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Is high-dose glucocorticoid beneficial in COVID-19?

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High-dose glucocorticoids are not currently recommended for treating severe COVID-19 pneumonia
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To the Editor:

We read with interest the article by Edalatifard *et al*. [1], and we congratulate them for performing a randomised controlled trial amidst the ongoing pandemic. We have a few concerns regarding the methods and interpretation of the current study. While the intervention group's mortality is low, the mortality in the control group is disproportionately high for the severity of illness (acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) not present, patients not intubated). The mortality in ARDS due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) among mechanically ventilated patients is 50% or less, and it has improved over time from 42% to 25% [2, 3]. The mortality in the current study's control arm (43%) was worse than the mortality in the control arm of the RECOVERY trial (26%) [4]. The survival difference between the two study groups may be due to the better supportive care provided to the intervention arm due to the trial's unblinded nature. Also, the justification provided for the sample size is inadequate. The authors have cited studies using methylprednisolone in asthma, COPD and pre-operative patients as references for the sample size calculation.