clocortolon\* OR desoximethason\* OR Desoximetason\* OR dichlorison\* OR diflorason\* OR Diflucortolon\* OR difluprednat\* OR drocinonid\* OR Flumethason\* OR flumetason\* OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR Fluocinonid\* OR Fluocort\* OR Fluorometholon\* OR fluperolon\* OR flupredni\* OR Flurandrenol\* OR Fluticason\* OR FX006 OR halometason\* OR medryson\* OR Melengestrol\* OR Methylpredni\* OR Paramethason\* OR prednicarbate\* OR rimexolon\* OR terofenamat\* OR Tobramycin\* OR Triamcinolon\* OR deltason\* OR hydrocortisone\* OR dehydrocortison\* OR 17-Ketosteroid\* OR Androstenedion\* OR Androsteron\* OR Dehydroepiandrosteron\* OR Estrone OR Etiocholanolon\* OR Hydroxycorticosteroid\* OR Desoxycorticosteron\* OR pregnenolon\* OR hydropregnenolon\* OR rectodelt OR sterapred OR ultracorten OR cortan OR cortancyl OR panafcort OR cutason OR decortin OR dacortin OR decortisyl OR encorton\* OR enkortolon OR kortancyl OR meticorten OR Orasone OR panasol OR predni OR VB0R961HZT OR pronison\* OR "Depo-Medrol" OR hexadecadrol\* OR dexamethasone\* OR dexason\* OR millicorten OR dexpak OR maxidex OR oradexon\* OR decaject OR hexadrol OR 7S5I7G3JQL OR beclometason\* OR ascocortonyl OR beclocort OR beconase OR beclomet OR bronchocort OR mometason\* OR fludrocortisone\* OR budesonide\* OR cortisol OR cortisoles OR cortisols OR sofradex OR entocort) AND ("severe acute respiratory syndrome\*" OR coronaviri\* OR betacoronavir\* OR MERS OR "middle East respiratory" OR "COVID-19\*" OR COVID19\* OR COVID2019\* OR "acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2" OR SARS OR SARSCOV\* OR 2019ncov\* OR "ncov2019\*" OR sars2 OR coronavir\* OR corona OR covid OR cov OR ncov) AND (ICU OR ICUs OR "ICU's" OR "intensive care\*" OR "critical care\*" OR "emergency care\*" OR "emergency treatment\*" OR intubation\* OR intubating OR intubate\* OR "critical ill\*" OR "critically ill\*")