

**Supplementary Table 1.** Baseline characteristics in control and test group

Variable	Control group (n=40)	Test group (n=22)	P-value
Age (yr)	73.5 (39–92)	76.5 (46–87)	0.489
Male	24 (60.0)	14 (63.6)	0.779
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	21.2±0.7	20.6±1.0	0.621
Underlying diseases			
Diabetes mellitus	15 (37.5)	9 (40.9)	0.792
Hypertension	21 (52.5)	14 (63.6)	0.397
Chronic heart failure	3 (7.5)	2 (9.1)	0.826
Coagulopathy	2 (5.0)	1 (4.5)	0.936
Chronic kidney disease	4 (10.0)	3 (13.6)	0.665
Chronic liver disease	2 (5.0)	3 (13.6)	0.232
Chronic pulmonary disease	13 (32.5)	8 (36.4)	0.758
Cancer	9 (22.5)	10 (45.5)	0.061
Stroke	8 (20.0)	3 (13.6)	0.53
Cause of admission to ICU			
Respiratory failure	32 (80.0)	18 (81.8)	0.862
Cardiac arrest	6 (15.0)	2 (9.1)	0.507
Septic shock	1 (2.5)	0 (0)	1
Acute decompensated heart failure	0 (0)	1 (4.5)	0.355
Disease severity			
APACHE II	32±1.3	33±1.5	0.371
Initial P/F ratio	197±17.3	181±25.8	0.5
Steroid use (conversion to methylprednisolone)	120±25.2	127±36.4	0.836

Values are presented as median (range), number (%), or mean±standard error.

BMI, body mass index; ICU, medical intensive care unit; APACHE, acute physiology and chronic health evaluation; P/F ratio, initial arterial oxygen pressure divided by the fraction of inspired oxygen.