

# HYDROCORTISONE THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH SEPTIC SHOCK

**CORTICUS Trial:** A multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study trial

52 ICUs

Total of 499 patients with septic shock within 72 hours of shock, all underwent corticotropin stimulation test

251 Patients

## HYDROCORTISONE

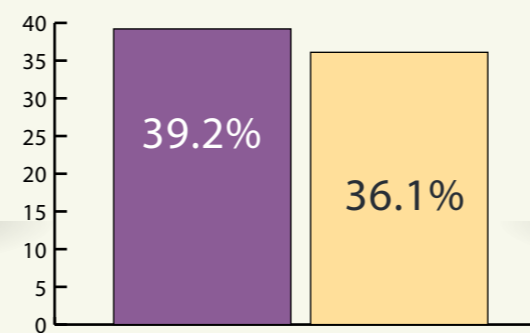
50 mg of intravenous hydrocortisone every 6 hours for 5 days; then tapered during a 6-day period.

248 Patients

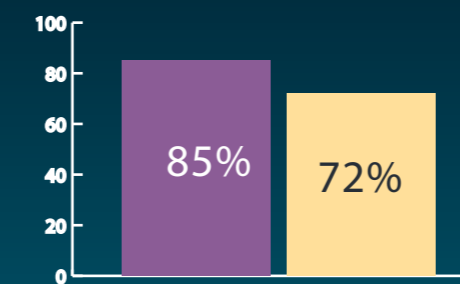
## PLACEBO

Vials containing placebo were identical to those containing hydrocortisone.

P=0.69



28-day Mortality in non-responders

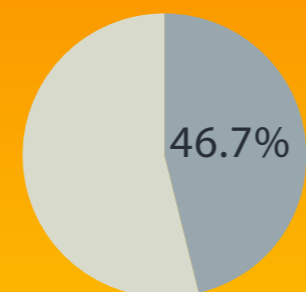


## HYPERGLYCEMIA

(85% vs 72%, RR 1.18[1.07-1.31])

## RESPONSE TO CORTICOTROPIN

233 (46.7%) did not have a response to corticotropin



## MEDIAN TIME TO REVERSAL OF SHOCK

(3.3 vs 6.9 days; P<0.001)

## SUPERINFECTION

(33% vs 26%; RR 1.27 [0.96-1.68]).

**Hydrocortisone did not improve survival but hastened the reversal of shock!**

January 10, 2008