## Table 4. GRADE evidence profile, PICO 4

**Question**: Glucocorticoids compared to no glucocorticoids for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>certainty assessment</th>
<th>Nr of patients</th>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>certainty</th>
<th>importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nr of studies</td>
<td>Study design</td>
<td>Risk of bias</td>
<td>Inconsistency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (follow up: 28 days)</td>
<td>1 trial</td>
<td>randomized</td>
<td>not serious &lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>not serious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital discharge (follow up: 28 days)</td>
<td>1 trial</td>
<td>randomized</td>
<td>not serious &lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>not serious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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).

### 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

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

#### Explanations

- a. Analysis adjusted for baseline age.
- b. Indirectness due to different health care system (allocation of intensive care resources in an unblinded study). Indirectness to other corticosteroids.

#### References