

Table 1. *The ACS severity index, as it is first described in Ballas et al [11].*

| Mild ACS | Moderate ACS | Severe ACS | Very Severe ACS |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Meets the diagnostic criteria above AND all of the following:</i> | <i>Meets the diagnostic criteria above AND all of the following:</i> | <i>Meets the diagnostic criteria above AND 1 or more of the following:</i> | <i>Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), as defined by the 3 criteria of the American-European Consensus Conference, includes:</i> |
| Transcutaneous oxygen saturation >90% in room air (FiO ₂ = 0.21) | Transcutaneous oxygen saturation ≥85% in room air (FiO ₂ = 0.21) | Respiratory failure (PaO ₂ <60 mmHg or PCO ₂ >50 mmHg) Mechanical ventilatory support required Transcutaneous oxygen saturation <85% in room air or ≤90% despite maximal supplemental oxygen | Acute onset of bilateral infiltrates on chest radiograph |
| Segmental or lobar infiltrates that involve no more than 1 lobe by chest radiography | Segmental or lobar infiltrates that involve no more than 2 lobes by chest radiography | Segmental or lobar infiltrates that involve 3 or more lobes by chest radiography | Pulmonary artery wedge pressure of <19 mmHg or the absence of clinical evidence of left atrial hypertension |
| Responsive to simple transfusion of no more than 2 units of red blood cells (or 15 cc/kg packed red blood cells) | Responsive to transfusion of ≥3 units of red blood cells (or more than 20 cc/kg packed red blood cells) | Requiring transfusion or exchange transfusion of red blood cells to achieve haemoglobin A ≥70% | PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ ≤200 regardless of positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) level |