301 patients in study

35 patients excluded
- EVLWI < 10ml/kg (n = 14)
- unclassified by expert decision (n = 8)
- atelectasis and consolidation due to pneumonia (n = 5)
- acute phase of inhalation burn and lung contusion (n = 3)
- non-acute onset (n = 2)
- acute phase of drowning (n = 1)
- combined with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (n = 1)
- after lung resection (n = 1)

ARDS (n = 207)

Cardiogenic edema (n = 26)

Pleural effusion Atelectasis (n = 33)

34 patients were classified neither ARDSexp nor ARDSp

173 final study samples

ARDSexp (n = 56)

ARDSp (n = 117)