64 septic patients assessed for eligibility

23 patients ineligible
- 10 refused informed consent
- 9 had trauma or burn
- 2 received massive blood transfusion
- 2 had autoimmune disease or recent steroid use

41 severe sepsis or septic shock patients enrolled

ACTH stimulation test

22 patients included in normal adrenal response group (NAR group)
19 patients included in adrenal insufficiency group (AI group)