

Table 2. Characteristics of the hospital stay.

	All patients (n=97)	No steroids (n=42)	Steroids (n=55)	p value
Admission to the PICU / middle care	76 (78.4)	38 (90.5)	38 (60.9)	0.011
Duration of PICU / middle care stay	7 (5-13)	8.5 (5.8-14.3)	5.5 (4-9.3)	0.017
Pleural effusion				
Time from hospital admission to diagnosis of pleural reaction (days)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.861
Fibrin in the effusion	73 (77.7)	31 (73.8))	42 (80.8)	0.421
Evacuation of the effusion				
No evacuation	8 (8.2)	1 (2.4)	7 (12.7)	0.066
Time from hospital admission to the first evacuation	1 (0-4)	1 (0-4)	1.5 (0-3.25)	0.501
Simple needle thoracocentesis	21 (21.6)	7 (16.7)	14 (25.5)	0.298
Chest tube	68 (70.1)	34 (81)	34 (61.8)	0.041
Duration of drainage (days)	4 (3-6.75)	5 (3-8.25)	4 (3-6)	0.184
Total volume evacuated through the chest tube (mL)	435 (280-726)	480 (300-805)	390 (137-579)	0.07
Intrapleural fibrinolysis	32 (33)	18 (42.9)	14 (25.5)	0.071
Duration (days)	3 (2-5)	3 (2-5)	3 (2-4.3)	0.22
Effusion analysis				
Leucocyte count ($10^3/\text{mm}^3$)	6.8 (1.5-21.1)	6.3 (0.9-22.6)	7.8 (1.7-19.2)	0.414
Red blood cell count ($10^3/\text{mm}^3$)	5.2 (1-17.8)	5 (0.8-12.5)	5.2 (1.1-20)	0.929
Protein (g/L)	45 (39.8-48.7)	45 (39.9-49.3)	44.5 (39.1-48.3)	0.394
LDH (U/L)	3124 (879-9367)	2062 (779-7994)	5957 (1304-11896)	0.126

Glucose (g/L)	0.22 (0.01-0.67)	0.27 (0.01-0.9)	0.11 (0.01-0.61)	0.542
Respiratory support				
Oxygen supplementation	61 (62.9)	28 (66.7)	33 (60)	0.501
High-flow oxygen therapy	1 (1)	1 (2.4)	0 (0)	0.25
Mechanical ventilation	4 (4.1)	2 (4.8)	2 (3.6)	0.782
Medical imaging				
Chest X-ray	3 (2-5)	4 (2-6)	2 (2-4)	0.01
Chest ultrasound	3 (2-4)	3 (2-3)	3 (2-4)	0.235
Chest CT scan	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	0.219
Inflammation				
Total duration of fever (days)	10 (8-13)	10.5 (7-13)	10 (8-13)	0.804
Highest CRP (mg/L)	270 (202-370)	264 (198-352)	273 (205-378)	0.614
More than 1 CRP peak	41 (42.3)	16 (38.1)	25 (45.5)	0.467
Highest leukocyte count (10 ³ /mm ³)	20.2 (16.7-27.2)	18.8 (16.1-28.9)	16.7 (21.7-27)	0.469
Pain control				
Paracetamol	96 (99)	42 (100)	54 (98.2)	0.38
Ibuprofene	93 (95.9)	39 (92.9)	54 (98.2)	0.191
Tramadol	76 (78.4)	33 (78.6)	43 (78.2)	0.963
Morphine	8 (8.2)	3 (7.1)	5 (9.1)	0.73
Length of hospital stay* (days)	11 (8-14)	11 (6.5-14.5)	11 (8-14)	0.858

* For children discharged home