**Supplemental Data Fig S1. Study screening record**

Met inclusion criteria n=364

Enrolled n=140

Included in analysis n=135

Met an exclusion criteria n=224:

1. No strongly suspected or proven infection (n=14)
2. Sepsis SOFA criteria not met (n=0)
3. Patient not receiving inotropes or vasopressors (n=40)
4. Administration of norepinephrine for >48 hours (n=40)
5. Age <18 years (n=0)
6. Known pregnancy (n=0)
7. Expected to die within the next 24 hours (n=22)
8. Known conditions that may disrupt the HPA axis, or continuous steroids for past 3 months (n=43)
9. Other (n=65)

* Withdrawn by next-of-kin (n=4)
* Withdrawn by investigations, met exclusion criteria 9 (n=1)