

## Dexamethasone vs Standard Treatment for COVID-19

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**Question:** Should Dexamethasone compared to Standard Treatment be used for COVID-19?

**Setting:** Inpatient

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Dexamethasone	Standard Treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	

### All cause Mortality

1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	482/2104 (22.9%)	1110/4321 (25.7%)	<b>RR 0.89</b> (0.81 to 0.98)	<b>28 fewer per 1.000</b> (from 49 fewer to 5 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
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### All cause Mortality - (mild/moderate patients)

1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	85/501 (17.8%)	145/1034 (14.0%)	<b>RR 1.27</b> (1.00 to 1.61)	<b>38 more per 1.000</b> (from 0 fewer to 86 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
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### All cause Mortality - (severe patients)

1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	298/1279 (23.3%)	682/2604 (26.2%)	<b>RR 0.89</b> (0.79 to 1.00)	<b>29 fewer per 1.000</b> (from 55 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
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Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Dexamethasone	Standard Treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
<b>All cause Mortality - (critically ill patients)</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	95/324 (29.3%)	283/683 (41.4%)	<b>RR 0.72</b> (0.58 to 0.86)	<b>120 fewer per 1.000</b> (from 174 fewer to 58 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
<b>Number of patients discharged within 28 days</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	1413/2104 (67.2%)	2745/4321 (63.5%)	<b>RR 1.06</b> (1.02 to 1.10)	<b>38 more per 1.000</b> (from 13 more to 64 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
<b>Number of patients discharged within 28 days - (mild/moderate patients)</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	385/501 (76.8%)	831/1034 (80.4%)	<b>RR 0.96</b> (0.90 to 1.01)	<b>32 fewer per 1.000</b> (from 80 fewer to 8 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE
<b>Number of patients discharged within 28 days - (severe patients)</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	921/1279 (72.0%)	1755/2604 (67.54%)	<b>RR 1.07</b> (1.02 to 1.12)	<b>47 more per 1.000</b> (from 13 more to 81 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Dexamethasone	Standard Treatment	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
<b>Number of patients discharged within 28 days - (critically ill patients)</b>											
1 <sup>1</sup>	randomised trials	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	107/324 (33.0%)	159/683 (23.3%)	<b>RR 1.42</b> (1.15 to 1.74)	<b>98 more per 1.000</b> (from 35 more to 172 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio

#### Explanations

a. Downgraded of one level for high risk of detection bias

#### References

1. Horby P, Lim WS, Emberson J, Mafham M, Bell J, Linsell L et al. RECOVERY TRIAL. Effect of Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19: Preliminary Report. medRxiv. 2020:2020.06.22.20137273.; 2020.