Table 1

Truelove and Witts criteria for acute severe colitis

Bloody diarrhoea more than six times a day with one of the following:	
Temperature	>37.5°C
Pulse rate	>90 beats/min
Haemoglobin	<10.5g/dl
ESR	>30mm/hour

Additional features that may corroborate the diagnosis include elevated CRP, reduced serum albumin (<35g/l) and an elevated platelet count.