

Host transcriptome signatures associated with Covid-19 severity and thromboembolic complications



Cosimo Cristella
Amsterdam UMC



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101003589.

Mild n=29
(home isolation)



GGD
Amsterdam

Moderate n=22
(hospital)



Severe n= 58
(ICU)



Erasmus MC
University Medical Center Rotterdam

Matched Controls
n=109
(MERMAIDS
convalescent)



Whole blood
tempus tubes

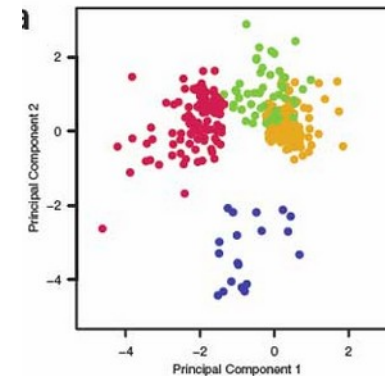


Microarrays scan



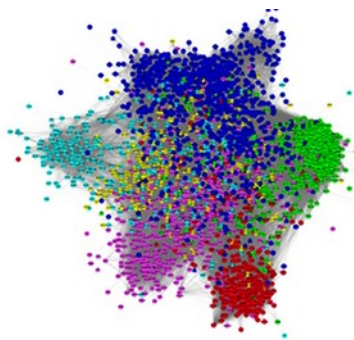
Gene expression data
pre-processing and
normalization

Data visualization and
analysis of variation

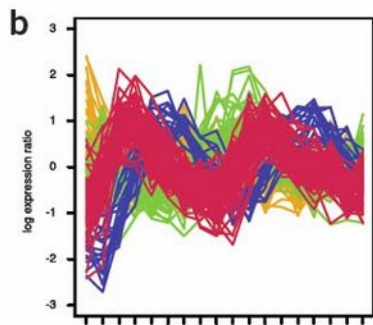


- Study the pathophysiology of Covid-19
- Identify diagnostic /prognostic markers

Modules characterization

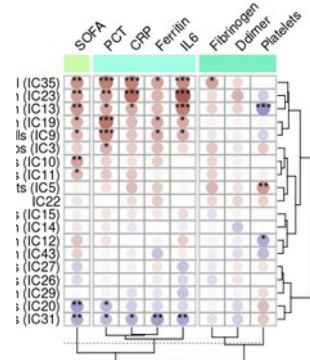


Functional
interpretation

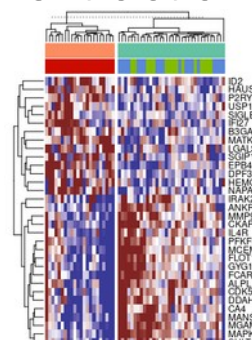


Modules activity across
severity

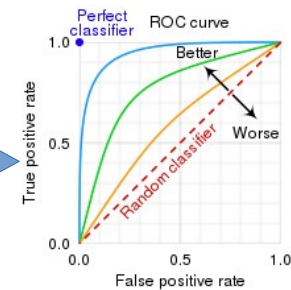
Relate modules to
clinical features



Signature
extraction



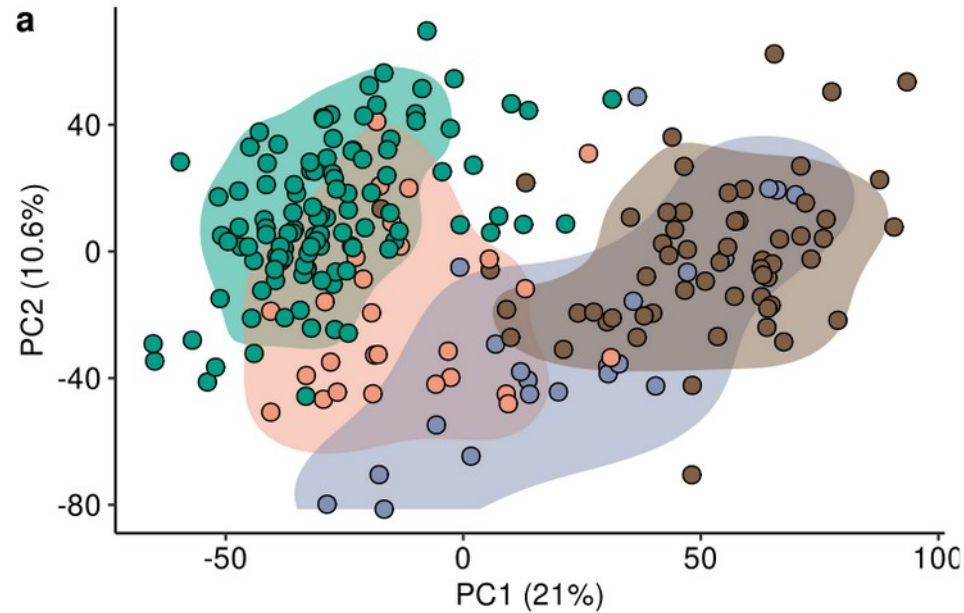
Signature
testing



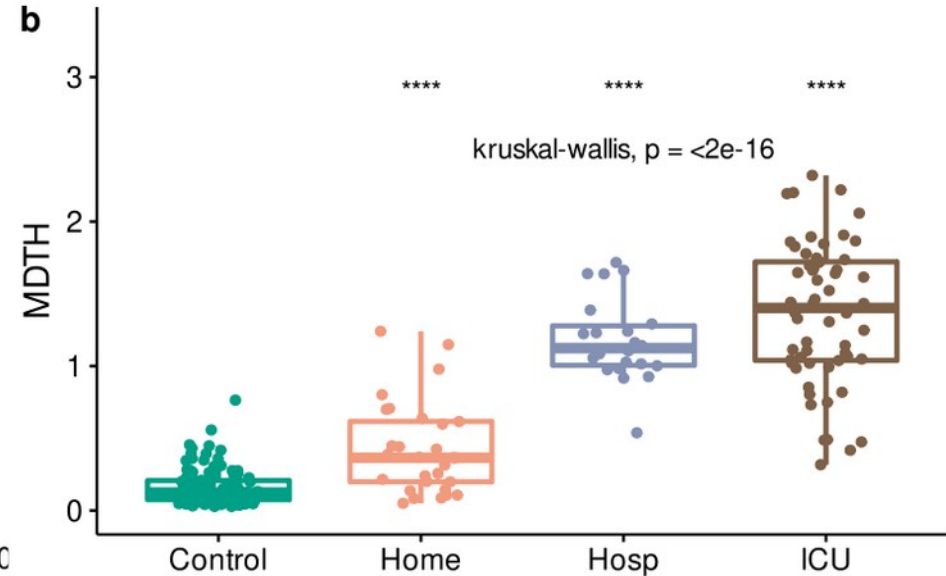
Variation of transcriptome data reflects severity



Principal component analysis



Molecular distance to health (MDTH)



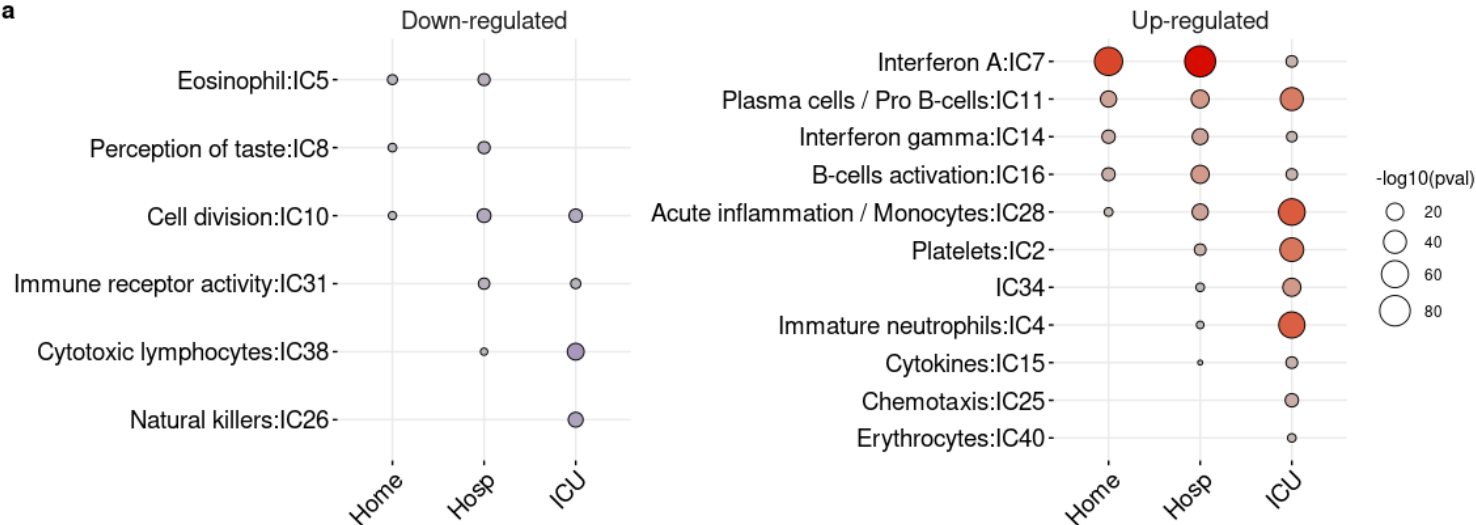
Care ● Control ● Home ● Hosp ● ICU

Differential module expressions reveal common and distinct transcriptional modalities between severity groups

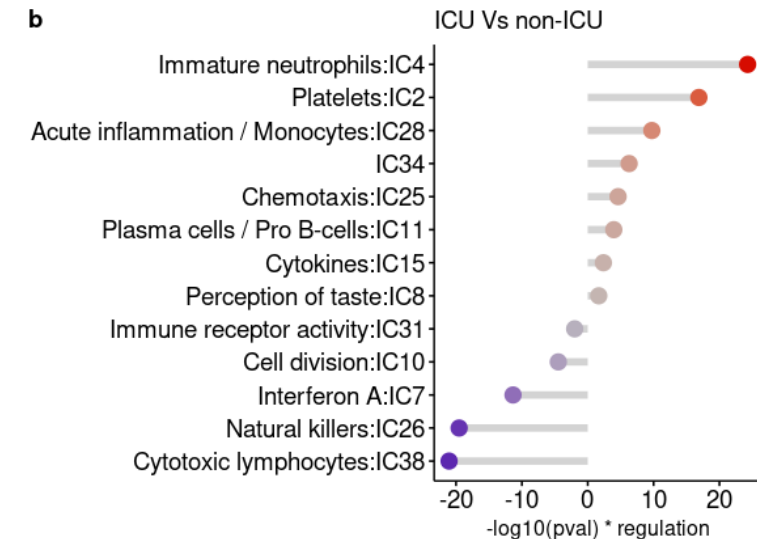


Differential modules expression with respect to control

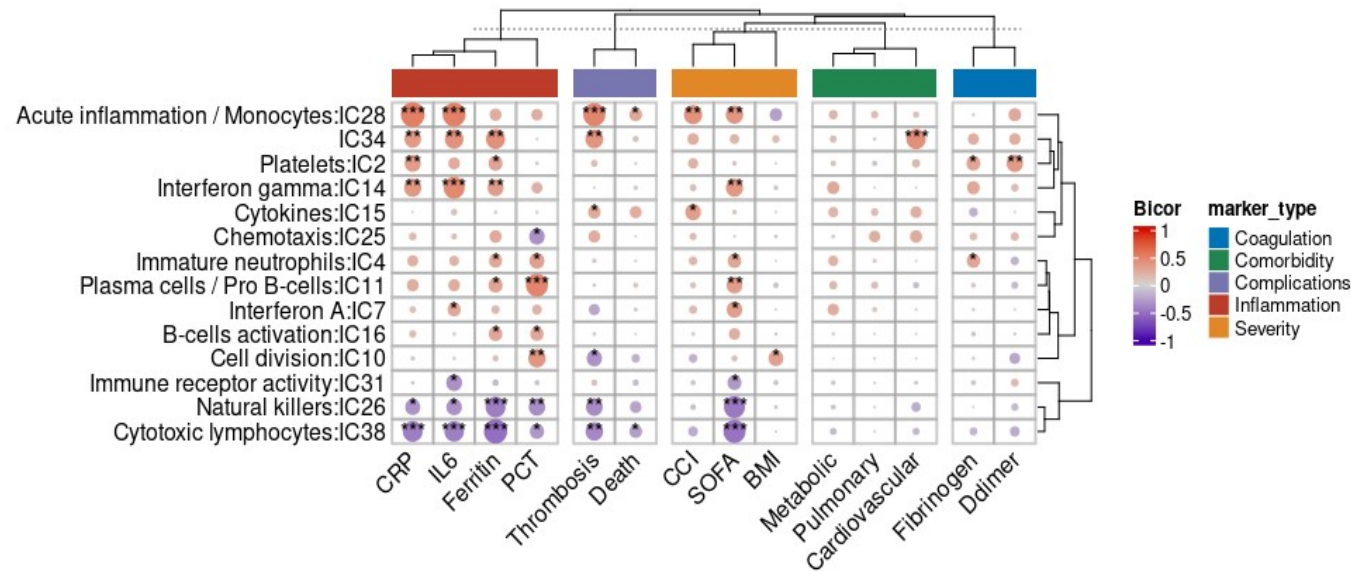
a



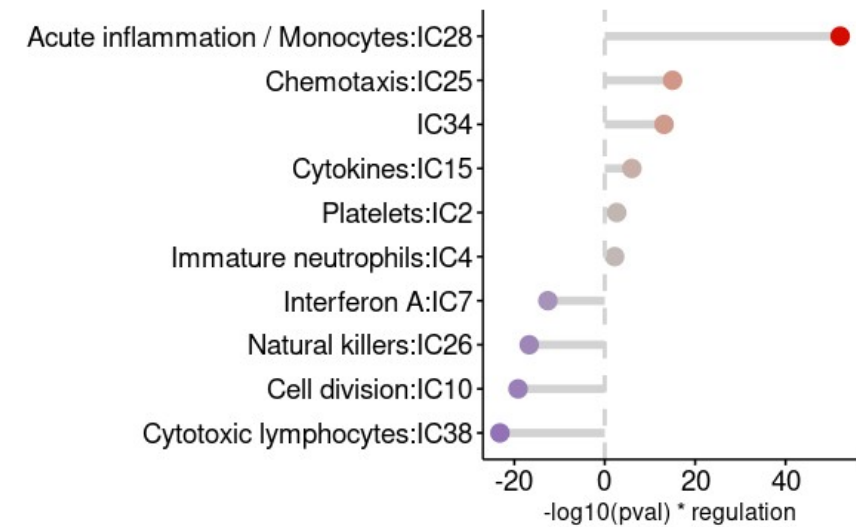
b



Correlation of expression modules with clinical markers and complications



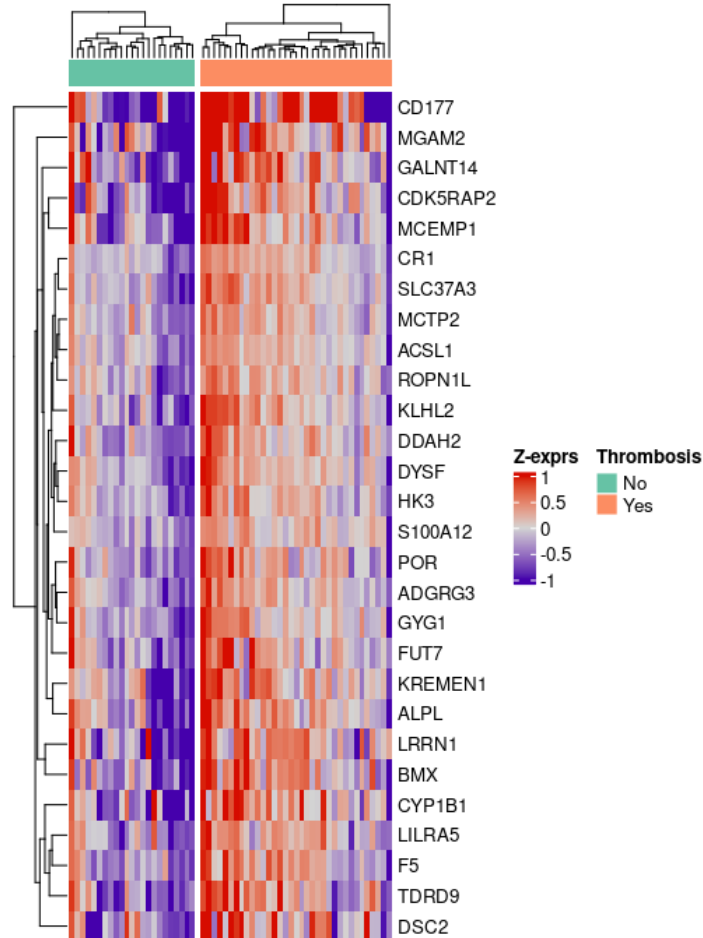
Modules enrichment thrombotic vs non-thrombotic



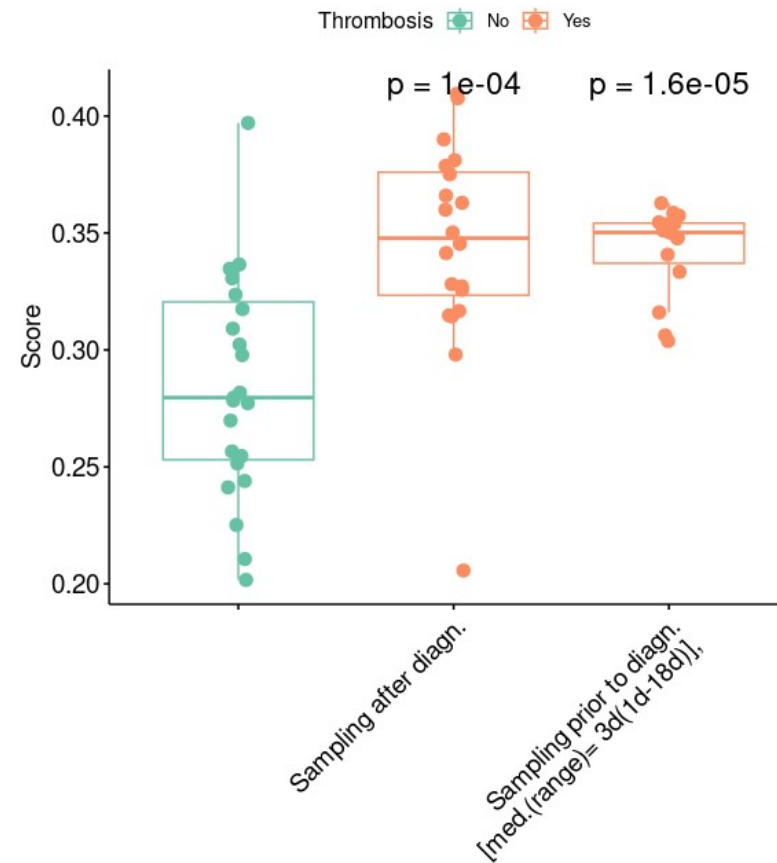
Discovery of a 28-gene signature associated with thrombotic complications



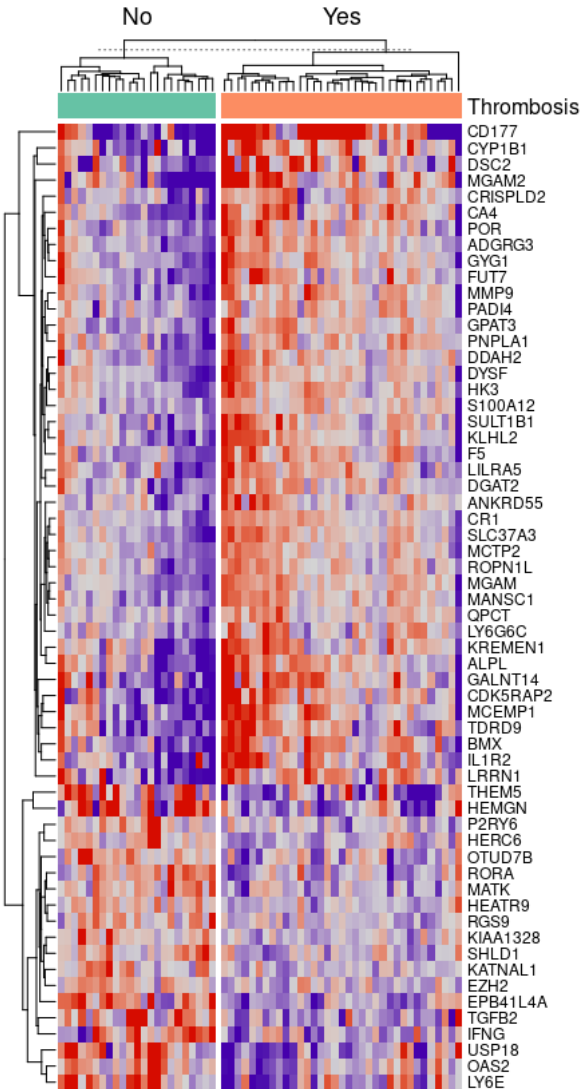
Acute inflammation module:
Thrombosis Vs No thrombosis



Single-subject
scoring



Translating the signature into a feasible 2-gene signature for potential clinical application

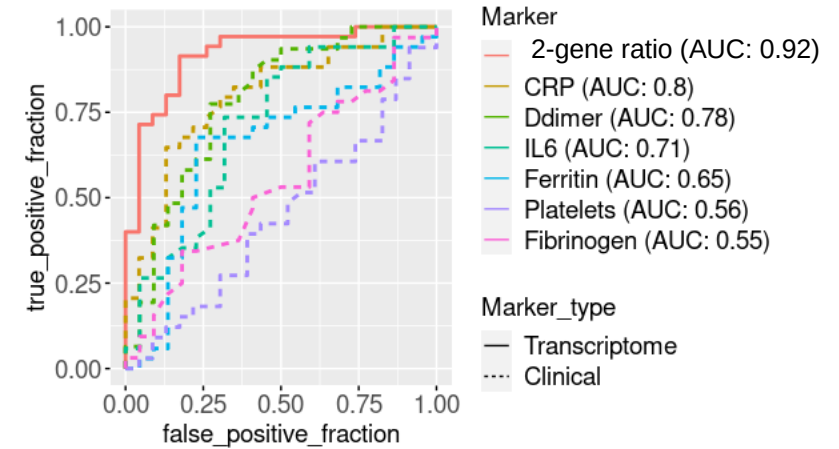


Positively associated genes

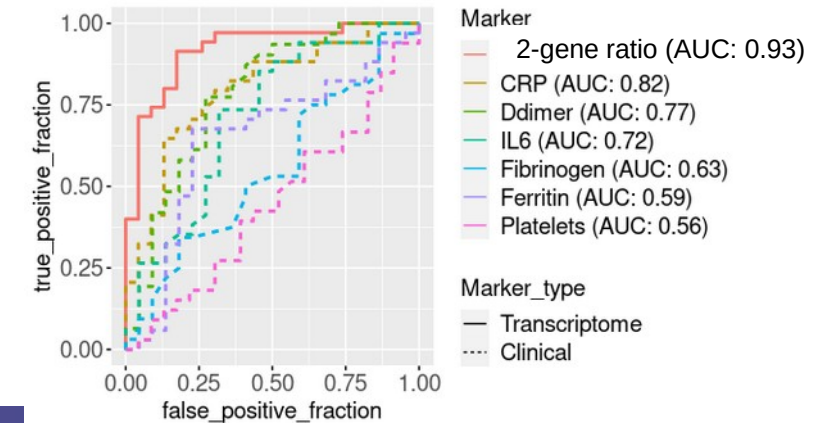
Negatively associated genes

ROC curves of thrombosis diagnosis

Sampling after clinical diagnosis



Sampling prior to clinical diagnosis



Work in progress ...



Matched case-control study to identify molecular biomarkers of progression to severe disease in Covid-19:

- **Cases (n=57):**
 - Died because of Covid-19 or
 - Was admitted to the hospital because of Covid-19 and received mechanical ventilation (and survived)
- **Controls (n=114):**
 - Was admitted to hospital because of Covid-19 and who received at most supplemental oxygen treatment (for the management of oxygenation problems)
 - Two controls for each case to increase statistical confidence

| Characteristic | Case, N = 57 [†] | Control, N = 114 [†] |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| sex | | |
| Female | 18 (32%) | 35 (31%) |
| Male | 39 (68%) | 79 (69%) |
| Age | 66 (58, 71) | 63 (57, 69) |
| Symptoms_duration | 7 (4, 9) | 7 (5, 9) |
| Oxy_treatment | | |
| Invasive mechanical ventilation/ECMO | 40 (70%) | 0 (0%) |
| No additional oxygen or (mechanical) ventilation treatment | 0 (0%) | 7 (6.1%) |
| Non-invasive mechanical ventilation with oxygen | 11 (19%) | 0 (0%) |
| Supplemental oxygen treatment only | 5 (8.8%) | 107 (94%) |
| Unknown | 1 (1.8%) | 0 (0%) |
| N_Comorbidities | | |
| 0 | 18 (32%) | 35 (31%) |
| 1 | 14 (25%) | 36 (32%) |
| 2 | 14 (25%) | 31 (27%) |
| 3 | 9 (16%) | 10 (8.8%) |
| 4 | 2 (3.5%) | 2 (1.8%) |
| Dexamethason | 31 (54%) | 62 (54%) |
| Outcome_type | | |
| Alive, discharged | 4 (7.0%) | 108 (95%) |
| Alive, still admitted | 4 (7.0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Alive, transferred to other hospital | 5 (8.8%) | 4 (3.5%) |
| Deceased | 44 (77%) | 0 (0%) |
| Withdrawal consent | 0 (0%) | 2 (1.8%) |

[†] n (%); Median (IQR)

Acknowledgments



Amsterdam UMC

Sarah van Leeuwen
Karen de Haan
Dirk Eggink
Hugo van Willigen
Frank van Someren Greve
Victoria Janes
Brendon Scicluna
Menno de Jong



Matthijs Raadsen
Rik Endeman (ICU)
Johan van den Akker
Rory de Vries
Eric van Gorp
Pieter Fraaij
Marion Koopmans



Marjolein Esschoten
Gijs Van Nierop
Cristina Prat Aymerich
Patricia Bruijning



James Lee
Jake Dunning
Peter Horby



Maria Prins
Elke Wynberg

