Multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Patients with UC who received steroids &/or immunosuppressants for 4 months within the 12 previous months with Mayo score>6 were randomized to receive methotrexate 12.5mg weekly or placebo added to their treatment for 9 months.

<u>Primary endpoints</u>: Proportion of patients entering first remission and the time to reach that remission. In those achieving remission, the maintenance of remission was evaluated.

Results: N=67

- First clinical remission achieved, 46.7% MTX vs 48.6% placebo
- Time to remission 4.1+/-1.9 months MTX vs 3.4+/- 1.7 placebo.
- Proportion of patients that relapsed after achieving remission 64.3% MTX vs 44.4% placebo, p=ns

Conclusion:

Methotrexate at a weekly oral dose of 12.5mg was not found to be better than placebo in the induction or maintenance of remission in active UC.

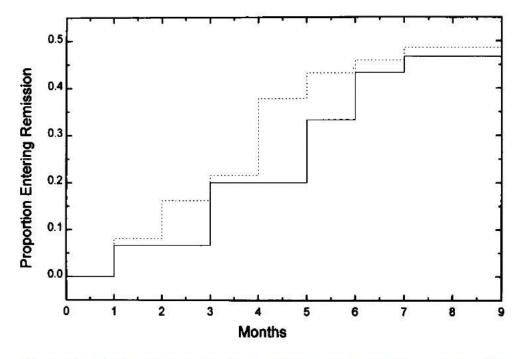


Figure 1. Kaplan–Meier survival analysis was used to compare the cumulative proportion of patients entering first remission in both groups during each study month. ——, Methotrexate group; · · · , placebo group.