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Supplementary webappendix

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Supplement to: Lee N, Hui DSC. Dexamethasone in community-acquired pneumonia. *Lancet* 2011; **378:** 979.

Table: Reports on the impacts of corticosteroid use on viral shedding and clinical outcomes in severe influenza infection

Clinical reports	Findings
Lee N et al. ⁴ (n=147)	Seasonal influenza; slowed viral clearance
Boudreault AA et al. (n=143)	Seasonal influenza; slowed viral clearance
Giannella M et al. (n=64)	2009 A/H1N1 ; slowed viral clearance
Brun-Buisson C et al. ³ (n=208)	2009 A/H1N1; increased mortality, increased secondary infections, longer duration of ventilation*
Kim SH et al. (n=245)	2009 A/H1N1; increased mortality, increased secondary infections, longer duration of ventilation and ICU care
Xi X et al. (n=155)	2009 A/H1N1; increased mortality, increased secondary infections
Han Ke et al. (n=83)	2009 A/H1N1; increased risk of progression to critical illness and death
Viasus D et al. (n=197)	2009 A/H1N1; no benefit in preventing progression, longer time to clinical stability, increased secondary infections
Martin-Loeches I et al. (n=220)	2009 A/H1N1; no benefit in preventing progression, increased secondary infections
Liem NT et al. (n=67)	H5N1; increased mortality
Hien ND et al. (n=29)	H5N1; no benefit in preventing progression**

Literature search was performed using PubMed database with the search terms: "corticosteroids", "influenza" *corticosteroid initiated within the first 3 days of disease (before full viral suppression achieved) was associated with the worst outcomes

Boudreault AA, et al. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2011;17(7):979-86. Giannella M, et al. *Clin Microbiol Infect*. 2010 Oct 14. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-0691.2010.03399.x.

^{**}a trend towards increased mortality also reported. A controlled study on corticosteroids in H5N1 pneumonia using mouse model did not show inhibition of cytokine release nor survival benefit [Xu T, et al. *Eur Respir J*. 2009;33(4):852-60.]

Kim SH, et al. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2011;183(9):1207-1214.

Xi X, et al. *BMC Infect Dis.* 2010;10:256.

Han Ke, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2011;53(4):326-33.

Viasus D, et al. J Infect. 2011;62(3):193-9.

Martin-Loeches I, et al. Intensive Care Med. 2011;37(2):272-83.

Liem NT, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2009;48(12):1639-46.

Hien ND, et al. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2009;15(1):19-23.