Randomized controlled trial.

Patients with active ulcerative colitis were randomized to: combined systemic corticosteroid therapy (20mg of prednisolone/day + 100mg rectal drip hydrocortisone/day) versus sulphasalazine 8gr/day (1st week) and 4gr/day (the 2nd week)

<u>Primary endpoints:</u> Clinical remission and endoscopic improvement at week 2

Results: N=118

- Clinical remission at week 2: 76% steroids vs 52% sulphasalazine
- Endoscopic improvement at w2: 78% steroids vs 43% sulphasalazine
- Lower side effects were observed among steroid group as compared to sulphasalazine

Conclusion:

Combined systemic corticosteroids with prednisone and rectal hydrocortisone are better than sulphasalazine in achieving fast remission at week 2.

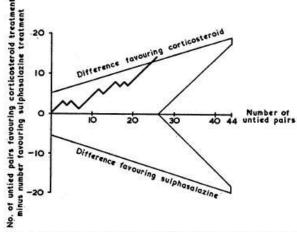


Fig. 1.—Sequential analysis chart showing that combined topical and systemic corticosteroid therapy is more likely than sulphasalazine to induce rapid symptomatic remissions.

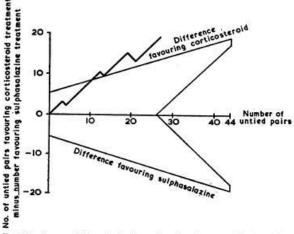


FIG. 2.—Sequential analysis chart showing that combined topical and systemic corticosteroid therapy is more likely than sulphasalazine to bring about early reduction in colonic mucosal inflammation as judged by the sigmoidoscopic appearances.

