

**Table S1:** Symptom presentation at admission

Symptom	Methylprednisolone (n=136)	Dexamethasone (n=110)	p
Fever n (%)	117 (86.0)	95 (86.4)	0.940
Dyspnoea n (%)	92 (67.6)	65 (59.1)	0.165
Cough n (%)	69 (50.7)	66 (60.0)	0.147
Myalgia n (%)	8 (5.9)	8 (7.3)	0.660
Headache n (%)	4 (2.9)	3 (2.7)	0.920
Asthenia n (%)	45 (33.1)	50 (45.5)	0.048
Pharyngeal pain n (%)	2 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0.202
Rhinorrhoea n (%)	4 (2.9)	1 (0.9)	0.261
Anosmia n (%)	2 (1.5)	3 (2.7)	0.487
Dysgeusia n (%)	3 (2.2)	1 (0.9)	0.424
Gastrointestinal disorders n (%)	18 (13.2)	23 (20.9)	0.108
Syncope n (%)	12 (8.8)	6 (5.5)	0.313

**Table S2:** Clinical characteristics at admission.

N	Methylprednisolone (n=136)	Dexamethasone (n=110)	p
Heart rate (mean, SD)	85 (17)	87 (17)	0.609
Mean SBP mmHg (mean, SD)	133 (24)	141 (20)	0.013
Mean DBP mmHg (mean, SD)	77 (15)	82 (12)	0.021
Oxygen Saturation % (mean, SD)	93.1 (3.1)	93.0 (4.2)	0.716
Respiratory rate (mean, SD)	23 (6)	22 (5)	0.261
Body temperature °C (mean, DS)	36.8 (1.3)	36.6 (1.0)	0.492
SOFA score (mean, SD)	3.85 (1.4)	4.20 (1.5)	0.330
Padua prediction score (mean, SD)	2.09 (2.2)	1.99 (2.0)	0.683

Abbreviations: SD, standard deviation; SBP systolic blood pressure; DBP diastolic blood pressure

**Table S3.** Primary outcomes in patients with age  $\geq 80$  years (n=95).

<b>30 days mortality</b>				
<b>Unadjusted</b>			<b>Adjusted*</b>	
<b>Treatment</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>DEX vs. MP</b>	1.25 (0.54 – 2.92)	0.591	1.46 (0.57 – 3.69)	0.424
<b>s-ICU/ICU admission</b>				
<b>Unadjusted</b>			<b>Adjusted*</b>	
<b>Treatment</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>DEX vs. MP</b>	0.54 (0.16 – 1.84)	0.328	0.70 (0.19 – 2.59)	0.598
*Adjusted by sex, comorbidities, use of antibiotics, use of Remdesivir, duration of symptoms before admission				

Abbreviations: s-ICU: semi-intensive care unit; ICU: intensive care unit, DEX Dexamethasone; MP: Methylprednisolone; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.

**Table S4.** Primary outcomes in patients with age < 80 years (n=151).

<b>30 days mortality</b>				
<b>Unadjusted</b>			<b>Adjusted*</b>	
<b>Treatment</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>DEX vs. MP</b>	0.64 (0.10 – 3.997)	0.641	1.04 (0.14 – 7.36)	0.969
<b>s-ICU/ICU admission</b>				
<b>Unadjusted</b>			<b>Adjusted*</b>	
<b>Treatment</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>OR (95% CI)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>DEX vs. MP</b>	0.63 (0.17 – 2.36)	0.502	0.84 (0.20 – 3.58)	0.821
*Adjusted by sex, comorbidities, use of antibiotics, use of Remdesivir, duration of symptoms before admission				

Abbreviations: s-ICU: semi-intensive care unit; ICU: intensive care unit, DEX Dexamethasone; MP: Methylprednisolone; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.

**Table S5:** Rates and type of complications occurring during hospitalization (all data are expressed as n, %).

	<b>Methylprednisolone (n=136)</b>	<b>Dexamethasone (n=110)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>All Complications</b>	60 (44.1)	41 (37.3)	0.278
<b>Deep venous thrombosis</b>	0 (0.0)	1 (0.9)	0.265
<b>Pulmonary embolism</b>	8 (5.9)	9 (8.2)	0.480
<b>Haemorrhage</b>	1 (0.7)	1 (0.9)	0.880
<b>Atrial Fibrillation (new diagnosis)</b>	8 (5.9)	4 (3.6)	0.416
<b>Heart failure</b>	4 (2.9)	3 (2.7)	0.920
<b>Stroke/TIA</b>	0 (0.0)	1 (0.9)	0.265
<b>Acute renal injury</b>	2 (1.5)	3 (2.7)	0.487
<b>Infections</b>	10 (7.4)	5 (4.5)	0.360
<b>Diabetes (new diagnosis)</b>	3 (2.2)	6 (5.5)	0.177