Complications definition

- Bleeding complications: All bleeding events requiring therapeutic intervention were recorded. These included: thoracic ***bleeding*** (retrosternal, pleural, or pericardial) requiring surgical revision or placement of a chest drain; gastrointestinal ***or abdominal bleeding*** requiring interventional endoscopy (e.g., gastroscopy) or surgical intervention; and groin ***bleeding*** necessitating surgical intervention or reoperation at the cannulation site. Patients in whom an indicated intervention was not pursued due to a palliative treatment goal were also included.

- Ischemic complications: ***bowel ischemia requiring surgical or interventional treatment; limb ischemia*** requiring surgical or interventional treatment or a modification of the ECMO or Impella configuration (e.g., change of cannulation). Patients were included if an indicated intervention was not performed because of a palliative treatment approach.

- Neurological complications: This category included all findings confirmed on cranial computed tomography (CT): ***ischemic stroke, hemorrhagic stroke, or mixed forms***. Cranial CT imaging was not performed routinely in all patients but was obtained only in the presence of newly developed neurological symptoms or for therapeutic decision-making.

- Renal replacement therapy: This outcome included all patients who received continuous venovenous hemodialysis in the intensive care unit, regardless of the indication