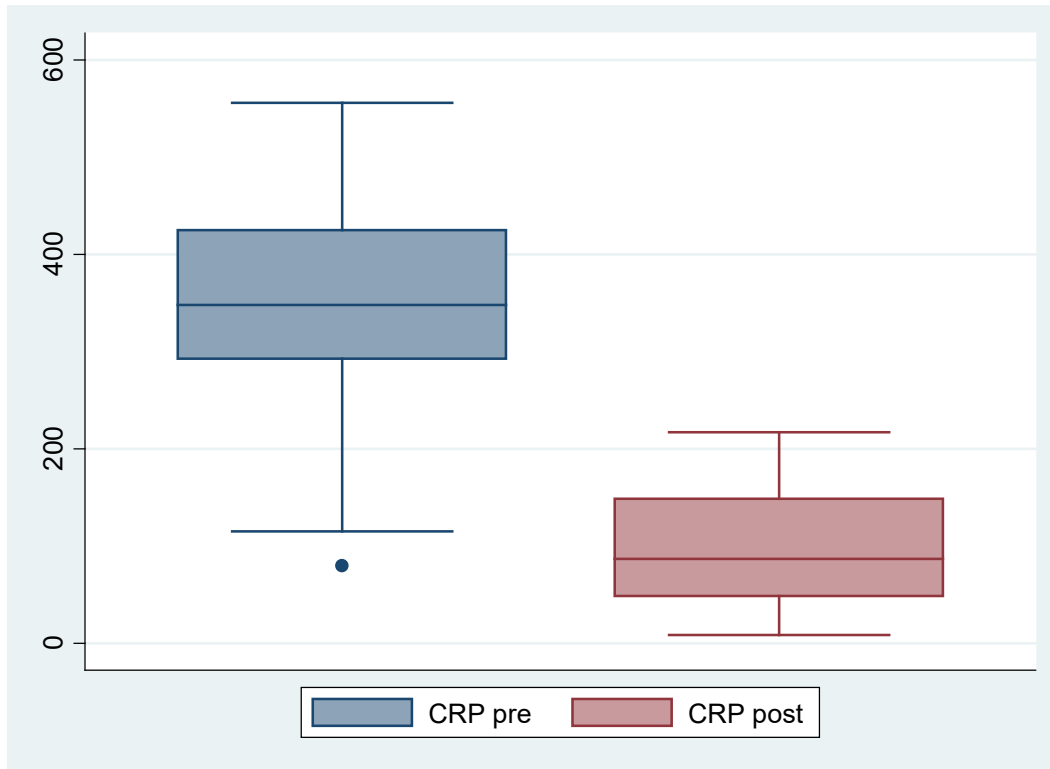


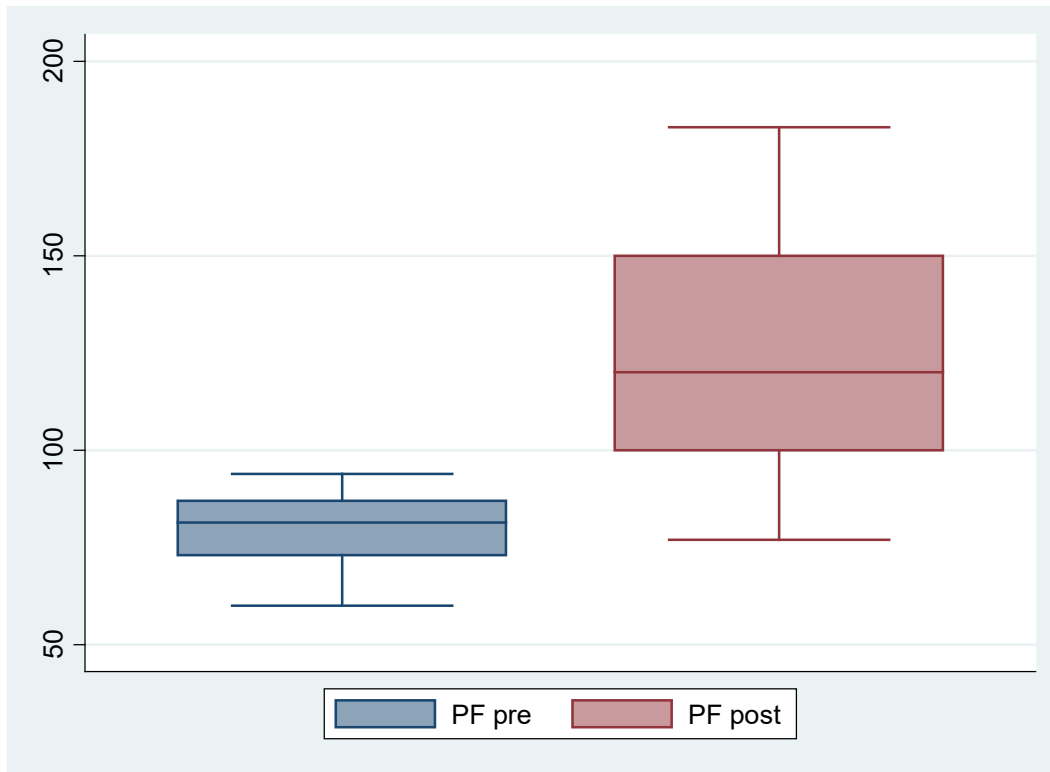


eFig. 1 Boxplot for C-reactive protein before and after steroid administration



Lower Boundary of box: 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, Line within the box: median, Upper boundary of box: 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, Whiskers above and below the box: 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Points below whiskers: outliers outside of the 10<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

eFig. 2 PaO<sub>2</sub>/F<sub>i</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ratio before and after steroid administration



Lower Boundary of box: 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, Line within the box: median, Upper boundary of box: 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, Whiskers above and below the box: 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.