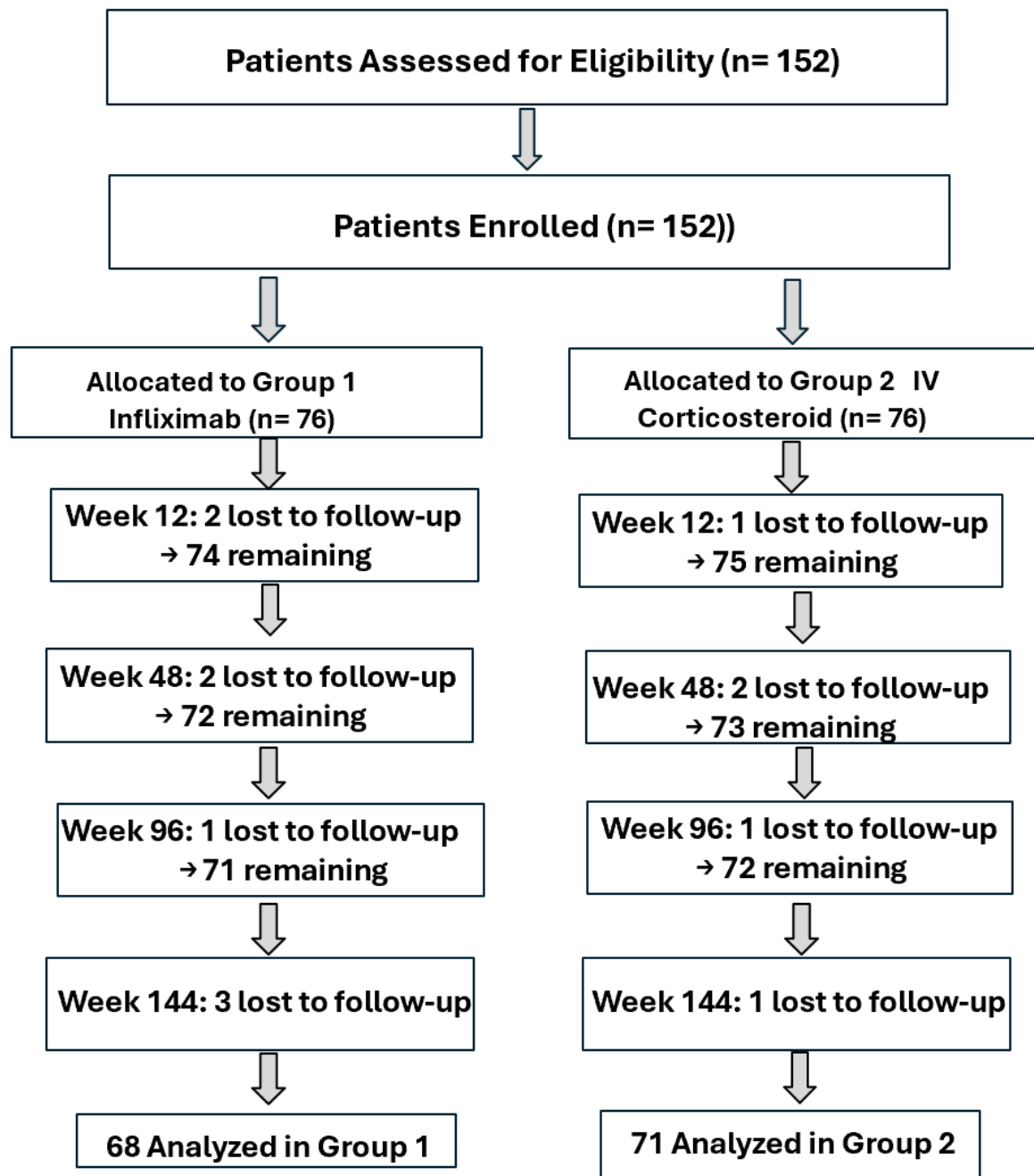




Supplementary Figure 1 Flow diagram of patient recruitment, group assignment, follow-up, and analysis in the prospective cohort study of Infliximab *vs* IV corticosteroids.

Supplementary Table 1 Mayo scoring system for assessment of the severity of ulcerative colitis

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Stool frequency

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0 = Normal no. of stools for this patient

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1 = 1 to 2 stools more than normal

2 = 3 to 4 stools more than normal

3 = 5 or more stools more than normal

Subscore, 0 to 3

Rectal bleeding

0 = No blood seen

1 = Streaks of blood with stool less than half the time

2 = Obvious blood with stool most of the time

3 = Blood alone passes

Subscore, 0 to 3

Mucosal appearance at endoscopy<sup>1</sup>

0 = Normal or inactive disease

1 = Mild disease (erythema, decreased vascular pattern, mild friability)

2 = Moderate disease (marked erythema, lack of vascular pattern, friability, erosions)

3 = Severe disease (spontaneous bleeding, ulceration)

Subscore, 0 to 3

Physician's global assessment

0 = Normal

1 = Mild disease

2 = Moderate disease

3 = Severe disease

Subscore, 0 to 3

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<sup>1</sup>The mucosal appearance at endoscopy is not included in the Partial Mayo Score.

Adapted from Schroeder *et al*[18].

The Mayo score ranges from 0 to 12, with higher scores indicating more severe disease.

A score of 0–2 indicates clinical remission.

A score of 3–5 indicates mild activity.

A score of 6–10 indicates moderate activity.

A score of 11–12 indicates severe activity.

**Supplementary Table 2 Adverse effects observed during follow-up in both groups,**

*n* (%)

| Adverse effects                   | Group 1<br>(infliximab), <i>n</i> = 68 (%) | Group 2<br>(intravenous corticosteroids),<br><i>n</i> = 71 (%) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dermatologic                      |                                            |                                                                |
| Skin rash/itching                 | 8 (11.7)                                   | –                                                              |
| Cushingoid features/striae        | –                                          | 8 (11.3)                                                       |
| Bruising, thinning skin, or acne  | –                                          | 10 (15.7)                                                      |
| General symptoms                  |                                            |                                                                |
| Headache, fatigue, fever          | 10 (14.7)                                  | –                                                              |
| Edema                             | –                                          | 9 (12.6)                                                       |
| Gastrointestinal symptoms         |                                            |                                                                |
| Nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea  | 12 (17.6)                                  | 14 (19.7)                                                      |
| Liver enzyme elevation (ALT)      | 11 (15.4)                                  | –                                                              |
| Musculoskeletal                   |                                            |                                                                |
| Arthralgia/bone ache              | 7 (9.8)                                    | 9 (12.7)                                                       |
| Secondary medical disorders       |                                            |                                                                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hypertension      | –                                          | 11 (15.5)                                                      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Diabetes mellitus | –                                          | 7 (9.9)                                                        |
| Infections                        |                                            |                                                                |
| Upper respiratory tract infection | 5 (7.4)                                    | 4 (5.6)                                                        |
| Cytomegalovirus infection         | 5 (7.4)                                    | 11 (15.5)                                                      |
| Clostridium difficile infection   | 2 (2.9)                                    | 6 (8.5)                                                        |
| Pneumonia                         | –                                          | 2 (2.8)                                                        |

The severity of adverse drug reactions is typically categorized using a standardized grading system, most commonly the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events. Grade  $\geq 3$  adverse events were defined according to the CTCAE. In Group 1 (infliximab), Grade  $\geq 3$  events included serious infections (CMV and *C. difficile*). In Group 2 (intravenous corticosteroids), Grade  $\geq 3$  events included serious infections as well as new-onset secondary hypertension and diabetes mellitus requiring medical

intervention.

**Supplementary Table 3 Associations between laboratory findings and disease severity, colectomy, and mortality among patients in Group 1 (Infliximab) ( $n = 68$ ), median (interquartile range)**

| Item                                 | CRP<br>(mg/dl)               | Albumin<br>(g/dl)             | Fecal<br>calprotectin<br>in (μg/g) | Hb (g/dl)                       | Leucocytes<br>(10 <sup>9</sup> /L) | Platelets<br>(/cmm)        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Follow-up period                     |                              |                               |                                    |                                 |                                    |                            |
| Week 0                               | 28 (23.5, 35)                | 3 (2.5, 3.1)                  | 903 (800, 1100)                    | 11 (10, 12)                     | 10 (7, 11)                         | 250 (170, 450)             |
| Week 12                              | 13 (10, 29)                  | 3.5 (3.2, 3.8)                | 290 (197.5, 495)                   | 11 (10, 12)                     | 8 (7, 10.3)                        | 246 (189, 448)             |
| Week 144                             | 13 (10, 20)                  | 3.5 (3.1, 3.8)                | 300 (196, 400)                     | 11 (10, 13)                     | 8 (7, 10)                          | 230 (184, 330)             |
| <i>P</i> value                       | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>         | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>          | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>               | 0.216                           | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>               | 0.068                      |
| Mayo score, $\rho$ ( <i>P</i> value) |                              |                               |                                    |                                 |                                    |                            |
| Week 0                               | 0.34 (0.004 <sup>b</sup> )   | -0.33 (0.004 <sup>b</sup> )   | 0.67 (0.001 <sup>b</sup> )         | (< 0.12 (0.300))                | 0.22 (0.063)                       | 0.09 (0.485)               |
| Week 12                              | 0.68 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | -0.70 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | 0.81 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> )       | (< -0.11 (0.351))               | 0.33 (0.005 <sup>b</sup> )         | 0.31 (0.009 <sup>b</sup> ) |
| Week 144                             | 0.66 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | -0.31 (0.009 <sup>b</sup> )   | 0.69 (0.001 <sup>b</sup> )         | (< -0.58 (0.001 <sup>b</sup> )) | 0.23 (0.052)                       | -0.02 (0.863)              |
| Colectomy, median                    |                              |                               |                                    |                                 |                                    |                            |
| Week 12 ( $n = 2$ ), yes/no          | 70/13                        | 2.2/3.5                       | 1800/280                           | 11/11                           | 24/8                               | 470/250                    |
| <i>P</i> value                       | 0.016 <sup>a</sup>           | 0.015 <sup>a</sup>            | 0.016 <sup>a</sup>                 | 0.914                           | 0.015 <sup>a</sup>                 | 0.089                      |
| Week 144 ( $n = 4$ ), yes/no         | 59/13                        | 2.4/3.5                       | 1650/280                           | 8.5/11                          | 20/7.5                             | 360/215                    |
| <i>P</i> value                       | 0.001 <sup>b</sup>           | 0.001 <sup>b</sup>            | 0.001 <sup>b</sup>                 | 0.004 <sup>b</sup>              | 0.029 <sup>a</sup>                 | 0.001 <sup>b</sup>         |

|                                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mortality, median               |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Week 12 ( <i>n</i> = 2), 70/13  | 2.2/3.5            | 1800/280           | 11/11              | 24/8               | 470/250            |                    |
| yes/no                          |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| <i>P</i> value                  | 0.016 <sup>a</sup> | 0.015 <sup>a</sup> | 0.016 <sup>a</sup> | 0.914              | 0.015 <sup>a</sup> | 0.089              |
| Week 144 ( <i>n</i> = 2), 70/13 | 2.2/3.5            | 1800/300           | 7/11               | 24/8               | 470/230            |                    |
| yes/no                          |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| <i>P</i> value                  | 0.016 <sup>a</sup> | 0.015 <sup>a</sup> | 0.016 <sup>a</sup> | 0.015 <sup>a</sup> | 0.023 <sup>a</sup> | 0.014 <sup>a</sup> |

<sup>a</sup>Significant at *P* < 0.05.

<sup>b</sup>Significant at *P* < 0.01.

Values present as median and inter-quartile range were analyzed by Mann-Whitney or Friedman tests. *ρ*: Spearman's rank correlation.

**Supplementary Table 4 Associations between laboratory findings and disease severity, colectomy, and mortality among patients in group 2 (intravenous corticosteroids) (*n* = 71), median (interquartile range)**

| Item                                   | CRP<br>(mg/dl)               | Albumin<br>(g/dl)             | Fecal<br>calprotectin<br>( $\mu$ g/g) | Hb (g/dl)                    | Leucocytes<br>(10 <sup>9</sup> /L) | Platelets<br>(/cmm)        |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Follow-up period                       |                              |                               |                                       |                              |                                    |                            |
| Week 0                                 | 30 (25, 35)                  | 3 (3, 3.3)                    | 895 (700, 989)                        | 11 (10, 12)                  | 8 (7, 11)                          | 250 (170, 450)             |
| Week 12                                | 13 (10, 25.3)                | 3.5 (3.2, 3.8)                | 300 (202.3, 722.3)                    | 11 (10, 12)                  | 8 (7, 10)                          | 248 (189, 330)             |
| Week 144                               | 19 (11, 36)                  | 3.1 (2.7, 3.5)                | 703 (360, 900)                        | 11 (10, 12)                  | 8 (7, 10)                          | 246 (188, 320)             |
| <i>P</i> value                         | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>         | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>          | < 0.001 <sup>b</sup>                  | 0.193                        | 0.001 <sup>b</sup>                 | 1.000                      |
| Mayo score, <i>ρ</i> ( <i>P</i> value) |                              |                               |                                       |                              |                                    |                            |
| Week 0                                 | 0.29 (0.014 <sup>a</sup> )   | -0.05 (0.680)                 | 0.71 (0.001 <sup>a</sup> )            | < 0.42 (0.001 <sup>a</sup> ) | < 0.26 (0.030 <sup>a</sup> )       | 0.16 (0.186)               |
| Week 12                                | 0.62 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | -0.42 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | 0.79 (< 0.001 <sup>b</sup> )          | < 0.22 (0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | 0.17 (0.001 <sup>b</sup> )         | 0.19 (0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) |

|                             |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                             | 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | (0.065)               | (0.160)            | (0.118)            |
| Week 144                    | 0.17                 | -0.14                | 0.42                 | (< -0.29              | 0.11               | -0.18              |
|                             | (0.169)              | (0.237)              | 0.001 <sup>b</sup> ) | (0.015 <sup>a</sup> ) | (0.377)            | (0.145)            |
| Colectomy,                  |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| median                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| Week 12 ( <i>n</i> = 2),    | 70/12.5              | 2.2/3.5              | 1800/300             | 7/11                  | 24/8               | 470/239            |
| yes/no                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| <i>P</i> value              | 0.016 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.015 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.016 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.014 <sup>a</sup>    | 0.014 <sup>a</sup> | 0.024 <sup>a</sup> |
| Week 144 ( <i>n</i> = 10/20 | 3.0/3.1              | 500/780              | 11/11                | 10/8.0                | 230/250            |                    |
| 13), yes/no                 |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| <i>P</i> value              | 0.028 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.288                | 0.381                | 0.126                 | 0.309              | 0.575              |
| Mortality,                  |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| median                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| Week 12 ( <i>n</i> = 2),    | 70/12.5              | 2.2/3.5              | 1800/300             | 7/11                  | 24/8               | 470/239            |
| yes/no                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| <i>P</i> value              | 0.016 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.015 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.016 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.014 <sup>a</sup>    | 0.014 <sup>a</sup> | 0.024 <sup>a</sup> |
| Week 144 ( <i>n</i> = 6),   | 26/18                | 2.8/3.1              | 500/741              | 9/11                  | 19/8               | 190/249            |
| yes/no                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| <i>P</i> value              | 0.313                | 0.158                | 0.801                | 0.051                 | 0.113              | 0.900              |

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<sup>a</sup>Significant at  $P < 0.05$ .

<sup>b</sup>Significant at  $P < 0.01$ .

Values present as median and inter-quartile range were analyzed by Mann-Whitney or Friedman tests.  $\rho$ : Spearman's rank correlation. Laboratory values for patients who underwent colectomy or died represent the last measurements prior to the event. The values at week 144 primarily reflect patients who remained in the study (responders), which may account for the observed differences in inflammatory markers.