

Higher-dose corticosteroids linked to increased risk of death in some hypoxic COVID-19 patients

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A new study to be presented at this year's European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases ([ECCMID 2023](#), Copenhagen April

15-18), and published in *The Lancet*, shows that compared with standard care that included low-dose corticosteroid use, treating hypoxic COVID-19 patients needing only oxygen therapy or no breathing support with higher-dose corticosteroids is associated with a 60% increased risk of death.

This study, conducted by the RECOVERY Collaborative Group and led by Prof Sir Peter Horby and Prof Sir Martin Landray (both of the University of Oxford, UK), had already identified that low-dose corticosteroids reduce mortality for patients with COVID-19 requiring oxygen or ventilatory support. Since May 2021, the RECOVERY trial has evaluated the use of a higher dose of corticosteroids in this patient group. However, in May 2022, the independent Data Monitoring Committee advised that this treatment assessment be stopped for those patients receiving oxygen alone or no breathing support. The trial continues to study the effects of high-dose corticosteroids for those needing non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation.

Eligible and consenting [adult patients](#) with COVID-19 and clinical evidence of hypoxia (i.e., receiving oxygen or with [oxygen saturation](#)

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