

Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Supplement to: Mai NTH, Chau TTH, Thwaites G, et al. Dexamethasone in Vietnamese adolescents and adults with bacterial meningitis. *N Engl J Med* 2007;357:2431-40.

Supplementary table

Comparison of the baseline clinical variables in patients in different diagnostic categories

Variable	Immediate confirmation of bacterial meningitis ^a N=230 <i>Median/range or number/percentage and denominator</i>	Delayed confirmation of bacterial meningitis ^b N=70 <i>Median/range or number/percentage and denominator</i>	Probable bacterial meningitis ^c N=123 <i>Median/range or number/percentage and denominator</i>	Confirmed tuberculous meningitis ^d N=9 <i>Median/range or number/percentage and denominator</i>	Alternative diagnosis ^e N=3 <i>Median/range or number/percentage and denominator</i>	P value ^f
Age (years)	42 (15-91) 229	44 (17-78) 69	40 (15-85) 123	39 (16-64) 9	22 (19-25) 3	0.177
Male sex	175 (76.1) 230	44 (62.9) 70	89 (72.4) 123	4 (66.7) 9	2 (66.7) 3	0.291
Duration of illness (days)	3 (1-28) 223	4 (1-20) 68	4 (1-30) 122	10 (3-19) 8	7 (6-7) 2	0.019

History of fever	214 (97.7) 219	65 (97.0) 67	110 (95.7) 115	7 (100.0) 7	2 (100.0) 2	0.843
History of rigors	95 (43.6) 218	29 (43.3) 67	45 (39.5) 114	3 (37.5) 8	0 (0) 2	0.721
History of headache	197 (91.6) 215	61 (91.0) 67	109 (94.8) 115	8 (100.0) 8	2 (100.0) 2	0.710
History of vomiting	144 (67.0) 215	49 (73.1) 67	82 (73.1) 115	2 (28.6) 7	2 (100) 2	0.115
Antibiotics given before randomisation	123 (53.5) 230	51 (72.9) 70	86 (69.9) 123	6 (66.7) 9	0 (0) 0	0.001
Allocated dexamethasone	109 (47.4) 230	34 (48.6) 70	69 (65.1) 123	4 (44.4) 9	1 (33.3) 3	0.565
Temperature (°c)	38.3 (36.5-41.0) 228	38.1 (36.5-41.1) 68	38.0 (36.5-41.0) 119	38.7 (37.5-40.0) 8	37.3 (37.0-37.5) 2	0.251
Pulse (/min)	96 (60-170) 227	90 (64-130) 67	90 (57-160) 119	96 (90-120) 8	61 (60-62) 2	0.020
Systolic blood	120 (75-170) 226	120 (90-170) 67	120 (90-200) 119	135 (100-160) 8	120 (110-130) 2	0.274

pressure (mmHg)						
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	70 (35-140) 226	70 (46-110) 67	70 (40-100) 119	80 (60-95) 8	65 (60-70) 2	0.450
Glasgow coma score (/15)	12 (3-15) 229	13 (3-15) 68	14 (5-15)	14 (7-15) 8	15 (15-15) 2	0.020
Cranial nerve palsy	16 (7.0) 230	4 (5.7) 70	13 (10.6) 123	1 (11.1) 9	1 (33.3) 3	0.325
Rash	24 (10.6) 227	7 (10.3) 68	10 (8.2) 122	0 (0) 8	0 (0) 2	0.805
Haematocrit (%)	40.5 (27.0-56.0) 214	39.0 (26.0-53.0) 64	39.1 (20.0-64.4) 111	39.1 (30-45.0) 6	47.5 (43.0-52.0) 2	0.106
Peripheral blood leucocyte count (x10 ³ /ml)	16395 (3850-80000) 224	19950 (2100-39830) 69	15700 (3600-41200) 120	11800 (9000-16500) 7	11125 (10250-12000) 2	0.025
Plasma sodium (mmol/l)	137 (105-150) 216	137 (119-154) 68	138 (120-154) 111	132 (118-146) 7	141 (141) 1	0.279

CSF appearance						
- Clear	13 (5.8) 225	2 (2.9) 69	5 (4.2) 119	1 (12.5) 8	0 (0) 2	0.676
- Cloudy	209 (92.9) 225	67 (97.1) 69	110 (92.4) 119	7 (87.5) 8	2 (100.0) 2	
- Bloody	3 (1.3) 225	0 (0) 69	4 (3.4) 119	0 (0) 8	0 (0) 0	
CSF pressure (mmH ₂ O)	22 (1-41) 176	18 (1-41) 61	18 (1-41) 101	33 (18-41) 8	40 (40) 2	0.001
CSF total white cell count (x10 ³ /ml)	2900 (1-64000) 229	4155 (35-33650) 70	2900 (136-30500) 123	670 (210-1705) 9	4350 (2690-6000) 2	0.014
- Percentage neutrophils	89 (1-99) 226	90 (60-99) 70	87 (11-99) 123	68 (50-84) 9	74 (68-80) 2	
CSF lactate (mmol/l)	12.8 (1.4-25.7) 200	8.7 (3.3-24.0) 61	7.1 (1.1-23.3)	6.8 (3.3-9.5) 9	2.2 (2.1-2.2) 2	<0.001
CSF Total protein	279 (20-1518) 226	184 (40-990) 68	200 (25-1197) 121	185 (116-688) 8	145 (145) 1	<0.001

(mg/dl)						
CSF:plasma glucose	0.14 (0.01-0.71) 224	0.24 (0.01-0.58) 70	0.24 (0.01-0.68) 122	0.28 (0.10-0.33) 9	0.49 (0.36-0.61) 2	<0.001

Footnotes:

a Defined by a positive CSF gram stain, acridine orange stain, or latex agglutination test

b Defined by a positive CSF culture for a pyogenic bacteria with bacteria not detected by gram stain, acridine orange stain, or latex agglutination tests

c Defined by meeting the study entry requirements but without microbiological confirmation of pyogenic meningitis or an alternative diagnosis

d Defined by the culture of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from the CSF

e Defined by microbiological or cytological proof of an alternative diagnosis: 2 patients had eosinophilic meningitis, 1 had cryptococcal meningitis

f Categorical variables compared using the Chi squared test; continuous variables compared using the Kruskal-Wallis test