**Higher vs. Lower Doses of Dexamethasone in Patients with COVID-19 and Severe Hypoxia: the COVID STEROID 2 trial**

**Objective**

To assess the effects of higher (12 mg) vs. lower doses (6 mg) of intravenous dexamethasone on the number of days alive without life-support in adult patients with COVID-19 and severe hypoxia.

**Inclusion criteria**

* Aged 18 years or above **AND**
* Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) requiring hospitalization **AND**
* One of the following:
  + Invasive mechanical ventilation **OR**
  + Non-invasive ventilation or continuous use of CPAP for hypoxia **OR**
  + Oxygen supplementation with an oxygen flow of at least 10 L/min independent of delivery system

**If eligible contact tel. [INSERT LOCAL NUMBER]**

**Intervention**

Active medication: Intravenous bolus injection of 12 mg dexamethasone (3.6 ml) in isotonic saline (1.4 ml) every 24hours (bolus volume 5 ml).

**Comparator**

Active medication: Intravenous bolus injection of 6 mg dexamethasone (1.8 ml) in isotonic saline (3.2 ml) every 24hours (bolus volume 5 ml).

**Invention period**

Up to 10 days OR until discharge from participating site OR until death (whichever comes first).

The intervention period will be adjusted so that the number of consecutive days with the use of corticosteroids for COVID-19 before randomisation is subtracted from the 10-day intervention period.