

Table 1**Truelove and Witts' classification of severity in ulcerative colitis²⁵**

Disease activity	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Number of bloody stools/day	< 4	4-6	> 6
Temperature (°C)	Afebrile	Intermediate	> 37.8
Heart rate (beats/min)	Normal	Intermediate	> 90
Haemoglobin (g/L)	> 11	10.5-11	< 10.5
ESR (mm/hr)	< 20	20-30	> 30

A severe flare is currently defined on the basis of stool frequency, plus one or more of the additional features¹