### Table 6. GRADE evidence profile, Recommendation 6

**Question:** Glucocorticoids compared to no glucocorticoids for hospitalized patients with COVID-19 not receiving supplemental oxygen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certainty assessment</th>
<th>№ of patients</th>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Certainty</th>
<th>Importance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>№ of studies</td>
<td>Study design</td>
<td>Risk of bias</td>
<td>Inconsistency</td>
<td>Indirectness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>randomized trials</td>
<td>serious *</td>
<td>not serious</td>
<td>not serious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mortality (follow up: 28 days)

- **Adverse events**

Patients receiving a short course of steroids may experience: hyperglycemia, neurological side effects (e.g., agitation/confusion), adrenal suppression, and risk of infection (Salton 2020; Henzen 2000; Siemieniuk 2015).

#### Hospital discharge (follow up: 28 days)

| № of studies | Study design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | glucocorticoids | no glucocorticoids | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute (95% CI) |        |
| 1                   | randomized trials | serious * | not serious | not serious | serious ♦ | none | 366/501 (73.1%) | 791/1034 (76.5%) | RR 0.99 (0.87 to 1.12) | 8 fewer per 1,000 (from 99 fewer to 92 more) | ⬤️⬤〇〇 | LOW | IMPORTANT |

#### GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

- **High certainty:** We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.
- **Moderate certainty:** We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.
- **Low certainty:** Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.
- **Very low certainty:** We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect.

#### Risk of bias

- **Study limitations**
- **Inconsistency:** Unexplained heterogeneity across study findings
- **Indirectness:** Applicability or generalizability to the research question
- **Imprecision:** The confidence in the estimate of an effect to support a particular decision
- **Publication bias:** Selective publication of studies

#### CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio

**Explanations**

- **a.** RoB due to post-hoc subgroup effect among persons not receiving supplemental oxygen.
- **b.** The 95% CI includes the potential for appreciable harm and cannot exclude the potential for benefit. Few events reported do not meet the optimal information size and suggest fragility in the estimate.
- **c.** The 95% CI cannot exclude the potential for either appreciable harm or benefit.
References