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Title: Effect of excluding ICU-admission on clinical outcomes in a randomized control trial studying the effect of corticosteroids in patients hospitalized with CAP

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Body: Introduction: recently 2 Dutch studies were performed investigating the effect of adjunctive steroids in patients with CAP. The study of Snijders (AJRCCM 2010) showed no difference in outcome, whereas de study of Meijvis (Lancet 2011) yielded a significant reduction in Length of Stay (LOS) by one day. However the Meijvis study did not include patients admitted to the ICU. Aim: exploring the effect of ICU admission in the Snijders study on clinical outcomes. Results: Out of 213 patients 22 (10,3%) patients were admitted to the ICU. Clinical outcomes are shown in table 1 and fig. 1. In the non-ICU group there were more late failure in the prednisolone group than in the placebo group (17 (19.1%) patients vs 6 (5.9%), p=0.007). Conclusions: When excluding ICU-patients prednisolone did have an impact on LOS and TTCS with an increased rate of late failures.

Table 1. Clinical outcomes

With ICU admission	Prednisolon (n=104)	Placebo (n=109)	p-value
Clinical cure at d ay 7	84 (80.8%)	93/109 (85.3%)	0.38
LOS – days (IQR)	6 (5-8)	7 (5-8)	0.16
Time to clinical stability (IQR	3 (2-4)	3 (2-4)	0.97
30 day mortality	6/106 (5.8%)	6/109 (5.5%)	0.93
Without ICU admission	Prednisolone (n=89)	Placebo (n=102)	
Clinical cure at day 7	80 (89.9%)	89 (87.3%)	0.57
LOS – days (IQR)	6 (4.3-8)	7 (5-10)	0.07
Time to clinical stability (IQR)	3 (2-4)	4 (3-5)	0.001
30 day mortality	1 (1.1%)	6 (5.9%)	0.12