**Inclusion criteria:** Children aged >60 days and <12 years with severe febrile illness (history of fever in last 48 hours and/or axillary temperature >37.5°C or <36°C) including impaired consciousness (prostration or coma) and/or respiratory distress (increased work of breathing) were screened for clinical evidence of impaired perfusion (shock) to be eligible for the trial. Impaired perfusion was defined as one of: CRT 3 or more secs, lower limb temperature gradient, a weak radial pulse volume or severe tachycardia: (<12 months: >180 beats per minute (bpm); 12 months to 5 years: >160 bpm; >5 years: >140 bpm).

**Severe hypotension** defined as systolic blood pressure <50mmHg if <12m; <60mmHg if 1-5years; <70mmHg if >5years eligible children with severe hypotension were enrolled into FEAST B (see text). 2634/4668 children with severe illness had either no impaired perfusion, no impaired consciousness, no fever or no respiratory distress and were therefore not included in the trial.

**Exclusion Criteria:** Evidence of severe acute malnutrition (visible severe wasting or kwashiorkor) (254); gastroenteritis (792); chronic renal failure, pulmonary edema or other conditions in which volume expansion is contraindicated (90); non-infectious causes of severe illness (68); if they already received an isotonic bolus of a fluid.

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**Governance structure for the trial**

**DMC: Data Monitoring Committee**
- DMC feedback to TSC & TSC response to DMC via Statistical Centre
- Report from Statistical Centre
- TSC: Trial Steering Committee
- ERC: Endpoint Review Committee
- TMG: Trial Management Group

**Participants Sites**