

# Corticoïdes et Sepsis

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## Conflict Of Interest

- ALL RESEARCH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING APROCCHSS TRIAL, WERE PUBLICLY FUNDED (FRENCH MINISTRY OF HEALTH, EC)
- ACADEMIC COI: CHAIR OF ESICM/SCCM TF FOR 2018 GUIDELINES ON CIRCI, MEMBER OF SSC GUIDELINES PANEL FOR 2008, 2012 & 2016 REVISIONS
- ALL DATA FROM APROCCHSS PRESENTED IN THIS SLIDE-SHOW ARE AVAILABLE @NEJM.ORG

06/05/2021

2

## Why I Should Use Corticosteroids?

### Critical Illness-Related Corticosteroid Insufficiency (CIRCI): A Narrative Review from a Multispecialty Task Force of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM)

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ICM and CCM 2017

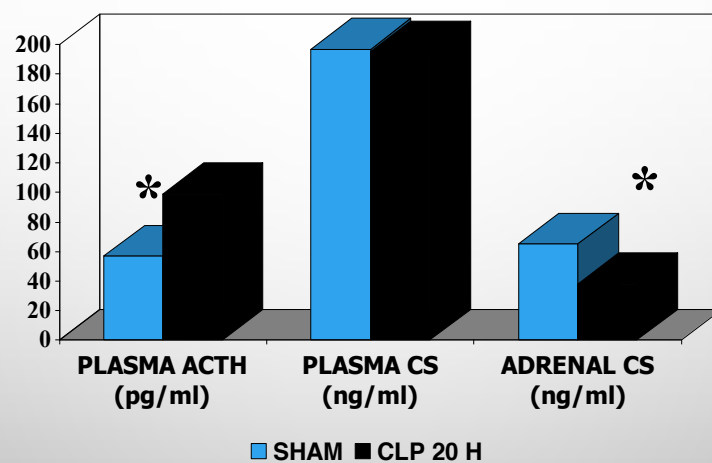


## DEFINITION OF CIRCI

DEFINED AS DYSREGULATED HOST RESPONSE TO ACUTE INFLAMMATION:

- INADEQUATE CELLULAR CORTICOSTEROID ACTIVITY
- FOR THE SEVERITY OF CRITICAL ILLNESS,
- MANIFESTED BY INSUFFICIENT GC-GR -MEDIATED DOWN-REGULATION OF PRO-INFLAMMATORY TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS.

## SEPSIS INDUCED ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY IN ANIMALS



Koo et al, CCM 2001

## Surgical Trauma-Induced Adrenal Insufficiency is Associated with Postoperative Inflammatory Responses

ADRENAL RESERVE AND HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK

811

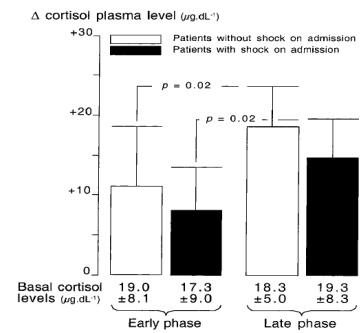


Fig. 2. Influence of hemorrhagic shock on the basal cortisol plasma concentrations and the cortisol response to corticotropin stimulation at the end of the early phase and at the end of the first posttraumatic week (late phase).

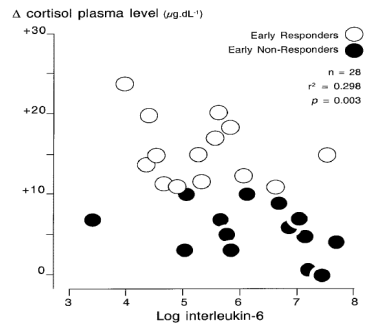
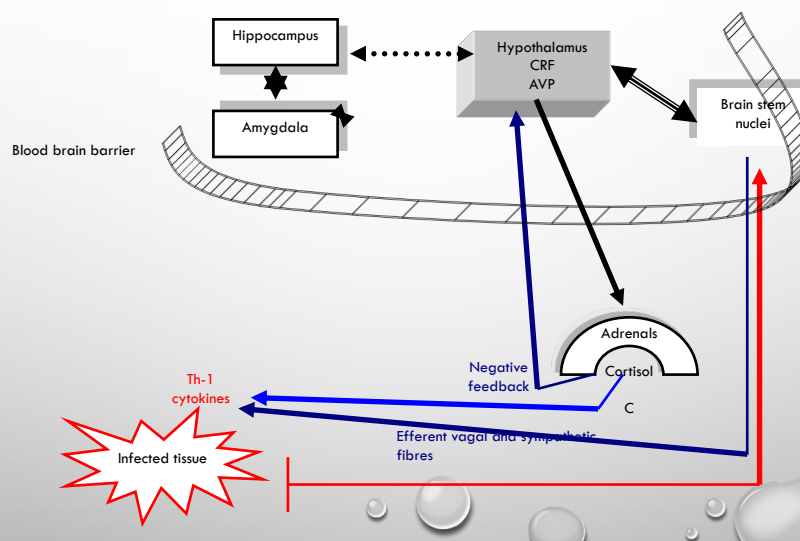
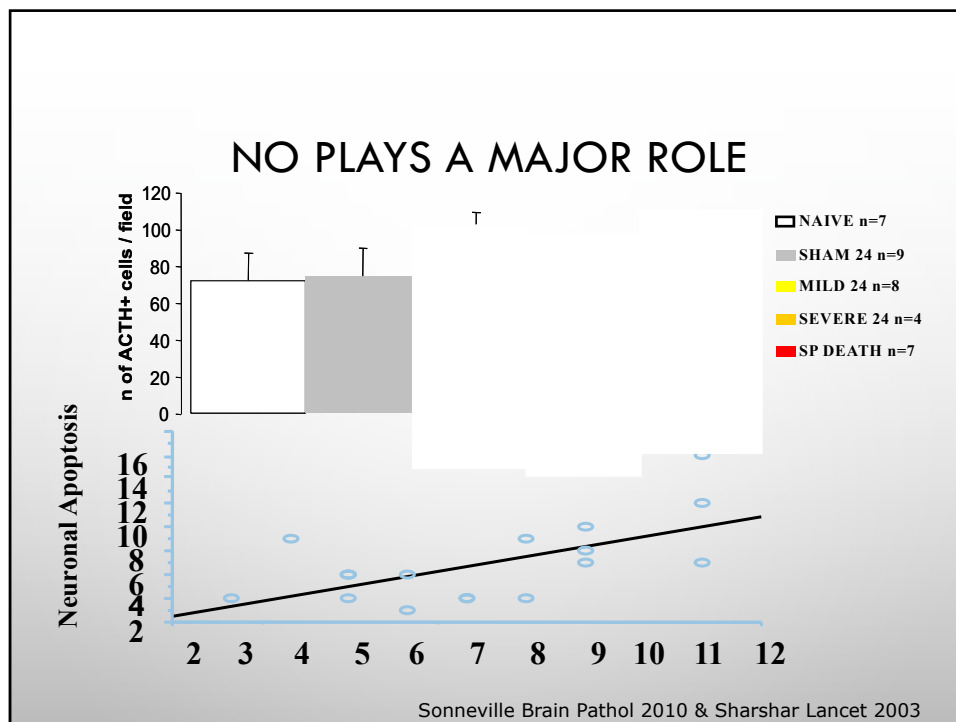
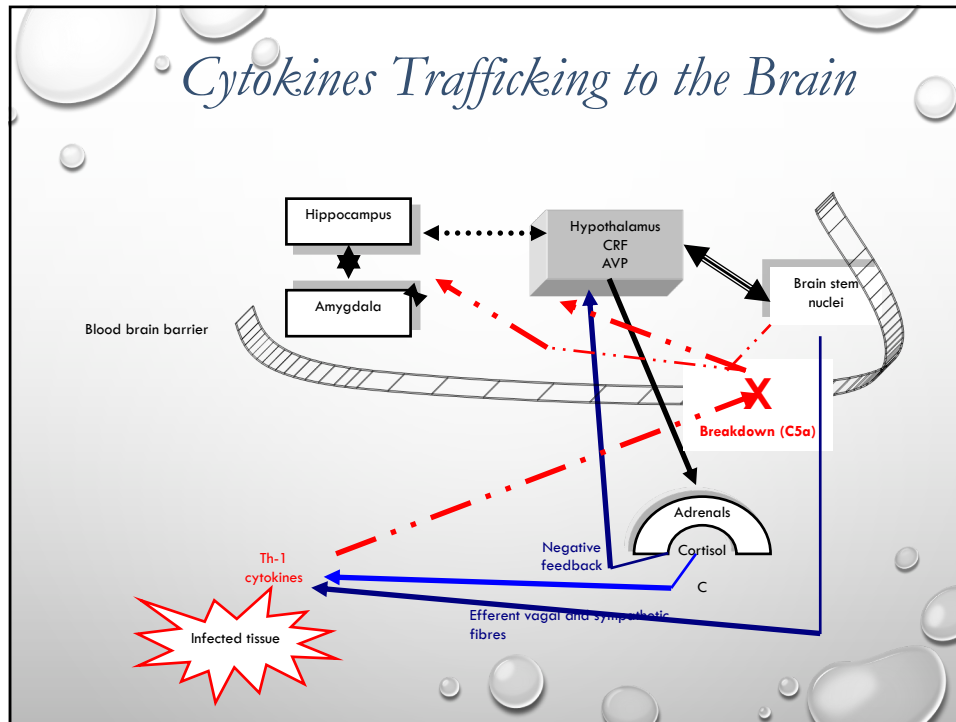


Fig. 3. Relation between interleukin-6 plasma concentrations and the cortisol response to corticotropin stimulation at the end of the early phase. Interleukin-6 plasma concentrations were not available in six patients.

Hoen et al, Anesthesiology 2002

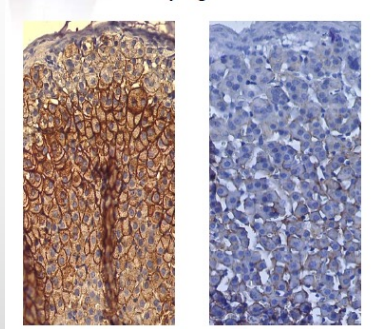
## Cytokines Trafficking to the Brain





## PERIPHERAL MECHANISMS MICE STUDIES

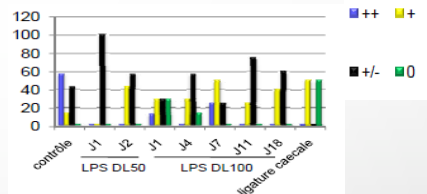
SR-B1



Control

LPS DL50  
Day 1

Lipid Depletion



SR-B1 distribution

**TABLE 1. Main Mechanisms of Critical Illness-Related Corticosteroid Insufficiency**

General defect	Main mechanisms	Key factors
Decrease in cortisol production		
Altered adrenal synthesis of cortisol	Necrosis/hemorrhage	Acute kidney failure; hypo-coagulation; disseminated intravascular coagulation; cardiovascular collapse; tyrosine kinase inhibitors
	Decreased availability of esterified cholesterol	Depletion in adrenal storage regulated by annexin A1-formyl peptide receptors Down regulated scavenger receptor-B1
	Inhibition of steroidogenesis	Immune cells/Toll-like receptors/cytokines Drugs (e.g., sedatives, corticosteroids) ACTH-like molecules (e.g., corticostatsins)
Altered synthesis of CRH/ACTH	Necrosis/hemorrhage	Cardiovascular collapse; disseminated intravascular coagulation; treatment with vasopressor agents
	Inhibition of ACTH synthesis	Glial cells/nitric oxide mediated neuronal apoptosis Increased negative feedback from circulating cortisol following up regulation of ACTH-independent mechanisms of cortisol synthesis Drugs (e.g., sedatives, anti-infective, psychoactive agents) Inappropriate cessation of glucocorticoid treatment
Alteration of cortisol metabolism	Decreased cortisol transport	Down regulation of liver synthesis of cortisol-binding globulins and albumin
	Reduced cortisol breakdown	Decreased expression and activity of the glucocorticoid-inactivating 5-reductase enzymes in the liver with putative role of bile acids; Decreased expression and activity of the hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase in the kidney
Target tissue resistance to cortisol	Inadequate glucocorticoid receptor alpha (GR-α) activity	Multifactorial etiology including reduced GR-α density and transcription and excessive NF-kappa B activation

## GC INDUCED IMMUNE CELLS' REPROGRAMMING RATHER THAN SUPPRESSION!

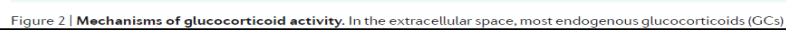
845 genes      1125 genes

Subcategories	Subclusters	% Downregulated (845 genes)	% Upregulated (1125 genes)
Complement System	Inflammation	~15%	~85%
Cytokines		~25%	~75%
Enzymatic Mediators		~20%	~80%
Chemokines		~25%	~75%
Scavenger System	Innate Recognition	~15%	~85%
Integrins		~15%	~85%
Apoptosis	Adaptive Immunity	~25%	~75%
Humoral and Cellular		~35%	~65%
Antigen Presentation		~45%	~55%

100%      100%

% Downregulated      % Upregulated

Faseb, 2002



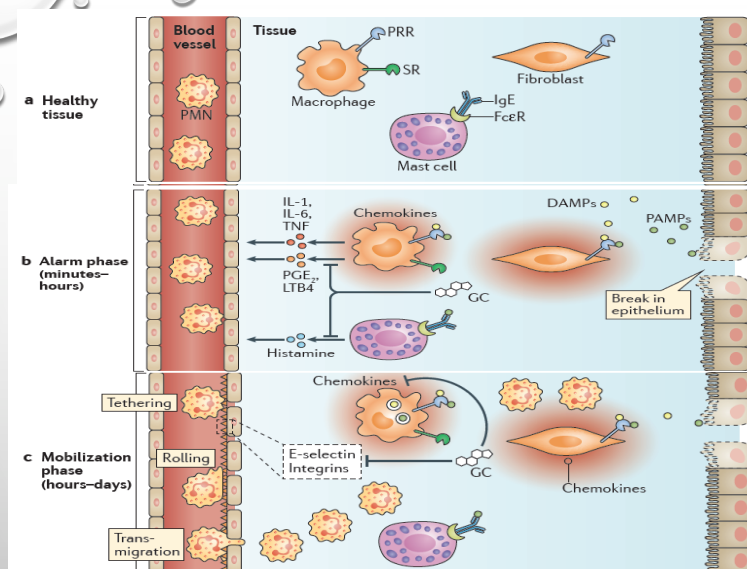
### Box 2 | Cellular targets of glucocorticoid action in animal models of disease

Mouse studies have revealed the crucial cellular targets for glucocorticoid treatment of various inflammatory and autoimmune models of human disease. In the studies cited in the table below, glucocorticoid efficacy in the indicated disease model was reduced by genetic ablation of glucocorticoid receptor expression in target cells or by *in vivo* depletion of specific cell types.

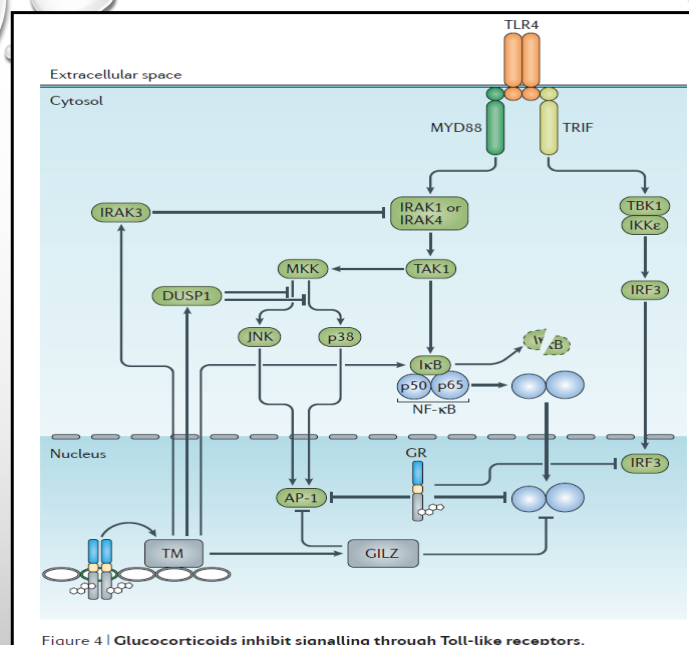
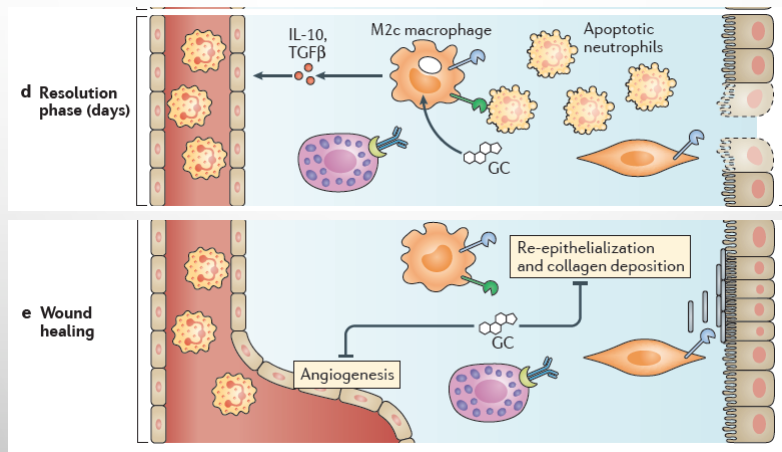
Animal model	Human disease modelled	Crucial cellular target of glucocorticoids
Contact hypersensitivity	Allergic contact dermatitis	Myeloid cells <sup>99</sup>
Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis	Multiple sclerosis	T <sub>H</sub> 17 cells <sup>56</sup>
Antigen-induced arthritis	Rheumatoid arthritis	T <sub>H</sub> 17 cells <sup>65</sup>
LPS-induced endotoxaemia	Sepsis	Myeloid cells <sup>50</sup> and dendritic cells <sup>51</sup>
Experimentally induced thrombocytopenia	Immune thrombocytopenia	CD8 <sup>+</sup> T cells <sup>122</sup>
Doxorubicin-induced renal injury	Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis	Myeloid-derived suppressor cells <sup>123</sup>

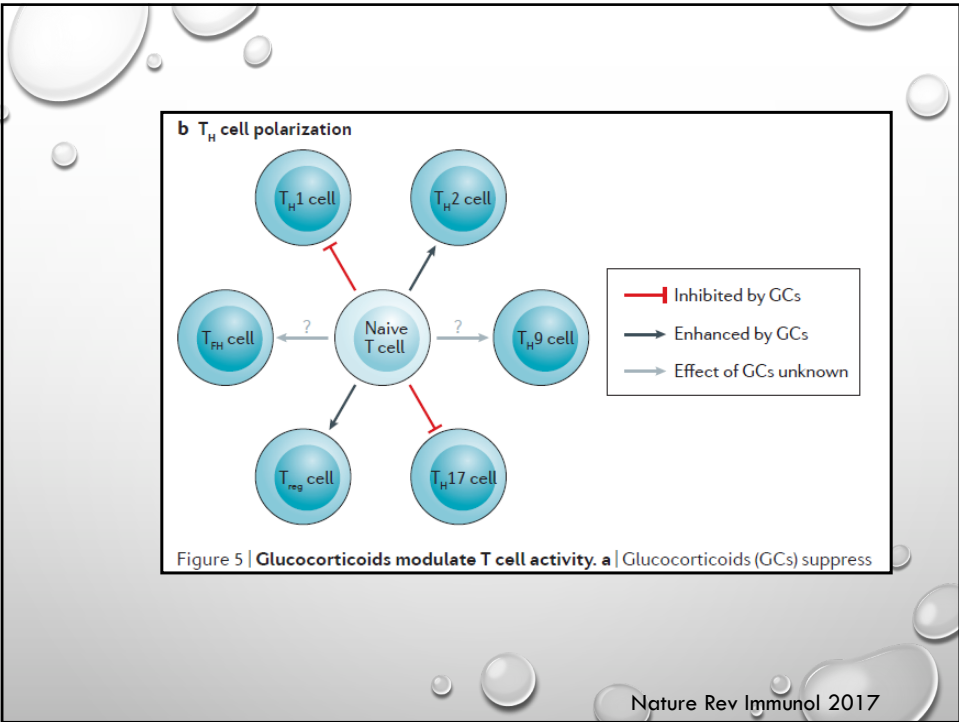
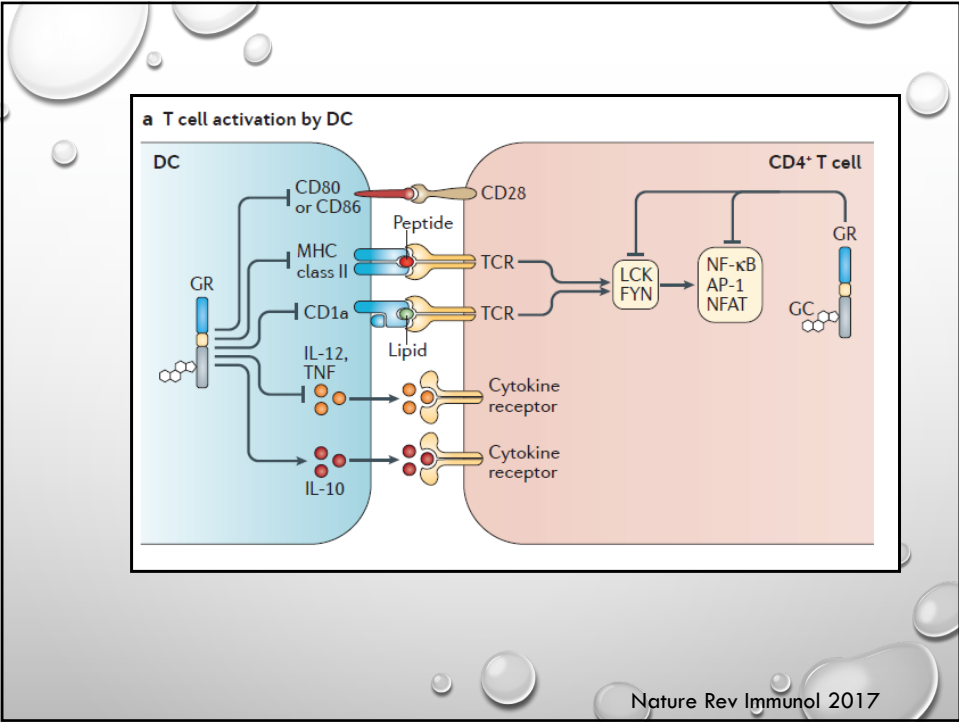
LPS, lipopolysaccharide; T<sub>H</sub>17, T helper 17.

Nature Rev Immunol 2017



Nature Rev Immunol 2017







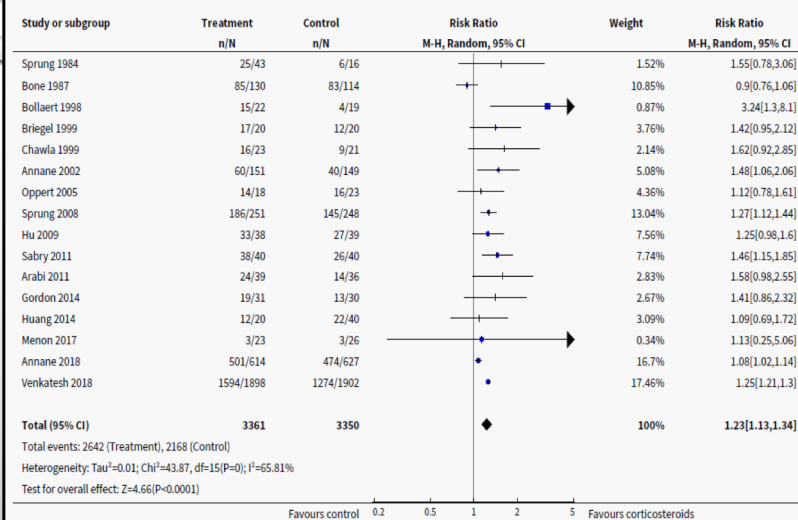
**Highlights From The CDSR In December 2019, 'Corticosteroids For Treating Sepsis In Children And Adults'.**



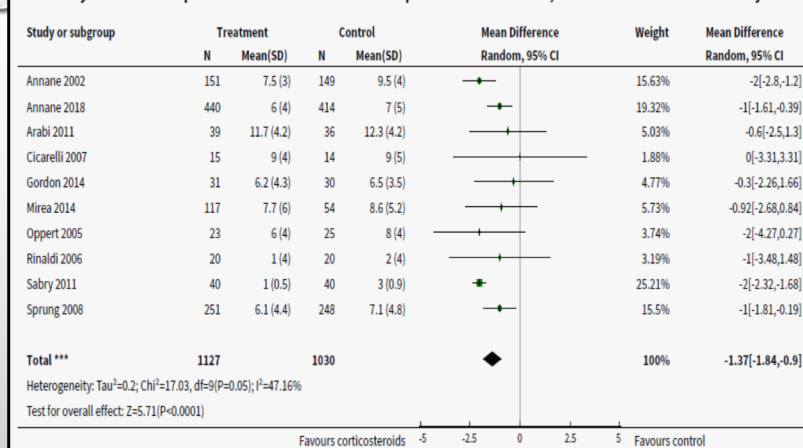
Cochrane Library App - January 2020

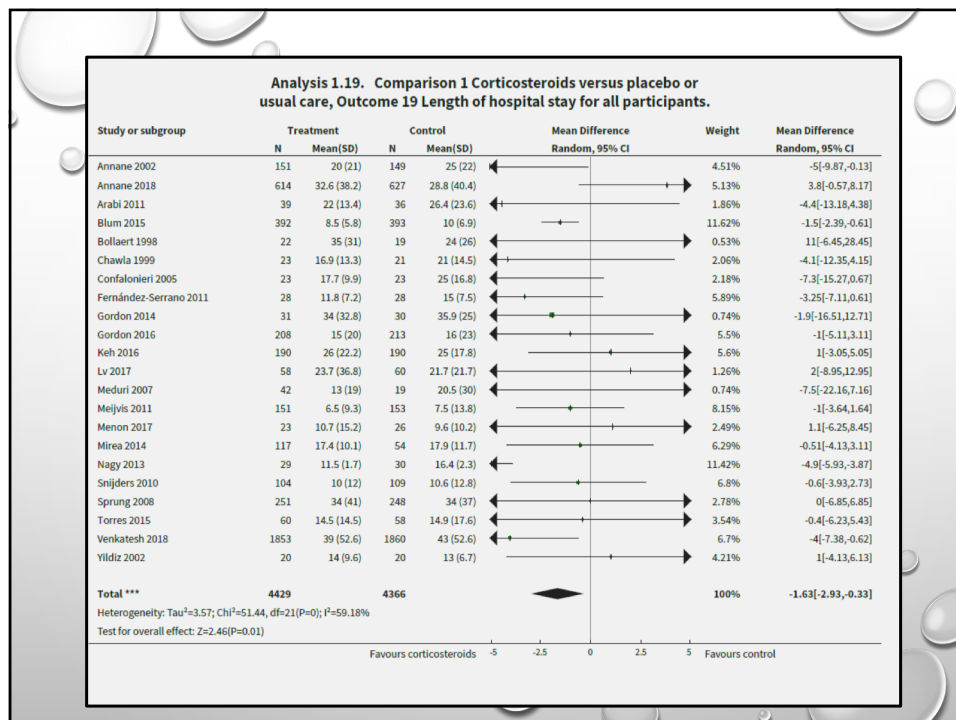
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 28-Day all-cause mortality	50	11233	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.84, 0.99]
10 90-Day all-cause mortality	7	5934	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.87, 1.00]
11 Long-term mortality	7	6236	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.97 [0.91, 1.03]
12 Intensive care unit mortality	18	7267	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.83, 0.96]
13 Hospital mortality	26	8183	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.82, 0.99]

**Analysis 1.14. Comparison 1 Corticosteroids versus placebo or usual care, Outcome 14 Number of participants with shock reversal at day 7.**



**Analysis 1.16. Comparison 1 Corticosteroids versus placebo or usual care, Outcome 16 SOFA score at day 7.**





How I Give Steroids?

## All Corticosteroids Are Not Equivalent

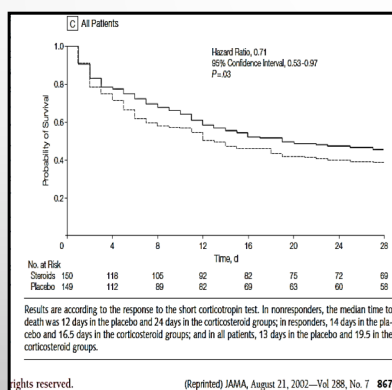
Molecules	Glucocorticoid activity relative to hydrocortisone	Mineralocorticoid activity relative to hydrocortisone	Non-genomic effects relative to hydrocortisone
Hydrocortisone	1	1	1
Prednisone	4	0.8	4
Prednisolone	4	0.8	4
Methylprednisolone	5	0.5	14
Betamethasone	25	0	0
Dexamethasone	25	0	20
Fludrocortisone	10	125	?

Annane, Scientific American – Crit Care of the Surg Patient 2017

## Hydrocortisone + Fludrocortisone

### TRIAL 1

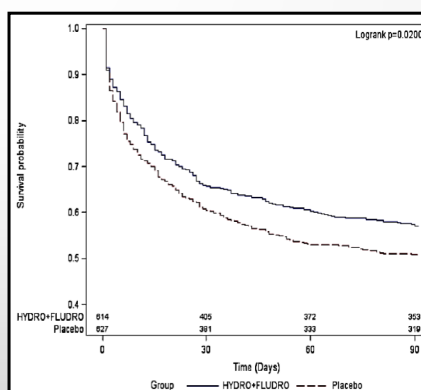
N=300



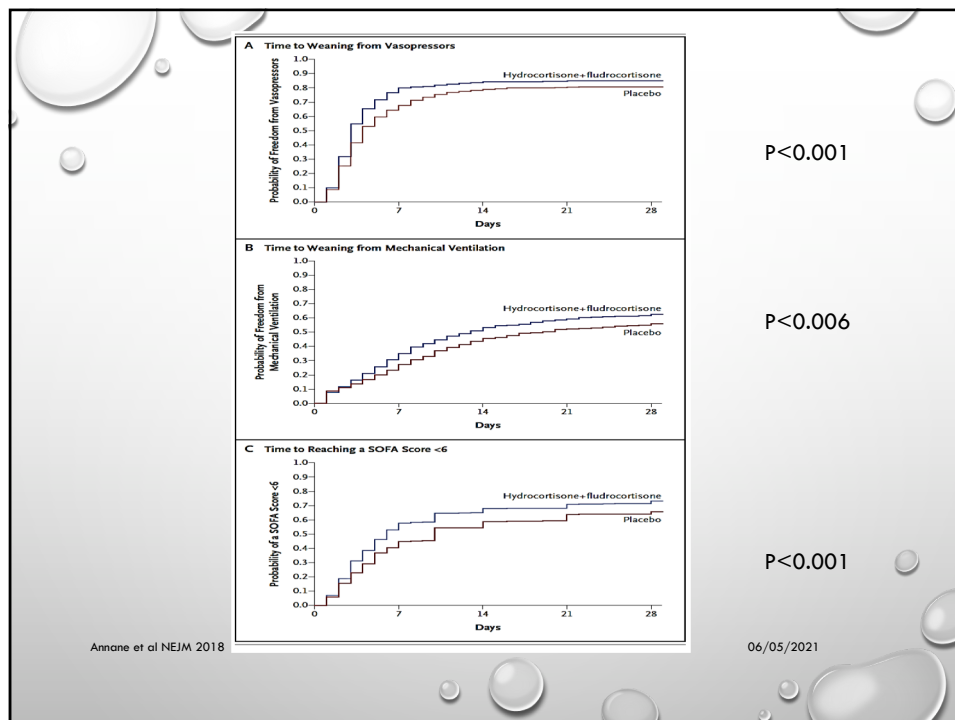
Annane Jama 2002

### TRIAL 2

N=1241



Annane NEJM 2018



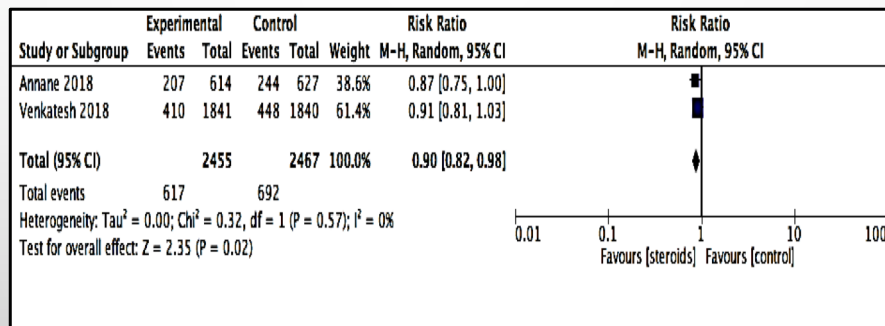
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

**Table 3. Adverse Events.\***

Event	Placebo (N=627)	Hydrocortisone plus Fludrocortisone (N=614)	Relative Risk (95% CI)†	P Value
≥1 Serious event by day 180 — no./total no. (%)	363/626 (58.0)	326/614 (53.1)	0.92 (0.83–1.01)	0.08
≥1 Serious bleeding event by day 28 — no./total no. (%)	119/626 (19.0)	127/614 (20.7)	1.09 (0.87–1.36)	0.46
Gastrointestinal bleeding — no./total no. (%)	45/626 (7.2)	39/614 (6.4)	0.88 (0.58–1.34)	0.56
≥1 Episode of superinfection by day 180 — no./total no. (%)	178/626 (28.4)	191/614 (31.1)	1.09 (0.92–1.30)	0.30
Site of superinfection — no./total no. (%)				
Lung	116/626 (18.5)	127/614 (20.7)	1.12 (0.89–1.40)	0.34
Blood	48/626 (7.7)	49/614 (8.0)	1.04 (0.71–1.53)	0.84
Catheter-related	37/626 (5.9)	40/614 (6.5)	1.10 (0.71–1.70)	0.66
Urinary tract	33/626 (5.3)	40/614 (6.5)	1.24 (0.79–1.93)	0.35
Other	57/626 (9.1)	70/614 (11.4)	1.25 (0.90–1.74)	0.18
New sepsis — no./total no. (%)	122/626 (19.5)	134/614 (21.8)	1.12 (0.90–1.39)	0.31
New septic shock — no./total no. (%)	103/626 (16.5)	109/614 (17.8)	1.08 (0.84–1.38)	0.54
Hyperglycemia				
≥1 Episode of blood glucose levels ≥150 mg/dl by day 7 — no./total no. (%)	520/626 (83.1)	547/614 (89.1)	1.07 (1.03–1.12)	0.002
No. of days with ≥1 episode of blood glucose levels ≥150 mg/dl by day 7				
Mean	3.4±2.5	4.3±2.5	—	<0.001
Median (IQR)	3 (1–6)	5 (2–6)		
Neurologic sequelae by day 28 — no./total no. (%)‡				
Last MDRS score >1	130/626 (20.8)	153/614 (24.9)	1.20 (0.98–1.47)	0.08
Last MDRS score >3	92/626 (14.7)	108/614 (17.6)	1.20 (0.93–1.54)	0.17
Last MDRS score = 5	65/626 (10.4)	73/614 (11.9)	1.15 (0.84–1.57)	0.40

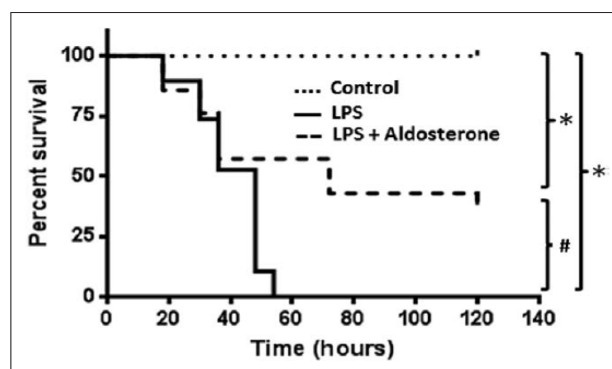
Annane et al NEJM 2018

## ADRENAL AND APROCCHSS



Rochweg CCM 2018

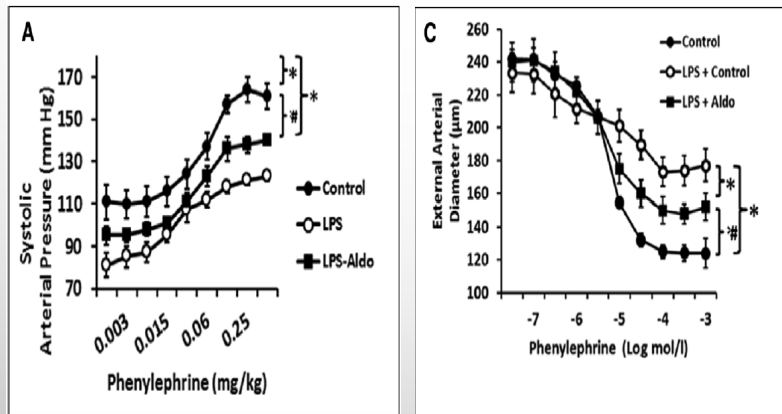
## MC IMMUNE EFFECTS IN SEPSIS



**Figure 1.** Effects of aldosterone on survival during endotoxic shock—mice were injected intraperitoneally with vehicle or lipopolysaccharide (LPS) (15 mg/kg) with or without aldosterone (1 mg/kg). Survival was monitored for 120 hs \* $p < 0.05$  vs control, # $p \leq 0.05$  vs LPS,  $n = 20$  in all groups.

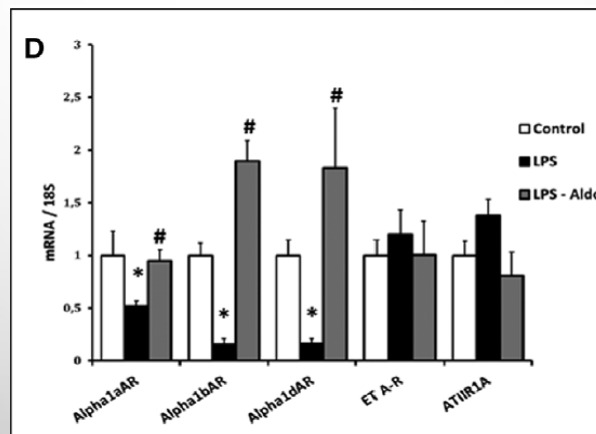
CCM 2017

## MC IMMUNE EFFECTS IN SEPSIS



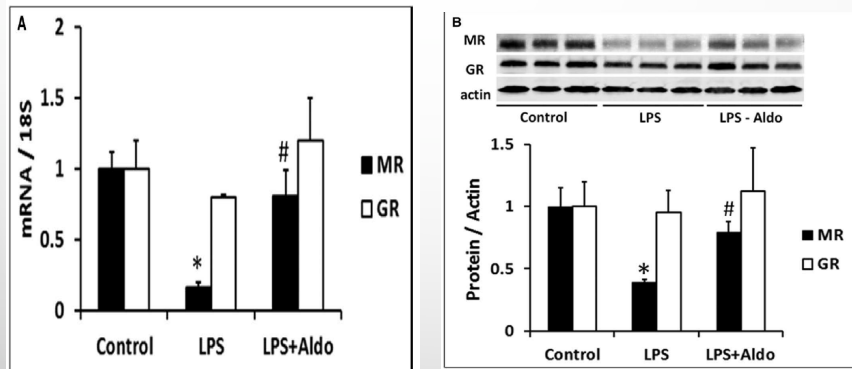
CCM 2017

## MC IMMUNE EFFECTS IN SEPSIS



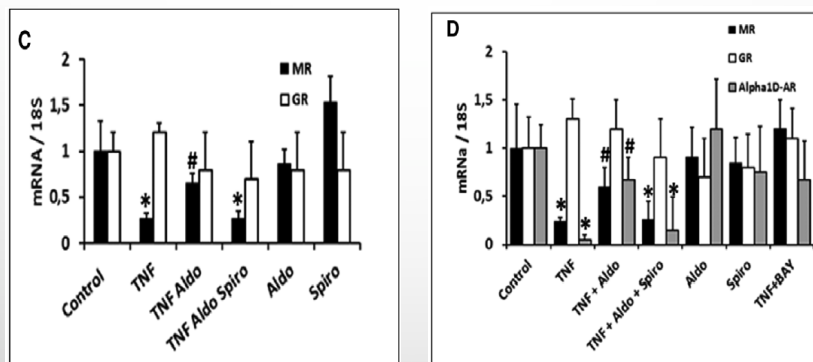
CCM 2017

## MC IMMUNE EFFECTS IN SEPSIS



CCM 2017

## MC IMMUNE EFFECTS IN SEPSIS



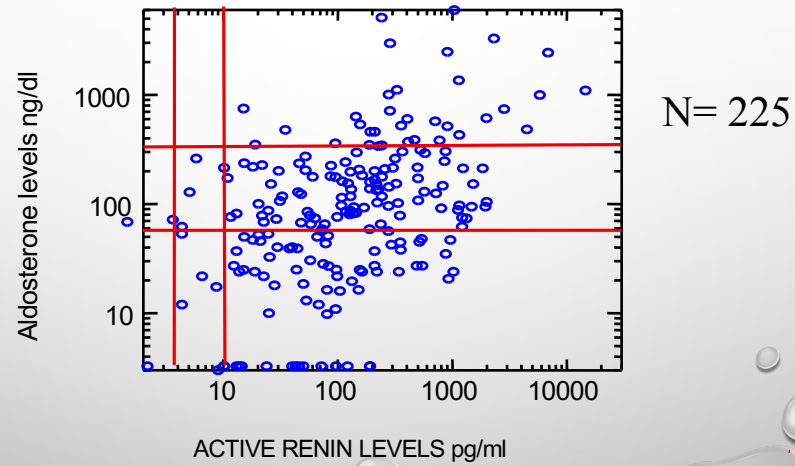
HUVEC experiments

Arterial smooth muscle cells

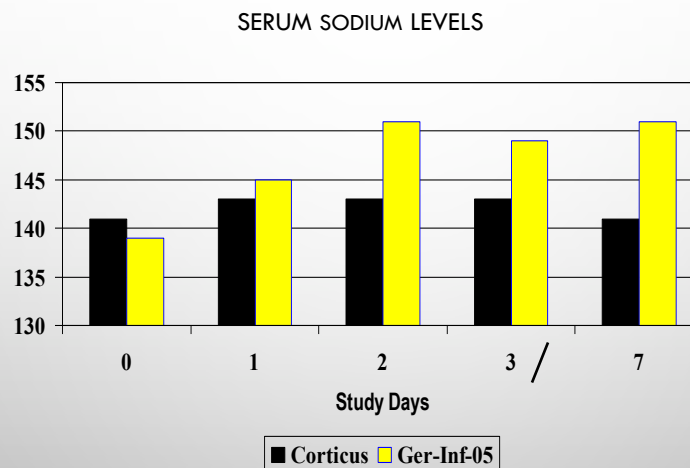
CCM 2017



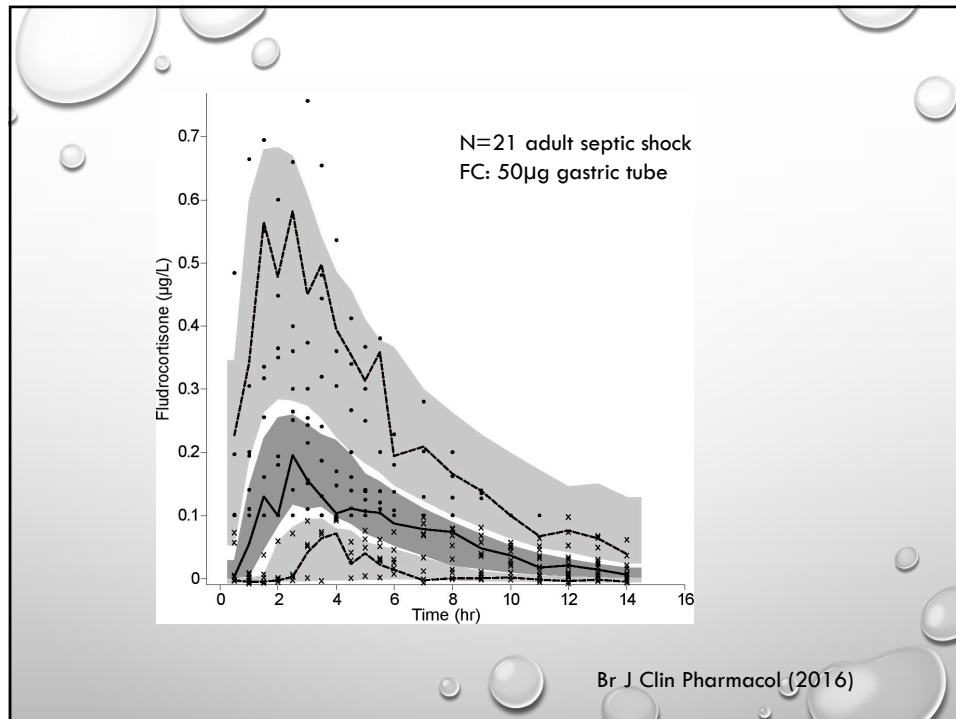
## Mineralocorticoid Insufficiency in Septic Shock



## Mineralocorticoid effects of HC versus HC+FC



Jama 2002 & NEJM 2008

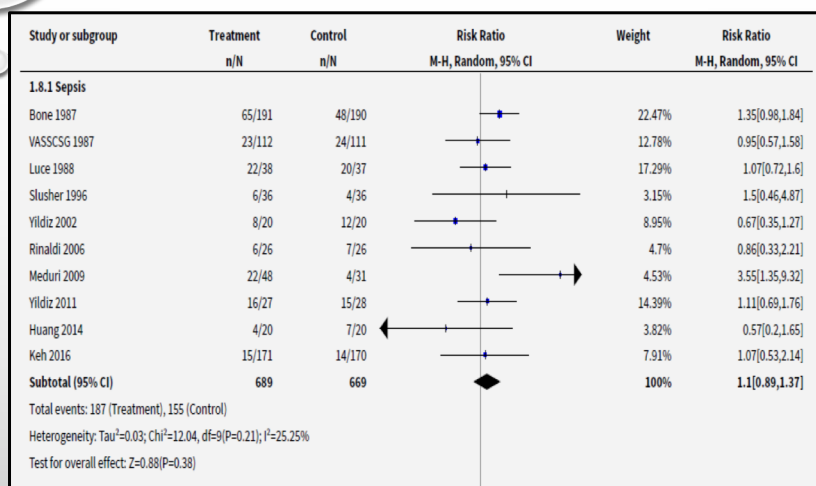


Which Dose & Duration ?

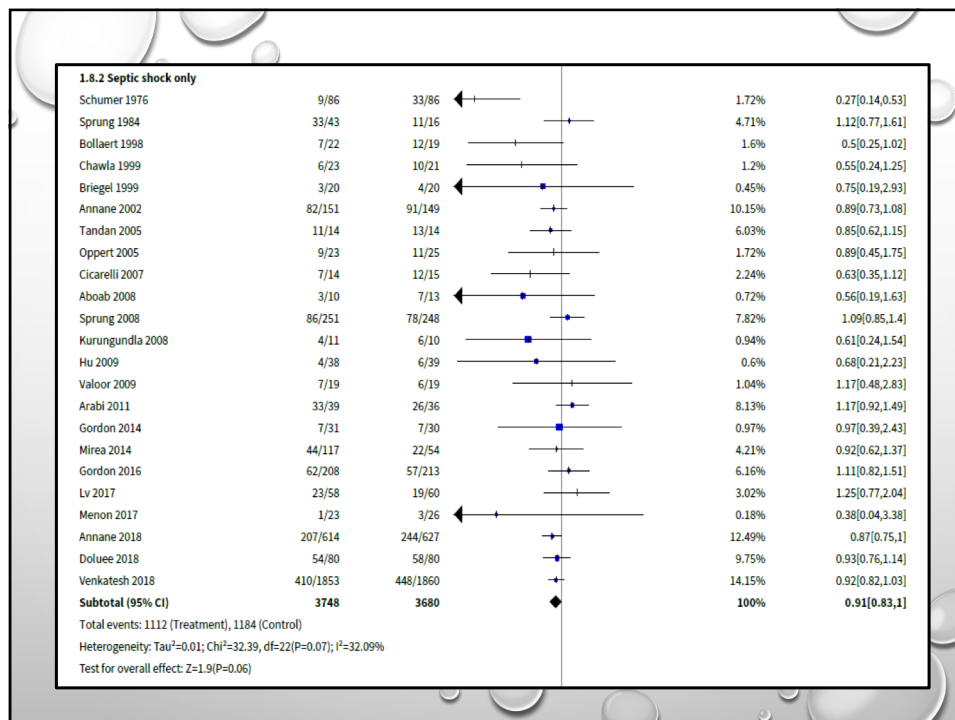
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
4 28-Day all-cause mortality by subgroups based on treatment dose/duration	44	10812	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.86, 0.97]
4.1 Long course of low-dose corticosteroids	39	9902	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.86, 0.97]
4.2 Short course of high-dose corticosteroids	5	910	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.96 [0.80, 1.16]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
5 28-Day all-cause mortality based on mode of drug administration	45	9978	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.82, 0.99]
5.1 Intravenous bolus	27	4749	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.83, 1.02]
5.2 Continuous infusion	18	5229	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.66, 1.07]
6 28-Day all-cause mortality based on mode of drug termination	47	10906	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.83, 1.00]
6.1 Without taper off	30	8770	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.78, 0.98]
6.2 With taper off	17	2136	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.92, 1.18]

## Who I Treat?

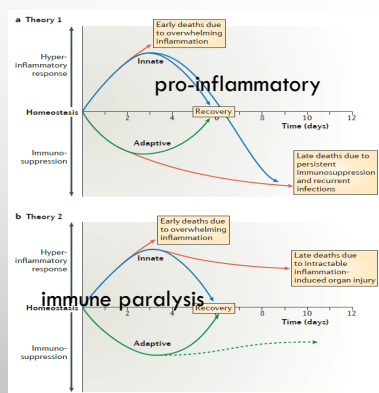


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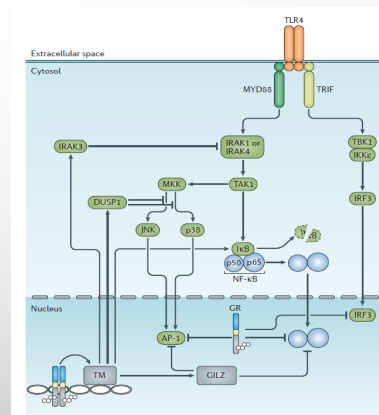


## CORTICOSTEROID SENSITIVITY IN SEPSIS REQUIRES

1. A PRO-INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE TO INFECTION AND NOT IMMUNE PARALYSIS
2. Intact CS molecular mechanisms of action

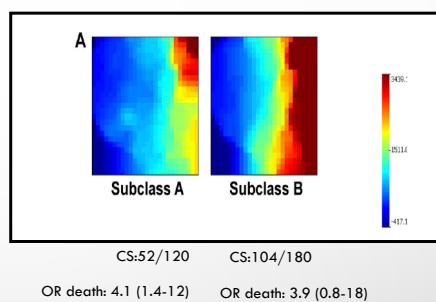
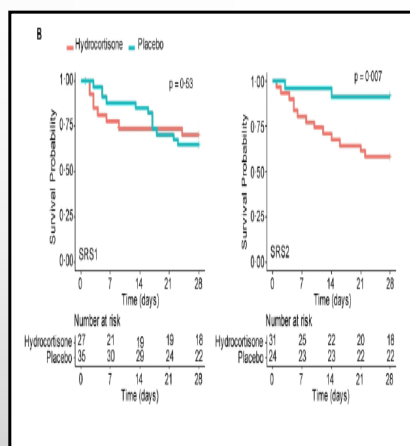


Nat Rev Immunol 2013



Nat Rev Immunol 2017

## Omics Corticosteroids Response Signature



Subclass A: immune suppressed  
Subclass B: immune competent

SRS1: immune suppressed  
SRS2: immune competent

Antcliffe AJRCCM 2018

Wong AJRCCM 2014

From: **Assessment of Machine Learning to Estimate the Individual Treatment Effect of Corticosteroids in Septic Shock**

JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(12):e2029050. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.29050

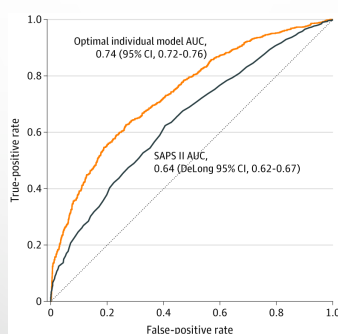


Figure Legend:

Model DiscriminationAUC indicates area under the receiver operating characteristic curve; SAPS II, Simplified Acute Physiology Score.

Piracchio et al

From: **Assessment of Machine Learning to Estimate the Individual Treatment Effect of Corticosteroids in Septic Shock**

JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(12):e2029050. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.29050

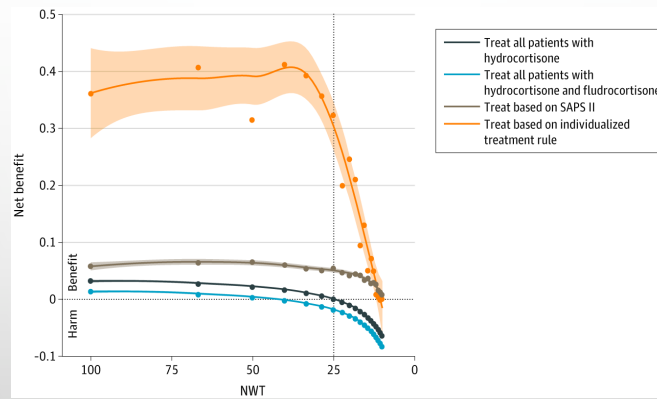


Figure Legend:

Expected Net Benefit Based on the Number Willing to Treat (NWT) The y-axis is the net benefit for each treatment strategy compared with treating no one. Treating no one served as a reference and is equal to zero. For treat all patients and treat based on the Simplified Acute Physiology Score (SAPS II), the treatment considered is either hydrocortisone alone or hydrocortisone with fludrocortisone. For the optimal individual model, the treatment is the one expected to produce the maximal effect at the individual level. The x-axis is the NWT, which is equal to 1/decision threshold. Shading indicates 95% CI.

Date of download: 2/10/2021

### Unprecedented pandemic

**106 921 304**  
**Confirmed cases**  
Updated : 10 Feb 2021,  
**2 341 425**  
**Confirmed deaths**  
Updated : 10 Feb 2021,

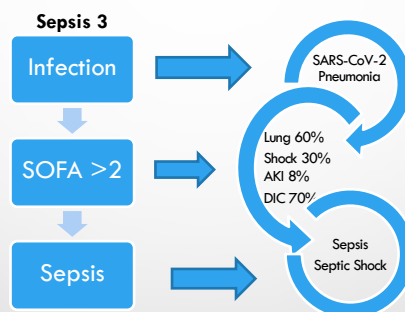


Source: John Hopkins

## COVID 19 not just infection but viral sepsis



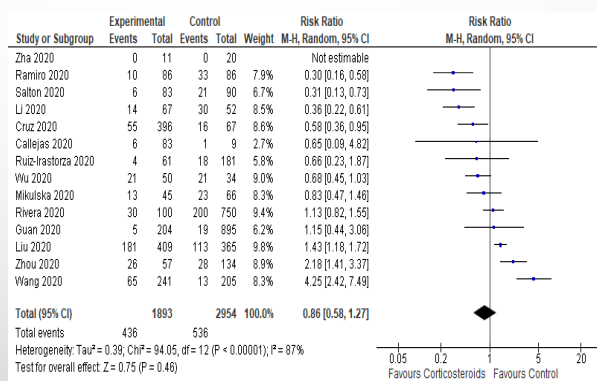
## SEPSIS IS THE CLINICAL PHENOTYPE



NEJM 2019, NEJM 2020, JAMA 2020, Lancet 2020



## CORTICOSTEROIDS – MORTALITY - OBSERVATIONAL COHORTS

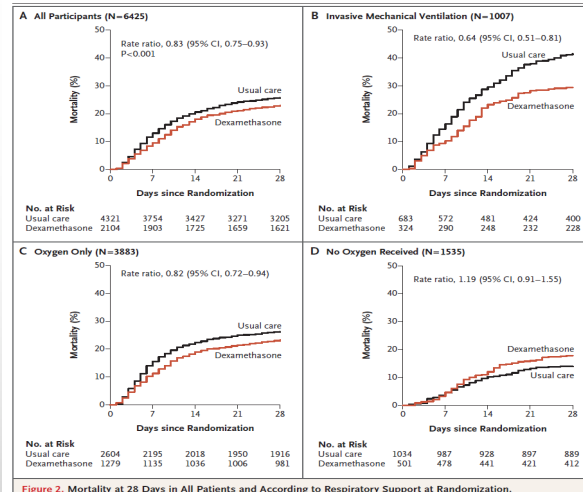


THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

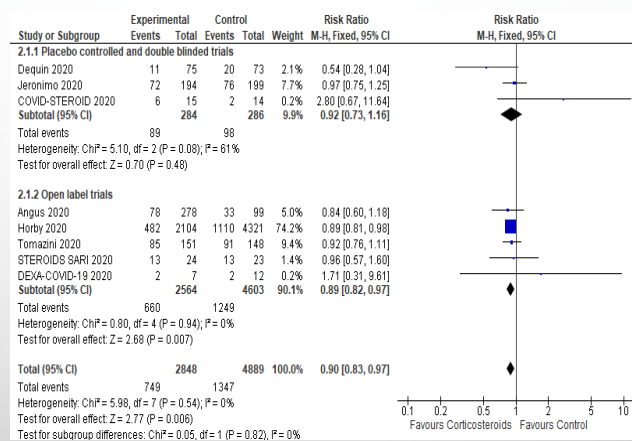
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19 — Preliminary Report

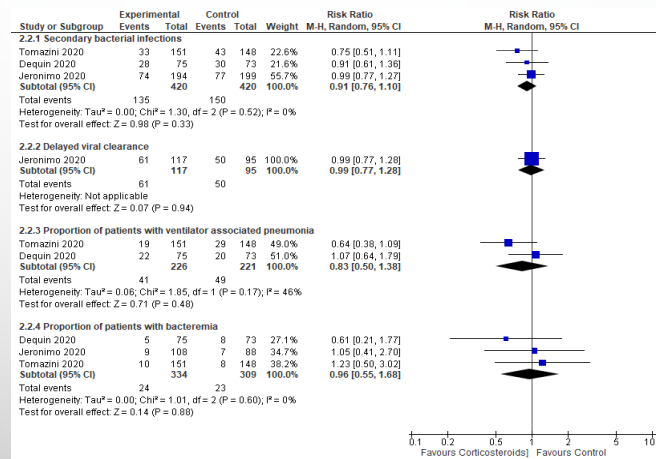
The RECOVERY Collaborative Group\*



## Corticosteroids – Mortality- RCTs



## Corticosteroids – SAEs- RCTs



## In Practice

- GIVE
  - HYDROCORTISONE (50MG Q6) +
  - FLUDROCORTISONE (50 $\mu$ G Q24)
- FOR
  - 7 DAYS
  - NO NEED TO TAPER OFF
- TO
  - SEPTIC SHOCK,
  - SEPSIS + ARDS,
  - SEPSIS + CAP
- NOT TO
  - ACTH RESPONDERS, IE DELTA CORTISOL > 9 $\mu$ G/DL