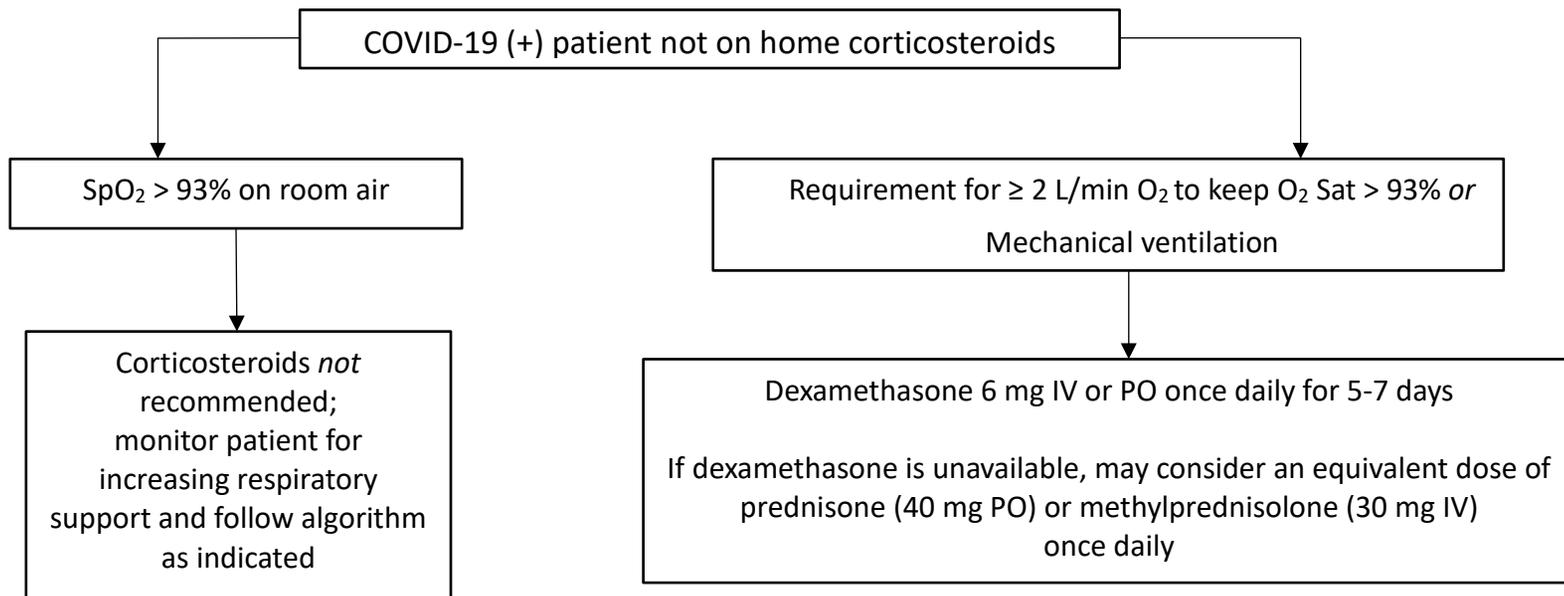


## Guidelines for Use of Corticosteroids in Patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and COVID-19 Pneumonia

- Severe COVID-19 pneumonia is characterized by diffuse alveolar damage, inflammatory infiltrates, and microvascular thrombosis
- Corticosteroids target the hyperinflammatory state seen in COVID-19 pneumonia and can down-regulate inflammation-coagulation-fibroproliferation and accelerate disease resolution
- Corticosteroids have been associated with improved mortality in patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia requiring oxygen for respiratory support with the most significant benefit observed in mechanically ventilated patients
- Patients requiring oxygen or displaying severe criteria have worse outcomes and benefit most from corticosteroids
- Patients not requiring oxygen do not benefit from corticosteroids and may have adverse effects, including prolonged viral shedding
- Patients on home corticosteroids should be evaluated on an individual basis, as they may benefit from stress-dose steroids during their acute illness



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