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| **Supplemental Table 1.** Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics in all patients supported with VV-ECMO prior to tracheostomy |
| ***Baseline variables*** | *values* |
| **Demographics**Age, yearsGender, malesHeight, cmWeight, kgBMI, kg/m2**Etiology of ARDS**Infectious – *bacterial*Infectious – *viral*Infectious- viral & bacterialInfectious –unknownUnknownTraumaToxicAutoimmuneNeoplastic**Severity of illness score**APACHE-II Score on ICU admissionSOFA Score on ICU admissionSOFA Score on PDT**Arterial gas analysis**PaO2 , kPaPaCO2 , kPapHLactate, mmol L-1Base excess, mmol L-1**Haemodynamic parameters**Systolic arterial Pressure, mmHgDiastolic arterial Pressure, mmHgMean arterial Pressure, mmHgHeart rate, beats min-1**ECMO settings**ECMO pump flow, L min-1Sweep gas flow, L min-1Transmembrane Pressure, mmHgPost-oxygenator PaO2, kPa**Ventilatory settings**Pressure control modeAPRVPressure support modeTidal volume (ml kg-1)Actual respiratory rate (min-1)FiO2 (%)PaO2 / FiO2 (kPa)**Pharmacological therapy**Vasopressor, yes Inotropes, yesDual antiplatelet, yes | 47(24)39(60)170(20)77(25)27(8)26(40)11(17)6(9)6(9)5(8)3(5)2(3)2(3)1(2)18(5)10(6)9(6)9.5(2.0)6.4(1.4)7.38(0.06)1.4(0.6)1.5(4.4)113(27)56(12)75(17)94(23)3.2(1.1)3.0(4.5)21(7)56.4(20.1)24(37)8(12)33(51)6(4.6)20(11)35(10)26(12)16(25)2(3)1(2) |

Data for continuous variables are represented as median (interquartile range) and categorical variables as count with percentages in brackets

BMI, Body mass index; APACHE-II score, Acute Physiology And Chronic Health Evaluation; APRV, Airway pressure release ventilation; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; SOFA score, Sequential Organ Failure Assessment