Table 1. Overview of publications used in the meta-analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year of Publication</th>
<th>Study population</th>
<th>Study design</th>
<th>No. of patients</th>
<th>Endpoints</th>
<th>Comparison (in meta-analysis)</th>
<th>Study Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higgins[23]</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>medical- surgical ICU</td>
<td>prospective, cohort</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>infections, sepsis, 30-day mortality</td>
<td>≤ 30 nmol/l vs ≥ 60 nmol/l</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Reference</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Setting</td>
<td>Study Design</td>
<td>Sample Size</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Outcome Measure</td>
<td>Quality Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moromizato[26]</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>medical-, surgical-, ICU</td>
<td>two-centre, retrospective cohort</td>
<td>3386</td>
<td>sepsis</td>
<td>≤ 37 nmol/l vs ≥ 75 nmol/l</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nair[27]</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>medical-, ICU</td>
<td>prospective, cohort</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30-day-, in-hospital mortality</td>
<td>&lt; 25 nmol/l vs ≥ 50 nmol/l</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remmelts[28]</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>ward, medical-, ICU</td>
<td>prospective, cohort</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>30-day mortality</td>
<td>≤ 50 nmol/l vs ≥ 75 nmol/l</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Su[29]</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>medical-, surgical-, ICU</td>
<td>prospective, cohort</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>30-day mortality</td>
<td>≤ 37 nmol/l vs ≥ 75 nmol/l</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Study quality assessed by the Newcastle-Ottawa-scale, see Additional file S8*