**Intervention**

Active medication: hydrocortisone, powder and solvent solution for intravenous injection, 100 mg (Solu-Cortef™, Pfizer, Denmark, ATC code: H02AB09).

Continuous infusion

The mixture of 2 vials of hydrocortisone (100 mg) and solvency (total 200 mg, 4 ml) will mixed with 100 ml of isotonic saline (0.9%) to a total volume of 104 ml and a concentration of 2 mg/ml. For each participant allocated to hydrocortisone, this bag of 104 ml (200 mg, 2 mg/ml) of hydrocortisone in isotonic saline solution will be administered to the participant as a continuous IV infusion using a volumetric infusion pump over 24 hours (rate 4.3 ml/hour).

Bolus injection

The mixture of 2 vials of hydrocortisone (100 mg) and solvency (total 200 mg, 4 ml) will be mixed in 4 10-ml syringes (1 ml hydrocortisone (50 mg) per 10-ml syringe) with 9 ml of isotonic saline (0.9%) to a total volume of 10 ml per syringe. For each participant allocated to hydrocortisone, 4 10-ml syringes (50 mg of hydrocortisone in isotonic saline, total volume 10 ml) will be administered as IV bolus injection every 6 hours to a total daily dose of 200 mg (40 ml).

**Control intervention**

Placebo drug: Isotonic saline, solution for intravenous injection, 9mg/ml (ATC code: B05BB01).

Each saline bag contains 100 ml corresponding to 900mg saline in sterile water. Content of electrolytes/l: 154mmol chloride, 154mmol natrium. Isotonic. Osmolarity 308mmol/l.

Continuous infusion

104 ml isotonic saline (0.9%) will be administered to the participant as a continuous IV infusion using a volumetric infusion pump over 24 hours (rate 4.3 ml/hour).

Bolus injection

4 x 10 ml syringes with isotonic saline (0.9%) will be administered as IV bolus injection every 6 hours to a total daily dose of 40 ml.