

THE LANCET

Respiratory Medicine

Supplementary appendix

This appendix formed part of the original submission and has been peer reviewed. We post it as supplied by the authors.

Supplement to: Reddy MP, Subramaniam A, Chua C, et al. Respiratory system mechanics, gas exchange, and outcomes in mechanically ventilated patients with COVID-19-related acute respiratory distress syndrome: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Respir Med* 2022; published online Nov 3. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600\(22\)00393-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(22)00393-9).

A systematic review and meta-analysis of respiratory system mechanics, gas exchange and outcomes in mechanically ventilated patients with COVID-19 related acute respiratory distress syndrome

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Supplementary Material

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Figure S1: Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses checklist



PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Page 1
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Page 2
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Page 4
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Page 5
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Page 6
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Page 5
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Page 5 Table S1
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 6
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 6
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Page 6
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Page 6
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 6
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Page 6, 7
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	N/A
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Page 7
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Page 7
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Page 7
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	Page 7
13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Page 7	
Reporting bias	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Page 7
assessment			
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Page 7
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Page 8
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Page 8, Figure S2
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Page 8 Table 1, S4
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Page 8 Table S2
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	N/A
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Page 8
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Page 8
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Page 8
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Page 10
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Page 10
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Page 10 Table S3
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Page 10
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Page 13
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Page 13
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Page 14
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Page 1,3
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Page 1,3
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	Page 7,9



PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Page 15
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Page 15
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	Page 15

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71
For more information, visit: <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

Figure S2: Box-Whisker plot for (A) compliance; (B) PaCO₂, (C) Tidal volume and (D) positive end-expiratory pressure.

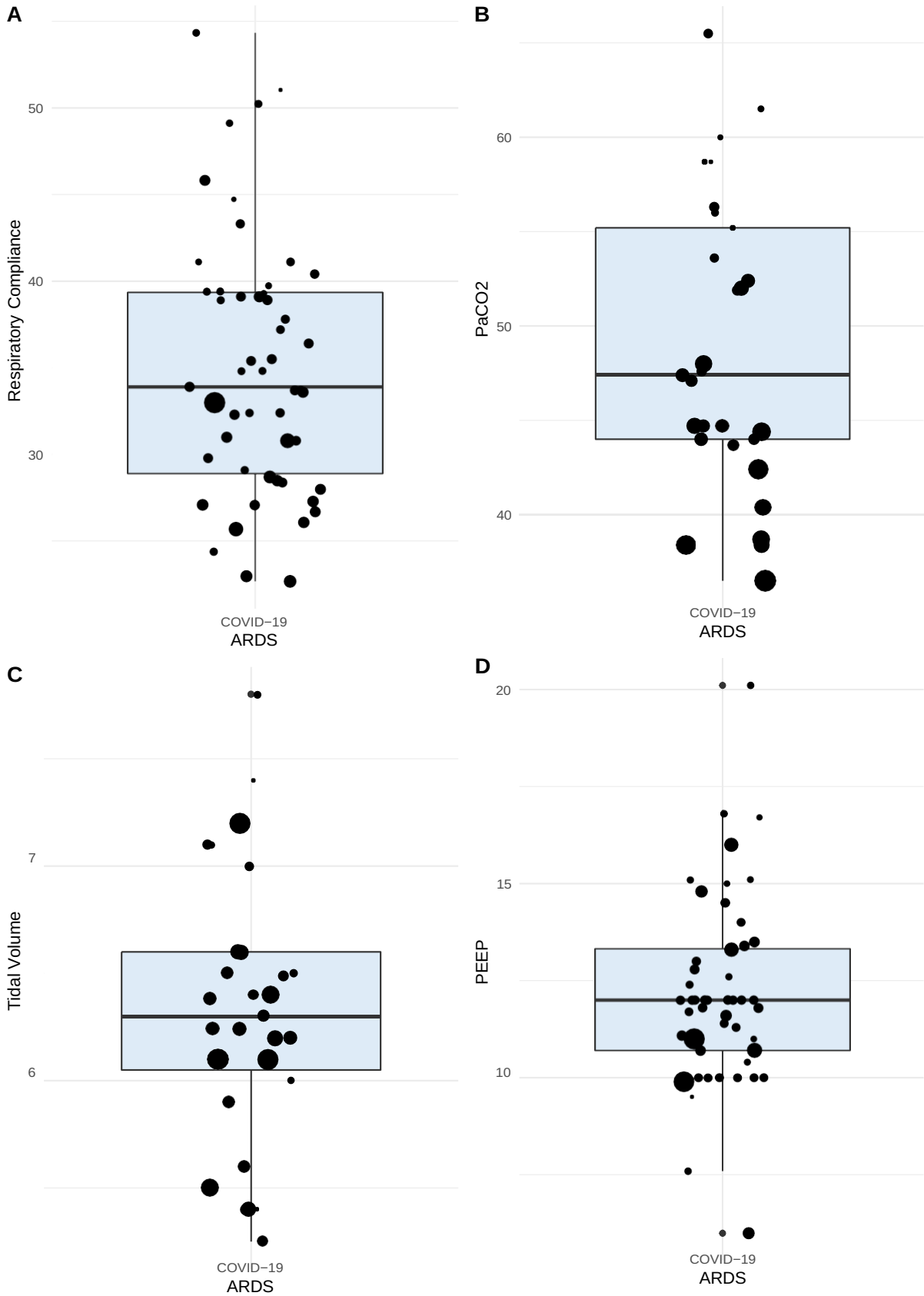


Figure S3: Forest plot demonstrating pooled compliance in all patients with coronavirus disease 2019 acute respiratory distress syndrome.

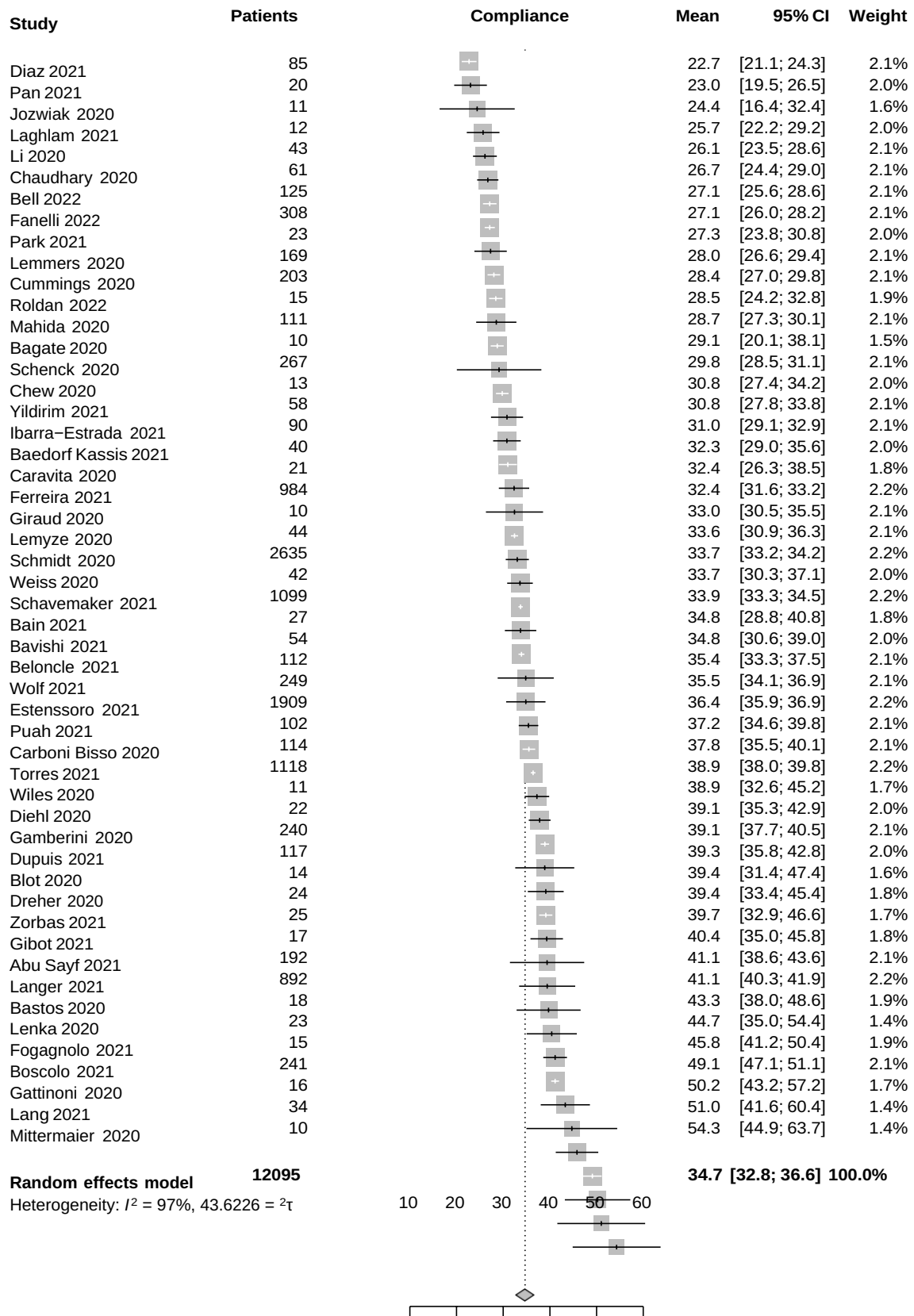


Figure S4: Funnel plot for the primary analysis pooling the compliance among all studies.

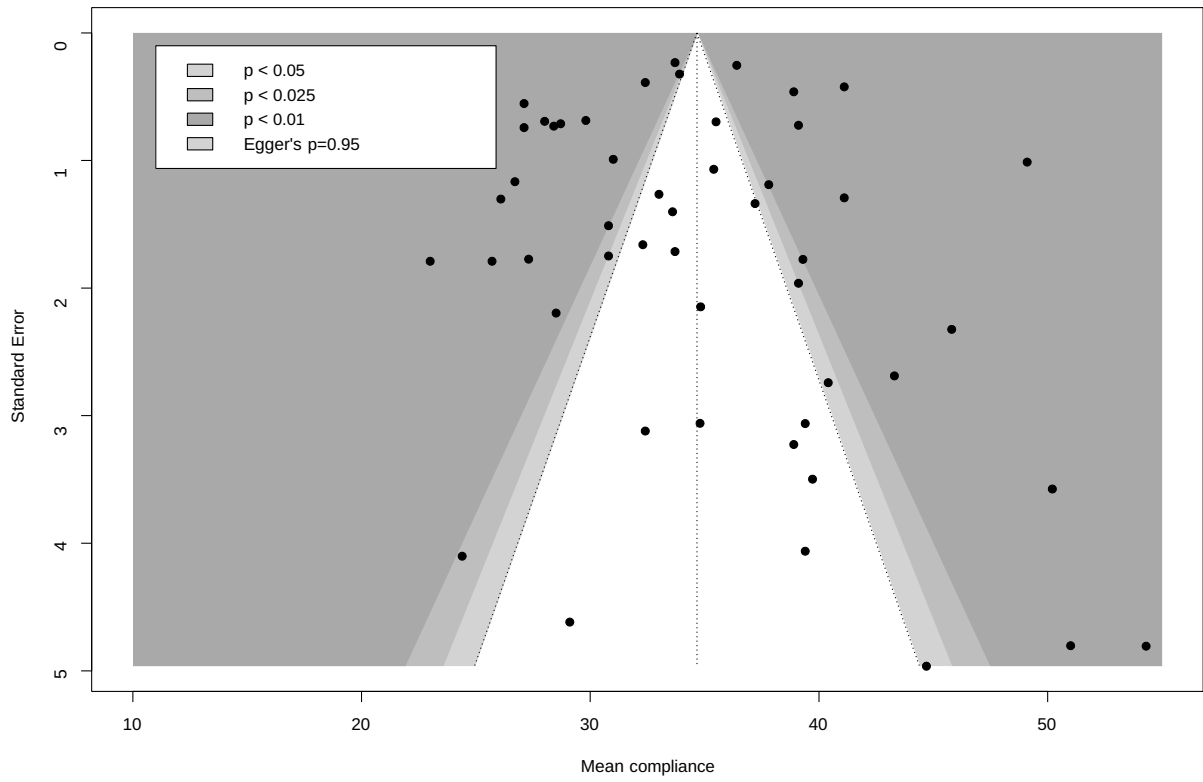


Figure S5: Forest plot comparing compliance with PaCO₂

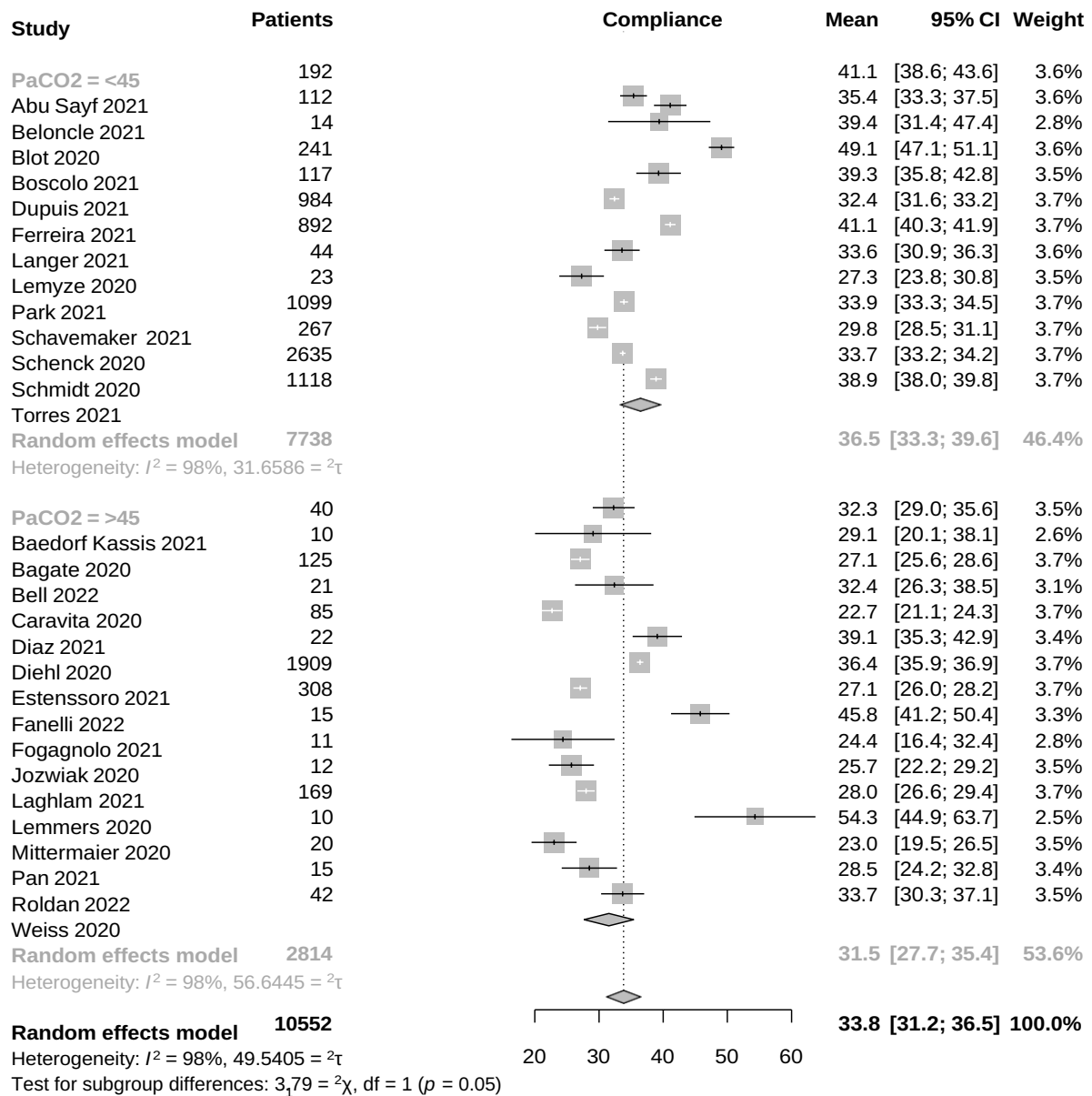


Figure S6: Forest plot comparing compliance with PEEP

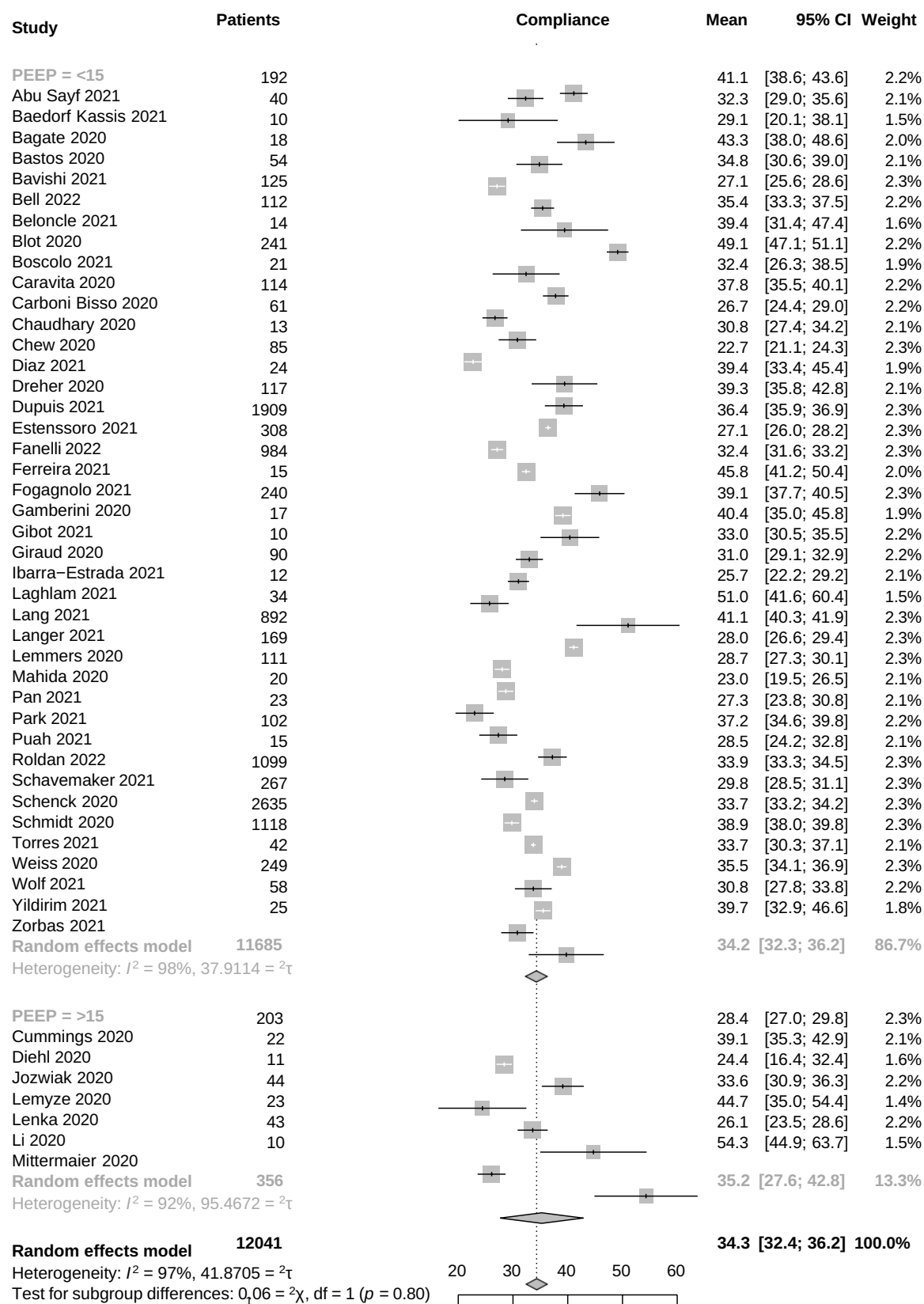


Figure S7: Univariable Meta-regression Analysis for COVID-19-ARDS studies by (A) PaO₂/FiO₂ (B) tidal volume (C) PEEP (D) Driving pressure (E) PaCO₂ (F) Body Mass Index

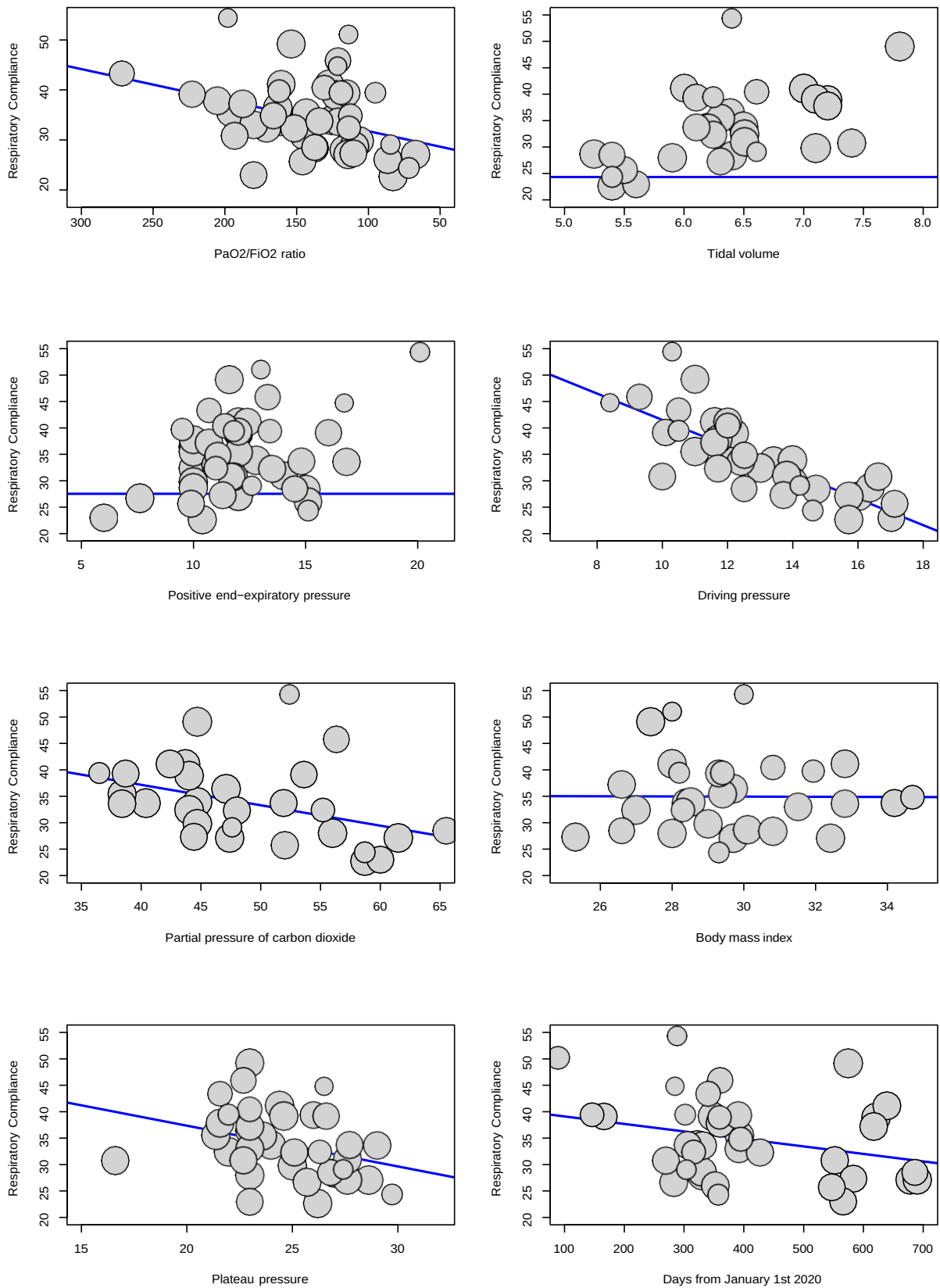


Figure S8: Post hoc analysis: Sensitivity analysis using fixed effect model

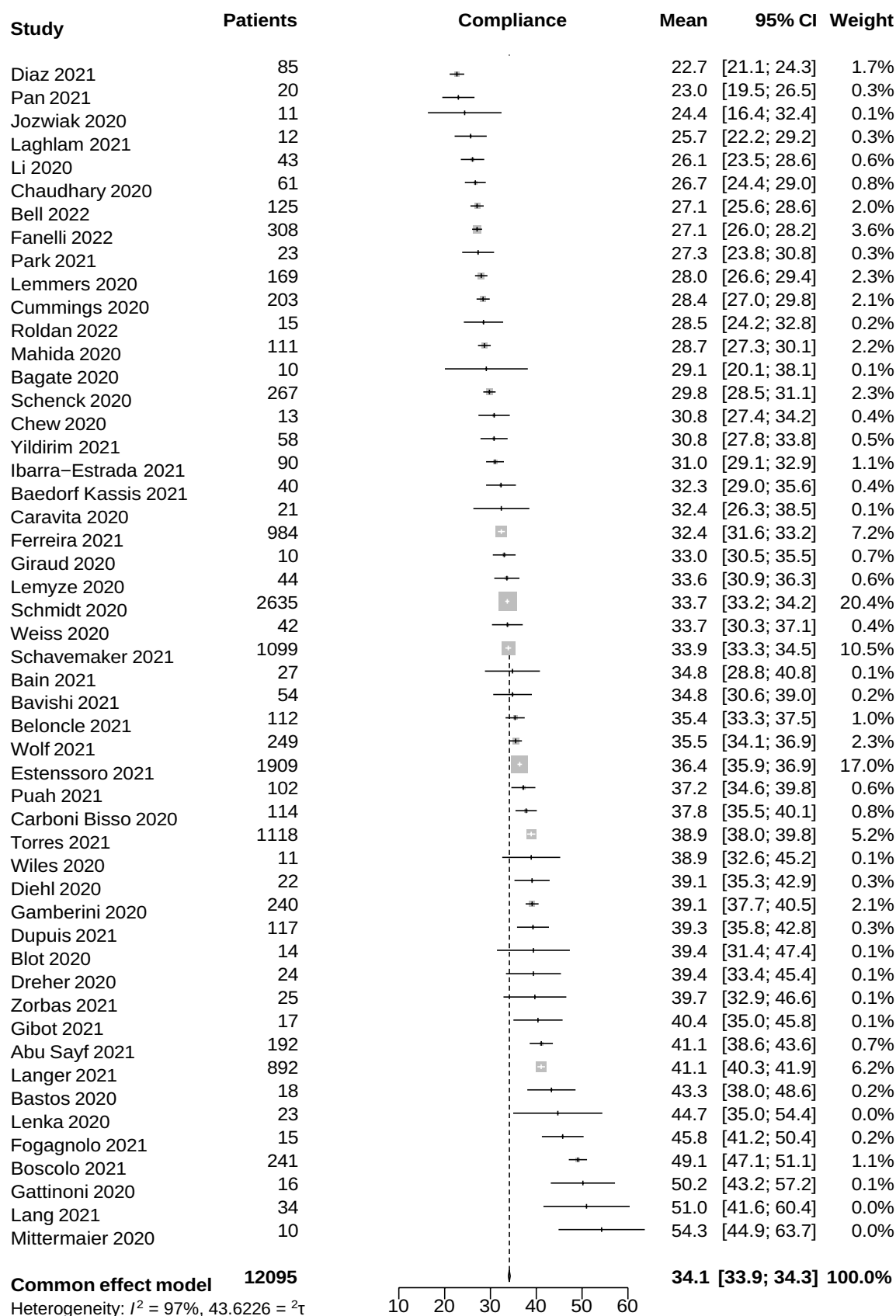


Table S1: Search terms for C-ARDS SRMA

	Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3
Key concepts	COVID Patients	ARDS patients	Intervention
<p>Controlled vocabulary terms / Subject terms</p> <p>(MeSH terms, Entree terms)</p>	<p>"coronavirus"[MH] OR "coronavirus infections"[MH] OR "coronavirus"[TW] OR "corona virus"[TW] OR "HCoV"[TW] OR "nCov"[TW] OR "covid"[TW] OR "covid19"[TW] OR "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2"[TW] OR "SARS-CoV2"[TW] OR "SARS-CoV 2"[TW] OR "SARS Coronavirus 2"[TW] OR "MERS-CoV"[TW])</p> <p>EMBASE:</p> <p>(SARS coronavirus/ or middle east respiratory syndrome/ or severe acute respiratory syndrome/ or (coronavirus* or corona virus* or HCoV* or ncov* or covid or covid19 or sars-cov* or sarscov* or Sars-coronavirus* or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus*).mp.) and 20191201:20220314. (dc)</p> <p>MEDLINE:</p> <p>("severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2"[Supplementary Concept] OR "COVID-19" [Supplementary Concept] OR "coronavirus" OR "corona virus" OR "HCoV" OR "nCov" OR "2019 CoV" OR "covid" OR "covid19" OR "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2" OR "SARS-CoV2" OR "SARS-CoV 2" OR "SARS Coronavirus 2") AND (2019/11/01:2022/03/14</p>	<p>ARDS OR acute respiratory distress syndrome</p>	<p>Intubate OR Intubated OR Mechanical ventilation OR Invasive ventilation</p>

Table S2: Data collection template

Study characteristics:	Author	
	Date of publication	
	Study start and end dates	
	Country	
Baseline demographics:	Age	
	Sex	
	Comorbidities	COPD
		HTN
		CCF/IHD
		BMI
DM		
CKD		
Clinical characteristics:	Ventilator parameters	FiO ₂
		PEEP
		Respiratory rate
		Tidal volume
		Peak pressure
		plateau pressure
		Driving pressure
	Lung compliance	Static compliance
	Gas exchange parameters	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ ratio
		SpO ₂
PaCO ₂		
Interventions	Pharmacological	Paralysis
		Inhaled pulmonary vasodilators
		Steroids
		Novel antiviral therapies
	Non-Pharmacological	ECMO
		Prone position
		CRRT
		Tracheostomy
Outcomes:	mortality	ICU mortality
		Hospital mortality
		28-day mortality
		60-day mortality
		90-day mortality
	Complications	Pneumothorax
		VAP
		VTE
		Cardiac arrest
	Time periods	Duration of ventilation
		ICU length of stay
Hospital length of stay		

COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease HT: Hypertension CCF: Congestive Cardiac Failure BMI: Body Mass Index DM: Diabetes Mellitus CKD: Chronic kidney disease	AKI: Acute Kidney Injury VAP: Ventilator-Acquired Pneumonia VTE: Venous Thromboembolism PEEP: Positive End Expiratory Pressure CRRT: Continuous renal replacement therapy ECMO: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
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Table S3: Modified Newcastle Ottawa scores (mNOS) for all the COVID-19-ARDS studies

First Author	Sample representativeness	Sample size	Non-respondents	Ascertainment of compliance	Quality of descriptive statistics reporting	Total Modified NOS
Abu Sayf ¹	1	1	1	1	1	5
Baedorf Kassis ²	0	0	0	1	1	2
Bagate ³	0	0	1	1	1	3
Bain ⁴	1	0	0	1	1	3
Bell ⁵	1	0	1	1	1	4
Boscolo ⁶	1	1	0	1	1	4
Bastos ⁷	0	0	0	1	1	2
Bavishi ⁸	0	0	1	1	1	3
Beloncle ⁹	1	0	1	1	1	4
Blot ¹⁰	0	0	1	1	1	3
Caravita ¹¹	1	0	1	1	1	4
Carboni Bisso ¹²	0	0	1	1	1	3
Chaudhary ¹³	0	0	0	1	1	2
Chew ¹⁴	0	0	1	1	1	3
Cummings ¹⁵	1	1	1	1	1	5
Diaz ¹⁶	0	0	1	1	1	3
Diehl ¹⁷	0	0	1	1	1	3
Dreher ¹⁸	0	0	1	1	1	3
Dupuis ¹⁹	0	1	1	1	1	4
Estenssoro ²⁰	1	1	1	1	1	5
Fanelli ²¹	1	1	1	1	1	5
Ferreira ²²	0	1	1	1	1	4
Fognolo ²³	0	0	1	1	1	3
Gamberini ²⁴	1	1	1	1	1	5
Gattinoni ²⁵	0	0	0	1	1	2
Gibot ²⁶	0	0	0	1	1	2
Giraud ²⁷	0	0	1	1	1	3
Ibarra-Estrada ²⁸	0	0	1	1	1	3
Jozwiak ²⁹	0	0	0	1	1	2
Laghlam ³⁰	0	0	1	1	1	3
Lang ³¹	0	0	0	1	1	2
Langer ³²	1	1	1	1	1	5
Lemmers ³³	0	0	1	1	1	3
Lemyze ³⁴	0	0	1	1	1	3
Lenka ³⁵	0	0	0	1	1	2
Li ³⁶	0	0	1	1	1	3
Mahida ³⁷	0	0	1	1	1	3
Mittermaier ³⁸	0	0	1	1	1	3
Pan ³⁹	1	0	1	1	1	4
Park ⁴⁰	0	0	1	1	1	3
Puah ⁴¹	1	0	1	1	1	4
Roldan ⁴²	0	0	1	1	1	3
Schavemaker ⁴³	1	1	1	1	1	5
Schenck ⁴⁴	0	1	1	1	1	4
Schmidt ⁴⁵	1	1	0	1	1	4
Torres ⁴⁶	1	1	1	1	1	5
Weiss ⁴⁷	1	0	0	1	1	3
Wiles ⁴⁸	0	0	1	1	0	2
Wolf ⁴⁹	0	1	0	1	1	3
Yildirim ⁵⁰	0	0	1	1	1	3
Zorbas ⁵¹	1	0	1	1	1	4

Table S4: GRADE

Number of studies	Certainty assessment						Effect			Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Number of events	Number of individuals	Rate (95% CI)		
Compliance in only unselected patients (assessed with cm H2O)											
37	observational studies	not serious ^a	not serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none	-	11,356	mean 35.8 (33.9 to 37.8)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL
Compliance in all studies (assessed with cm H2O)											
51	observational studies	not serious ^a	not serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none	-	12,095	mean 34.7 (32.8 to 36.6)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL
28-day mortality (assessed with %)											
13	observational studies	not serious	serious ^{c,d}	not serious	not serious	none	3,343	8,540	event rate 43.2 per 100 (32.6 to 54.1)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Intensive care unit mortality (assessed with %)											
27	observational studies	not serious	serious ^{c,d}	not serious	not serious	none	3,601	9,362	event rate 35.7 per 100 (29.4 to 42.2)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE	CRITICAL
In-hospital mortality (assessed with: %)											
14	observational studies	not serious	serious ^{c,d}	not serious	not serious	none	2,916	7,160	event rate 39.1 per 100 (32.6 to 45.8)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Intensive care unit length of stay (assessed with: days)											
25	observational studies	not serious	not serious ^{c,e}	not serious	not serious	none	-	10,832	mean 19 days (15 to 22)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	IMPORTANT
Hospital length of stay (assessed with: days)											

Number of studies	Certainty assessment						Effect			Certainty	Importance
	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Number of events	Number of individuals	Rate (95% CI)		
17	observational studies	not serious	not serious ^{c,e}	not serious	not serious	none	-	8,902	mean 28 days (23 to 34)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	IMPORTANT
Ventilator free days (assessed with: days)											
7	observational studies	not serious	not serious ^{c,e}	not serious	serious ^f	none	-	1,562	mean 5 days (2.9 to 7.6)	⊕⊕⊕ MODERATE	IMPORTANT
<p>Explanations</p> <p>a: Some studies were rated as having a higher risk of bias (mNOS<3). Trim-and-fill analysis found that the pooled estimate remained similar after excluding these studies (34.4), suggesting that the effect of bias on the pooled estimate was likely minimal</p> <p>b: There was a high I2 value (96.8%), and a wide range of the point estimates. However, several important sources of heterogeneity were found, and include the PaO2/FiO2 ratio, PEEP, Tidal volume, Driving pressure, and the presence of obesity (BMI>30). These were likely to have contributed to the heterogeneity, and hence we did not downgrade for inconsistency</p> <p>c: There was a high I2 value (>90%)</p> <p>d: Visual inspection of the forest plot showed significant variability between the point estimates and only occasional overlapping of the confidence intervals</p> <p>e: However, visual inspection of the forest plot showed some variability and significant overlapping of the confidence intervals</p> <p>f: The recommended optimal information size (>2000) was reached. However, the confidence intervals are wide compared to the pooled estimate (100% of the pooled estimate). This was a borderline decision to rate down for imprecision.</p>											

Table S5: References for the studies included in this systematic review

1.	Abu Sayf A, Ouellette D, Fadel R. Mechanical ventilation and COVID-19: A case-control analysis of clinical characteristics, lung mechanics, and mortality. <i>Chest</i> 2021; 160(4): A1012-A.
2.	Baedorf Kassis E, Schaefer MS, Maley JH, et al. Transpulmonary pressure measurements and lung mechanics in patients with early ARDS and SARS-CoV-2. <i>J Crit Care</i> 2021; 63: 106-12.
3.	Bagate F, Tuffet S, Masi P, et al. Rescue therapy with inhaled nitric oxide and almitrine in COVID-19 patients with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome. <i>Ann Intensive Care</i> 2020; 10(1): 151.
4.	Bain W, Yang H, Shah FA, et al. COVID-19 versus Non-COVID-19 Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: Comparison of Demographics, Physiologic Parameters, Inflammatory Biomarkers, and Clinical Outcomes. <i>Ann Am Thorac Soc</i> 2021; 18(7): 1202-10.
5.	Bell J, William Pike C, Kreisel C, Sonti R, Cobb N. Predicting Impact of Prone Position on Oxygenation in Mechanically Ventilated Patients with COVID-19. <i>Journal of Intensive Care Medicine</i> 2022: 08850666221081757.
6.	Boscolo A, Sella N, Lorenzoni G, et al. Static compliance and driving pressure are associated with ICU mortality in intubated COVID-19 ARDS. <i>Critical Care</i> 2021; 25(1): 263.
7.	Bastos GAN, Azambuja AZ, Polanczyk CA, et al. Clinical characteristics and predictors of mechanical ventilation in patients with COVID-19 hospitalized in Southern Brazil. <i>Rev Bras Ter Intensiva</i> 2020; 32(4): 487-92.
8.	Bavishi AA, Mylvaganam RJ, Agarwal R, Avery RJ, Cuttica MJ. Timing of Intubation in Coronavirus Disease 2019: A Study of Ventilator Mechanics, Imaging, Findings, and Outcomes. <i>Crit Care Explor</i> 2021; 3(5): e0415.
9.	Beloncle F, Studer A, Seegers V, et al. Longitudinal changes in compliance, oxygenation and ventilatory ratio in COVID-19 versus non-COVID-19 pulmonary acute respiratory distress syndrome. <i>Crit Care</i> 2021; 25(1): 248.
10.	Blot M, Jacquier M, Aho Glele LS, et al. CXCL10 could drive longer duration of mechanical ventilation during COVID-19 ARDS. <i>Crit Care</i> 2020; 24(1): 632.
11.	Caravita S, Baratto C, Di Marco F, et al. Haemodynamic characteristics of COVID-19 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome requiring mechanical ventilation: An invasive assessment using right heart catheterization. <i>Eur J Heart Fail</i> 2020; 22(12): 2228-37.
12.	Carboni Bisso I, Huespe I, Lockhart C, et al. Clinical characteristics of critically ill patients with COVID-19. <i>Medicina (B Aires)</i> 2021; 81(4): 527-35.
13.	Chaudhary S, Lo KB, Matta A, Azmaiparashvili Z, Benzaquen S, Patarroyo-Aponte G. Ventilator mechanics and outcomes in critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection. <i>CHEST</i> 2020; 158(4): A627.
14.	Chew SY, Lee YS, Ghimiray D, Tan CK, Chua GS. Characteristics and Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients with Respiratory Failure Admitted to a "Pandemic Ready" Intensive Care Unit - Lessons from Singapore. <i>Ann Acad Med Singap</i> 2020; 49(7): 434-48.
15.	Cummings MJ, Baldwin MR, Abrams D, et al. Epidemiology, clinical course, and outcomes of critically ill adults with COVID-19 in New York City: a prospective cohort study. <i>Lancet</i> 2020; 395(10239): 1763-70.
16.	Diaz RA, Graf J, Zambrano JM, et al. Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation for COVID-19-associated Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome in Chile: A Nationwide Incidence and Cohort Study. <i>Am J Respir Crit Care Med</i> 2021; 204(1): 34-43.
17.	Diehl JL, Peron N, Chocron R, et al. Respiratory mechanics and gas exchanges in the early course of COVID-19 ARDS: a hypothesis-generating study. <i>Ann Intensive Care</i> 2020; 10(1): 95.
18.	Dreher M, Kersten A, Bickenbach J, et al. The Characteristics of 50 Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients With and Without ARDS. <i>Dtsch Arztebl Int</i> 2020; 117(16): 271-8.
19.	Dupuis C, Bouadma L, de Montmollin E, et al. Association Between Early Invasive Mechanical Ventilation and Day-60 Mortality in Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure Related to Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pneumonia. <i>Crit Care Explor</i> 2021; 3(1): e0329.
20.	Estenssoro E, Loudet CI, Ríos FG, et al. Clinical characteristics and outcomes of invasively ventilated patients with COVID-19 in Argentina (SATICOVID): a prospective, multicentre cohort study. <i>Lancet Respir Med</i> 2021; 9(9): 989-98.
21.	Fanelli V, Giani M, Grasselli G, et al. Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for COVID-19 and influenza H1N1 associated acute respiratory distress syndrome: a multicenter retrospective cohort study. <i>Critical Care</i> 2022; 26(1): 34.
22.	Ferreira JC, Ho YL, Besen B, et al. Protective ventilation and outcomes of critically ill patients with COVID-19: a cohort study. <i>Ann Intensive Care</i> 2021; 11(1): 92.
23.	Fogagnolo A, Grasso S, Dres M, et al. Focus on renal blood flow in mechanically ventilated patients with SARS-CoV-2: a prospective pilot study. <i>J Clin Monit Comput</i> 2021; 1-7.
24.	Gamberini L, Tonetti T, Spadaro S, et al. Factors influencing liberation from mechanical ventilation in coronavirus disease 2019: multicenter observational study in fifteen Italian ICUs. <i>J Intensive Care</i> 2020; 8: 80.
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Table S6a: Demographic data for patients with COVID-19-ARDS– Unselected population

First author	Country	Date of publication	Patients receiving IMV	Age (years) Mean (SD)	Number of males	BMI (kg/m ²)	Illness Severity scores
Abu Sayf ⁸⁰	USA	1-Oct-21	192	66·9 (14·2)	120	32·8 (8·2)	-
Baedorf Kassis ¹⁰³	USA	7-Mar-21	40	56·6 (16·0)	21	-	APACHE IV 110·1 (26) SOFA 12 (1·5)
Bain ³⁸	USA	5-Feb-21	27	65·1 (12·5)	14	34·7 (8·1)	Modified SOFA: 6·3 (3·1)
Bastos ²⁹	Brazil	11-Dec-20	18	-	-	-	-
Bavishi ³⁹	USA	-	54	58·0 (18·5)	37	-	SOFA: 9·2 (3·2)
Beloncle ⁶²	France	-	112	61·9 (15·8)	76	29·4 (5·3)	SAPS II: 47·4 (15·8)
Blot ⁴⁰	France	3-Nov-20	14	66·6 (5·8)	11	28·2 (38)	SAPS II: 26·5 (9·1) SOFA: 4·4 (0·8)
Boscolo ⁷⁰	Italy	28-Jul-21	241	65·6 (11·2)	189	27·4 (3·7)	SOFA: 5·7 (3·0) CCI: 1·4 (0·7)
Caravita ⁶⁴	Italy	17-Nov-20	21	65·6 (8·0)	18	28·3 (4·8)	-
Carboni Bisso ⁴¹	Argentina	1-Jan-21	114	67·5 (4·2)	75	-	APACHE II: 12·4 (4·9) SOFA: 3·5 (2·3) CCI: 4·3 (2·5)
Chaudhary ³⁰	USA	14-Oct-20	61	69·3 (12·1)	30	-	-
Chew ⁴²	Singapore	1-Oct-20	13	-	-	-	SOFA: 6·6 (2·5) APACHE II: 15·6 (10·8)
Cummings ⁷⁴	USA	-	203	61·6 (15·7)	171	30·8 (7·7)	SOFA: 10·6 (3·7)
Diehl ⁴⁴	France	17-Jun-20	22	64·3 (14·3)	19	-	SAPS II: 53·6 (15·8) SOFA: 9 (3·2)
Dreher ⁴⁵	Germany	27-May-20	24	63·4 (9·5)	15	29·4 (3·9)	SOFA: 7·6 (2·4)
Dupuis ⁶⁶	France	1-Feb-21	117	60·6 (12·8)	94	29·3 (5·6)	SAPS II: 40·4 (15·0) CCI: 1·4 (2·3)
Estenssoro ⁸	Argentina	-	1909	61·3 (13·4)	1294	29·7 (5·9)	SOFA: 5·4 (3·7) APACHE II: 15 (7·4) CCI: 1·4 (0·7)
Ferreira ⁶⁷	Brazil	-	984	60 (15)	895	27·0 (7·0)	SAPS III: 64 (17) SOFA: 14 (4)
Fogagnolo ⁴⁶	Italy	1-Jan-21	15	62 (11·5)	13	-	SOFA: 6·7 (4·9)
Gamberini ⁷⁵	Italy	18-Dec-20	240	-	-	-	SAPS II: 38·4 (11·2) SOFA: 5 (3·0)

Gattinoni ³⁶	Italy	15-May-20	16	-	-	-	-
Gibot ³⁵	France	22-Dec-21	17	66·1 (7·3)	15	30·8 (3·6)	-
Ibarra-Estrada ⁵⁷	Mexico	29-Sep-21	90	56 (15)	63	-	APACHE II: 14·8 (4·8)
Langer ⁷⁶	Italy	-	892	62·3 (10·4)	831	28 (4·5)	SOFA: 4 (1·5) APACHE II: 10 (4·5)
Lemmers ⁴⁸	Italy	1-Dec-20	169	65·3 (9·0)	133	28 (4·5)	-
Lemyze ⁴⁹	France	2-Dec-20	44	63 (10)	33	32·8 (6·5)	SAPS II: 43·5 (26·1) CCI: 1·4 (0·8)
Lenka ³³	USA	16-Nov-20	23	-	-	-	qSOFA: 0·6 (0·8)
Mahida ⁵¹	UK	1-Dec-20	111	55·3 (12·0)	84	30·1 (5·3)	APACHE II: 14·7 (4·5) SOFA: 8·4 (2·3)
Pan ⁷¹	China	20-Jul-21	20	64 (7)	12	-	SOFA: 11 (2)
Puah ⁷²	Singapore	9-Sep-21	102	61·3 (10·5)	75	26·6 (5·6)	APACHE II: 15·4 (9·0) SOFA: 4·4 (3·8)
Schavemaker ⁷⁹	Netherlands	-	1099	64·6 (11·3)	802	28·5 (4·6)	-
Schenck ⁶⁸	USA	-	267	64·6 (14·9)	193	29 (6·0)	-
Schmidt ⁶¹	France, Belgium Switzerland	23-Nov-20	2635	62·7 (12·6)	3141	28·4 (5·2)	
Torres ⁷³	Spain	13-Sep-21	1118	64·6 (11·1)	796	-	APACHE II: 12·5 (4·8) SOFA: 6·6 (2·2)
Wolf ⁵⁴	USA	3-Feb-21	249	60·4 (17·1)	175	-	Modified SOFA: 6 (3·0)
Yildirim ⁵⁵	Turkey	6-Jul-21	58	65·1 (13·4)	40	-	APACHE II: 20·6 (10·9) SAPS II: 51·4 (23·0) SOFA: 6·1 (3·4)
Zorbas ⁶⁹	Australia	-	25	71·5 (2·0)	14	31·9 (13·4)	APACHE II: 17·3 (8·8)
APACHE – SOFA, SAPS, qSOFA, CCI							

Table S6b. Demographic data for patients with COVID-19-ARDS – Selected population

First author	Country			Age (years)			Illness Severity scores
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		Date of publication	Patients receiving IMV	Mean (SD)	Number of males	BMI (kg/m ²)	
Bagate ³⁷	France	5-Nov-20	10	61.5 (17.2)	7	-	SAPS II: 38.2 (12.0) SOFA: 5.3 (3.4) CCI: 0.7 (1.7)
Bell ⁵⁹	USA	23-Feb-22	125	57 (13)	81	32.4 (7.5)	-
Diaz ⁴³	Chile	-	85	48 (10.6)	71	-	SOFA: 9.6 (3.8)
Fanelli ¹⁰²	Italy	5-Feb-22	146	53.4 (8.2)	124	29.7 (5.9)	-
Giraud ⁴⁷	Switzerland	2-Feb-21	10	57 (4)	5	31.5 (5)	SAPS II: 56 (3)
Jozwiak ³²	France	28-Dec-20	11	48.9 (17.8)	7	29.3 (5.1)	SAPS: 66.5 (17.0) SOFA: 11.9 (4.2)
Laghlam ⁵⁸	France	1-Jul-21	12	71.8 (8.7)	9	-	-
Lang ⁸²	Germany	-	34	67 (13)	28	28 (4.6)	SAPS II: 46 (12) SOFA: 8.9 (3.6)
Li ⁵⁰	USA	23-Dec-20	43	-	-	-	SOFA: 9.5 (2.3)
Mittermaier ⁵²	Germany	19-Oct-20	23	66.7 (13.4)	12	30.0 (6.5)	APACHE II: 19.0 (9.0) SOFA: 4.6 (4.0)
Park ⁵⁶	South Korea	6-Aug-21	23	68.9 (8.7)	15	25.3 (3.6)	APACHE II: 18.9 (10.3) SAPS II: 44.9 (23.7) SOFA: 8 (4.7)
Roldan ⁶⁰	Peru	12-Feb-22	15	55.2 (9.8)	14	26.6 (4.1)	APACHE II: 13.4(4.1)
Weiss ⁵³	USA	7-Nov-20	42	60.0 (13.4)	29	34.2 (7.5)	SOFA: 6.8 (2.5)
Wiles ³⁴	USA	30-Dec-20	11	68.5 (14.3)	9	-	APACHE III: 73.6 (17.3)
APACHE – SOFA, SAPS, qSOFA, CCI							

Table S7: Ventilator parameters and respiratory variables.

First author	CRS (ml/cmH ₂ O)	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ (mmHg)	PEEP (cmH ₂ O)	Tidal volume	Plateau pressure (cmH ₂ O)	Driving pressure (cmH ₂ O)	PaCO ₂ (mmHg)	FiO ₂ (%)	RR (per min)	Peak pressure (cmH ₂ O)
Abu Sayf	41.1 (17.9)	160.8 (89.6)	12.4 (3.7)	6 (1.5) mL/kg	-	12 (4.5)	42.4 (6.7)	-	-	-
Baedorf Kassis	32.3 (10.5)	151.7 (45.4)	13.5 (2.3)	6.24 (0.69) mL/kg	25.1 (2.9)	11.7 (3.2)	48 (7.7)	71.1 (20.7)	24.9 (5.4)	-
Bagate	29.1 (14.6)	84.8 (39.9)	12.6 (4.3)	6.6 (0.6) mL/kg	27.4 (2.58)	14.3 (3.4)	47.6 (12.9)	-	32.6 (4.3)	41.6 (2.58)
Bain	34.8 (15.9)	112.7 (59.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bastos	43.3 (11.4)	271.8 (131.1)	10.7 (2.4)	-	21.6 (4.62)	10.5(2.8)	-	-	-	-
Bavishi	34.8 (15.8)	166.2 (109.3)	11.1 (2.6)	-	-	12.5 (5.3)	-	-	-	-
Bell	27.1 (8.3)	114.3 (51)	12 (3)	412.9 (75) ml	27.6 (3.8)	15.7 (4.5)	77.0 (30.0)	24 -6		
Beloncle	35.4 (11.3)	143.4 (60.8)	12 (3.0)	6.3 (0.8) mL/kg	23.6 (5.3)	-	38.4 (6.8)	53.5 (22.5)	27.4 (3.8)	-
Blot	39.4 (15.2)	95.3 (30.8)	11.8 (2.9)	6.24 (0.74) mL/kg	22 (3.3)	10.5 (3.05)	36.5 (6.2)	-	-	-
Boscolo	49.1 (15.7)	153.9 (85.0)	11.6 (2.2)	7.8 (1.4) mL/kg	23 (4.5)	11(3.0)	44.7 (10.4)	60 (14.9)	16.7 (4.5)	-
Caravita	32.4 (14.3)	113.8 (55.7)	11 (4.8)	448.4 (127.2) mL	26.3 (4.8)	-	55.2 (18.3)	70 (15.9)	24 (6.4)	28.4 (5.6)
Carboni Bisso	37.8 (12.8)	205.3 (90.9)	10.0 (3.0)	7.2 (0.4) mL/kg	21.6 (3.8)	11.7 (3.0)	-	50 (15.0)	-	-
Chaudhary	26.7 (9.1)	-	7.6 (3.8)	-	25.7 (6.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Chew	30.8 (6.6)	193.2 (31.7)	11.7 (3.3)	-	22.7 (3.7)	10 (3.3)	-	45.9 (10.4)	-	-
Cummings	28.4 (10.5)	137.8 (91.8)	15 (4.5)	6.4 (1.0) mL/kg	27.0 (6.0)	14.6 (5.2)	-	-	-	26.6 (6.7)
Diaz	22.7 (7.5)	83.0 (26.8)	10.4 (4.1)	5.4 (1.0) mL/kg	26.2 (5.2)	15.7 (3.0)	58.7 (18.3)	-	-	-
Diehl	39.1 (9.2)	222.8 (103.8)	16 (1.6)	396.6 (54.7) mL	26.6 (2.4)	10.1 (2.2)	53.6 (14.3)	47.9 (14.3)	32.1 (5.2)	-
Dreher	39.4 (15.0)	119.2 (32.3)	13.4 (2.4)	-	-	-	-	67.9 (17.3)	-	-
Dupuis	39.3 (19.2)	115.3 (56.3)	12 (3.0)	6.1 (0.4) mL/kg	26 (4.5)	-	38.7 (7.5)	-	-	-
Estenssoro	36.4 (11.1)	163.2 (79.4)	10 (3.0)	6.4 (0.7) mL/kg	23 (4.5)	12 (3.0)	47.1 (11.1)	62.8 (26.0)	23.3 (4.5)	-

Fanelli	27.1 (9.7)	67.4 (17.9)	12 (2.9)	-	28.6 (3.7)	16 (4.5)	61.5 (17.2)	98.2 (3.7)	25.7 (5.9)	
Ferreira	32.4 (12.2)	171 (74)	10 (3.0)	6.5 (1.3) mL/kg	22 (5)	13 (4)	44 (10)	50 (14.8)	-	-
Fogagnolo	46.1 (9.0)	121.3 (46.6)	13.3 (1.6)	440 (65.4) mL	22.7 (1.6)	9.3 (1.6)	56.3 (13.1)	-	19.5 (3.3)	-
Gamberini	39.1 (11.2)	-	12 (3.0)	7.1 (1.0) mL/kg	24.6 (3.7)	-	-	-	-	-
Gattinoni	50.2 (14.3)									
Gibot	40.4 (11.3)	130.9 (42.0)	11.4 (3.2)	6.6 (0.6) mL/kg	23 (4.9)	12 (3.2)	-	-	24.4 (4.0)	-
Giraud	33 (4)	180 (45)	11 (1)	420 (35) mL/kg	23 (1)	-	-	-	22 (4)	-
Ibarra-Estrada	31 (9.4)	144 (46)	14 (3.0)	6.5 (0.8) mL/kg	27.6 (2.3)	13.8 (4.2)	-	-	-	-
Jozwiak	24.4 (13.6)	72.0 (26.3)	15.1 (4.2)	5.4 (2.0) mL/kg	29.7 (3.4)	14.6 (7.6)	58.7 (18.7)	90.1 (22.9)	26.5 (8.5)	-
Laghlam	25.7 (6.2)	146 (48)	9.9 (1.0)	5.5 (0.5) mL/kg	-	17.1 (4.3)	52 (8.9)	-	24.7 (5.1)	-
Lang	51 (28)	114 (33)	13 (3)	460 (130) mL	-	-	-	66 (19)	-	28 (5)
Langer	41.1 (12.6)	127.4 (63.1)	12 (3.0)	7.0 (1.1) mL/kg	24.4 (3.7)	11.6 (3.7)	43.7 (11.9)	73.5 (22.3)	21.1 (5.2)	-
Lemmers	28 (9.0)	117.0 (50.1)	12 (3.0)	5.9 (0.8) mL/kg	23 (4)	-	56 (16)	-	-	30 (5)
Lemyze	33.9 (9.3)	121 (42)	16.8 (3.8)	6.2 (0.56) mL/kg	29(4)	12.4 (3.8)	38.4 (8.4)	66 (28.4)	-	-
Lenka	44.7 (23.8)	121.6 (85.3)	16.7 (4.7)	-	26.5 (5.9)	8.4 (11.1)	-	66.4 (23.7)	-	-
Li	26.1 (8.5)	86.7 (30.3)	15.1 (3.9)	-	-	-	-	88.7 (19.9)	-	-
Mahida	28.7 (7.5)	109.9 (28.2)	10 (3.0)	5.2 (1.0) mL/kg	-	16.4 (3.8)	-	72.1 (19.5)	-	27 (4.5)
Mittermaier	54.3 (15.2)	197.9 (43)	20.1 (3.9)	6.4 (0.5) mL/kg	-	10.3 (3.1)	52.4 (9.7)	40.0 (10.6)	16.7 (2.4)	30.1 (2.9)
Pan	23 (8)	180 (75)	6 (2)	5.6 (0.8) mL/kg	23 (6)	17 (5)	60 (18)	-	-	-
Park	27.3 (8.5)	110.6 (31.6)	11.3 (3.2)	6.3 (1.1) mL/kg	-	13.7 (3.2)	44.4 (7.1)	-	22.4 (6.3)	-
Puah	37.2 (13.5)	187.6 (82.0)	10.7 (1.5)	-	23(4.5)	11.6 (3.8)	-	-	-	-
Roldan	28.5 (8.5)	137.5 (36.3)	14.5 (2.7)	5.4 (0.6) ml/kg	26.8 (2.9)	12.5 (2.4)	65.5 (13.9)			32.4 (3.1)
Schavemaker	33.9 (10.7)	125.9 (47.3)	12.8 (2.7)	6.5 (0.9) mL/kg	-	14.0 (3.2)	44.7 (8.3)	57.6 (14.5)	21.8 (3.4)	27.9 (4.3)
Schenck	29.8 (11.2)	106.5 (38.8)	10 (3.0)	7.1 (1.5) mL/kg	25 (6.0)	14.1 (4.6)	44.7 (10.4)	-	-	-

Schmidt	33·7 (11·9)	161·4 (86·8)	12 (3·0)	6·2 (0·7) mL/kg	24 (4·5)	13·4 (5·2)	40·4 (8·2)	-	-	-
Torres	38·9 (15·4)	122·6 (67·7)	12(3·0)	7·2 (1·2) mL/kg	-	12·2 (4·0)	44·0 (11·9)	78·5 (29·7)	20·7 (4·5)	31 (5·9)
Weiss	33·7 (11·1)	134·3(54)	14·8 (1·9)	6·1 (0·4) mL/kg	27·7 (4·0)	-	51·9 (12·7)	-	-	-
Wiles	38·9 (10·7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wolf	35·5 (11·0)	195·9 (93·4)	10 (3·0)	-	21·4 (3·7)	11·0 (3·0)	-	-	-	-
Yildirim	30·8 (11·5)	145·1 (83·6)	11·8 (2·7)	7·4 (2·0) mL/kg	16·6 (5·9)	16·6 (5·9)	-	-	-	-
Zorbas	39·7 (17·5)	162·3 (97)	9·5 (6·3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	23·8 (5·4)

Table S8: Secondary outcomes for COVID-19-ARDS.

Outcome	Number of studies	Mean (95%-CI)
ICU mortality	27 studies	35.7% (29.4% to 42.2%)
Hospital mortality	14 studies	39.1% (32.6% to 45.8%)
28-day mortality	13 studies	43.2% (32.6% to 54.1%)
Cumulative mortality	43 studies	40.3% (35.1% to 45.6%)
ICU Length of stay	25 studies	19 days (15 to 22)
Hospital Length of stay	17 studies	28 days (23 to 34)
Ventilator-free days	7 studies	5.2 days (2.9 to 7.6)

Table S9: Outcomes of all COVID-19-ARDS studies

First author	Length of stay (days)	Mortality (number)	Complications (number)	Interventions (number)
Abu Sayf	ICU: 12·6 (6·7) Hospital: 14·6 (10·5)	122	-	-
Baedorf Kassis	-	13	-	PP: 19 Tracheostomy: 1
Bagate	-	7	-	NMBA: 7 ECMO: 1
Bain	-	12	-	PP: 19 NMBA: 20 Inhaled vasodilators: 5 ECMO: 7 CRRT: 7 CCS: 7 Hydroxychloroquine: 2 Remdesivir: 15 Convalescent plasma: 10
Bastos	ICU: 21·6 (27·4) Hospital: 21·8 (35·0)	-	-	-
Bavishi	ICU: 12·8 (8·5) Hospital: 17·0 (15·5)	9	PE: 7	Remdesivir: 12 Anti-IL6 15 CCS: 15 Hydroxychloroquine: 5 VP 38 PP: 24 NMBA: 18 iNO: 3 RRT: 10 ECMO: 6 Tracheostomy: 11
Bell	-	-	-	Prone position: 125
Beloncle	-	29	VTE: 23 (PE: 19)	PP: 61 iNO: 14
Blot	-	3	VAP: 10 VTE: 6	Antibiotics: 3 CCS: 5 Hydroxychloroquine: 4 Remdesivir: 1 Prone: 8 ECMO: 0 VP: 9
Boscolo	ICU: 16·4 (11·9) Hospital: 29·6 (17·2)	78	-	-
Caravita	-	11	-	Steroids: 15 Antibiotics: 15 Hydroxychloroquine: 6 Antiretroviral agents: 6 VP: 3
Carboni Bisso	ICU: 19·5 (11·7) Hospital: 26·9 (14·5)	46	VAP: 11 Pneumothorax: 4 PE: 4	NMBA: 84 PP: 41 iNO: 12 ECMO: 6 Tracheostomy: 46 CCS: 99 Antibiotics: 98

				Convalescent plasma: 50 Ritonavir/Lopinavir: 18 Tocilizumab: 2
Chaudhary	-	40	-	PP: 18
Chew	ICU: 20·4 (16·6)	4	Pneumothorax: 1 VAP: 5 AKI: 9 VTE: 2	ECMO: 1 Tracheostomy: 4 RRT: 7 Lopinavir/Ritonavir: 7 B-interferon: 3 Hydroxychloroquine: 3 Tocilizumab: 3 Convalescent plasma: 2
Cummings	-	84	-	NMBA: 51 iNO: 22 PP: 35 ECMO: 6 Tracheostomy: 17 VP: 170 RRT: 79 Hydroxychloroquine: 185 Remdesivir: 23 Antibiotics: 229 CCS: 68 Anti-IL6: 44
Estenssoro	ICU: 17·8 (12·6) Hospital: 23·4 (16·3)	1101	AKI: 997 VAP: 617 VTE: 170	VP: 939 PP: 1176 RRT: 373 CCS: 1612 Convalescent plasma: 605 Tracheostomy: 464
Diaz	ICU: 39·3 (27·1) Hospital: 47·5 (33·9)	33	-	PP: 78 NMBA: 80 ECMO: 82
Diehl	-		-	-
Dreher	-	3	-	PP: 17 RRT: 11 Antibiotics: 20 ECMO: 8
Dupuis	ICU: 15·4 (8·3)	50	HAP-VAP: 49	Lopanavir/Ritonavir: 38 Hydroxychloroquine: 8 Tocilizumab: 9 Anakinra: 9 CCS: 31 PP: 82 iNO: 33 NMBA: 106
Estenssoro	ICU: 17·8 (12·6) Hospital: 23·4 (16·3)	1101	AKI: 997 VAP: 617 VTE: 170	VP: 939 PP: 1176 RRT: 373 CCS: 1612 Convalescent plasma: 605 Tracheostomy: 464
Fanelli	ICU: 47·3 (41·2) Hospital: 54·9 (43·4)	78	-	Prone position: 111 ECMO: 146 iNO: 51
Ferreira	ICU: 11·4 (8·9)	666	VAP: 393	PP: 427

	Hospital: 17·8 (11·1)		VTE: 279	Recruitment: 15 iNO: 2 ECMO: 10 CCS: 246 VP: 1095 RRT: 528 Tracheostomy: 169
Fogagnolo	-	-	AKI: 8	VP: 5 RRT: 4
Gamberini	ICU: 21·8 (14·1)	141	VAP: 251	Tracheostomy: 224 RRT: 76
Gattinoni	-	-	-	-
Gibot	-	-	-	-
Giraud	ICU: 25·9 (11·4) Hospital: 34·7 (10·5)	6	-	ECMO: 10 Tracheostomy: 5 PP: 10
Ibarra-Estrada	ICU: 12·1 (5·3)	62	Barotrauma: 8 VTE: 10	Tracheostomy: 24
Jozwiak	-	6	ECMO-related complications: 9	NMBA: 11 iNO: 3 PP: 11 ECMO: 11
Laghlam	-	6	-	Tracheostomy: 5
Lang	ICU: 21 (19)	17	AKI: 29 VAP: 6 VTE: 5	Therapeutic positioning manoeuvres*: 30 PP: 23 RRT: 12 VP: 28 ECMO: 8
Langer	ICU: 16·4 (11·9) Hospital: 30·8 (21·5)	405	-	PP: 648 CCS: 892
Lemmers	ICU: 11·1 (9·7) Hospital: 16·1 (11·2)	86	Barotrauma: 23	-
Lemyze	-	10	-	NMBA: 34 PP: 33 VP: 36 RRT: 16 Tracheostomy: 18
Lenka	ICU: 10·2 (7·7) Hospital: 14·8 (7·7)	10	VTE: 5	VP: 12 NMBA: 9 IV pulmonary vasodilators: 8 PP: 7 ECMO: 3 Hydroxychloroquine: 19 L/R: 5 Remdesivir: 0 Tocilizumab: 3 Azithromycin: 19 CCS: 15 RRT: 2
Li	-	27	-	ECMO: 3 PP: 43 Inhaled EPO: 43
Mahida	ICU: 17 (10·5)	40	-	RRT: 46 Tracheostomy: 55
Mittermaier	Hospital: 56·3 (32·9)	7	-	PP: 9 ECMO: 3
Pan	-	12	-	-
Park	-	5	-	PP: 23 iNO: 8 RRT: 4 Tracheostomy: 12
Puah	ICU: 13·4 (9·9)	13	AKI: 55	PP: 38

			Barotrauma: 5 VAP: 4 Cardiac complications: 23	NMBA: 50 ECMO: 5 VP: 12 RRT: 30 Tracheostomy: 10
Roldan	-	6	-	Prone position: 15
Schavemaker	ICU: 19.7 (13.7) Hospital: 24.9 (17.3)	358	VTE: 314 AKI: 488	PP: 326 Recruitment manoeuvre: 20 ECMO: 4 NMBA: 297 Tracheostomy: 186 RRT: 201
Schenck	-	49	-	NMBA: 161 PP: 108 RRT: 54 Antibiotics: 240 CCS: 146 Toc: 28 VP: 254 Rem/Placebo: 30 Hydroxychloroquine: 246 IVIG: 6
Schmidt	ICU: 17.8 (14.1) Hospital: 24.8 (20)	820	VTE: 373 VAP: 1209	Tracheotomy: 198 PP: 1556 NMBA: 1966 iNO: 425 CCS: 888 ECMO: 235 RRT: 623
Torres	ICU: 21.1 (15.6) Hospital: 32.5 (21.5)	419	-	-
Weiss	-	11	-	Remdesivir: 1 Toc: 18 Hydroxychloroquine: 40 Azithromycin: 37 CCS 35 ECMO: 5 PP: 42
Wiles	-	-	AKI: 11 VTE: 2	RRT: 7 Tracheostomy: 1
Wolf	ICU: 16.6 (11.2)	72	-	PP: 136 NMBA: 65 iNO: 48 RRT: 24 VP: 240 ECMO: 4 Tracheostomy: 71
Yildirim	-	-	-	-
Zorbas	ICU: 14.2 (12.0) Hospital: 24.0 (22.2)	6	-	Tracheostomy: 3 Hydroxychloroquine: 2 Azithromycin: 21 L/R: 2 CCS: 7 PP: 6 iNO: 6 iProstacyclin: 3

AKI: Acute Kidney Injury, PE: Pulmonary Embolism, VAP: Ventilator-Acquired Pneumonia, VTE: Venous Thromboembolism, ECMO: Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, iEPO: Inhaled Epoprostenol, iNO: Inhaled Nitric Oxide, iProstacyclin: Inhaled Prostacyclin, NMBA: Neuromuscular Blocking Agents, RM: Recruitment manoeuvre, RRT: renal replacement therapy, PP: Prone position
*Therapeutic positioning manoeuvres included complete proning, incomplete proning (135°), pilot's seat positioning or the use of a rotational bed

Table S10: Sensitivity analysis based on sample size

Sample size in the study	Number of studies	Sample size	CRs (95%-CI) ml/cmH₂O	p-value
>100	20	11,187	35.0 (32.4 to 37.5)	0.53
≤100	31	908	34.6 (31.8 to 37.3)	

Table S11: Landmark ARDS clinical trials from the pre-COVID period

First Author	Control / Intervention arm	Subgroups (n)	Mean Crs	Inclusion criteria for PaO ₂ /FiO ₂	Mean (SD) PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ ratio	Mean (SD) Tidal volume (mL)	Mean (SD) PEEP
Brower RG ⁵²	Control	273	31 (15)	<300	168 (66)	6.1 (0.8)	8.9 (3.5)
	Intervention	276	39 (34)		220 (89)	6.0 (0.9)	14.7 (3.5)
Cavalcant A ⁵³	Control	509	30.3 (14.4)	<200	N/R	5.8 (1.0)	12.7 (3.3)
	Intervention	501	29.2 (12.4)		N/R	5.8 (1.1)	12.2 (3.0)
Guerin C ⁵⁴	Control	378	41 (15)	<300	155 (59)	8.1 (1.9)	7.5 (3.2)
	Intervention	413	40 (20)		150 (59)	8.1 (2)	7.9 (3.4)
Guérin C ⁵⁵	Control	229	35 (15)	<150	100 (20)	6.1 (0.6)	10 (4)
	Intervention	237	36 (23)		100 (30)	6.1 (0.6)	10 (3)
Hodgson C ⁵⁶	Control	56	34.17 (12.83)	<200	122 (41)	6.0 (0.9)	11.7 (3.0)
	Intervention	58	35.18 (11.61)		168 (55)	5.8 (1.4)	16.1 (3.6)
Steinberg KP ⁵⁷	Control	91	24.9 (11.7)	<200	126 (40)	7.4 (2.0)	12.3 (4.7)
	Intervention	89	23.3 (10.2)		126 (42)	7.2 (2.1)	12.9 (5.6)
Mancebo J ⁵⁸	Control	62	32 (10)	<200	161 (94)	8.6 (1.6)	12.3 (2.4)
	Intervention	80	31 (11)		132 (74)	8.3 (1.7)	12.4 (1.9)
Mercat A ⁵⁹	Control	382	36.1 (13.8)	<300	143 (57)	7.5 (1.5)	7.9 (3.3)
	Intervention	385	36.4 (14.6)		155 (58)	7.4 (1.4)	8.2 (3.7)
Papazian L ⁶⁰	Control	162	31.9 (10.7)	<150	115 (41)	6.48 (0.92)	9.2 (3.5)
	Intervention	177	31.5 (11.6)		106 (36)	6.55 (1.12)	9.2 (3.2)

Cr_s: static compliance of the respiratory system, PaO₂: Partial pressure of oxygen, FiO₂: Fraction of inspired Oxygen, PEEP: Positive end expiratory pressure, N/R: Not reported

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