**Supplementary Table 5** GRADE quality assessment of evidence

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome** | **Certainty Assessment** | | | | |  | **Certainty** |
|  | **No. of Studies** | **Risk of bias** | **Inconsistency** | **Indirectness** | **Imprecision** | **Publication Bias** |  |
| **Mortality** | 8 | Serious | Not Serious | Not Serious | Not Serious | Not Serious | Low to Moderate |
| **Initial Plasma Lactate levels** | 7 | Serious | Seriousb | Not Serious | Not Serious | Not Serious | Low |
| **Initial Glycaemia** | 3 | Seriousa | Serious | Not Serious | Seriousc | Not Serious | Very Low |
| **Vasopressor Usage** | 3 | Seriousa | Serious | Not Serious | Seriousc | Not Serious | Very Low |
| **Mechanical Ventilation** | 3 | Seriousa | Serious | Not Serious | Seriousc | Not Serious | Very Low |
| **Renal function** | 5 | Serious | Serious | Not Serious | Seriousc | Not Serious | Low |
| **Sepsis severity** | 5 | Serious | Not Serious | Not Serious | Seriousc | Not Serious | Low |

a risk of selective reporting

b *i*2 = 72%, p= 0.39 for heterogeneity, overlap of confidence intervals

c sample size does not meet optimal information size, number of events is low