Supplementary text 1.

Appendix to blood sample handling and analyzes

The blood samples were first gently mixed; then vertically placed for 30 minutes in ambient temperature; and finally centrifuged at 2200 *g* for 10 minutes. The supernatant (EDTA-plasma) was frozen to –80 °C within 1 hour from time of sampling.

C-reactive protein, Troponin T and Pro-Brain natriuretic peptide were analyzed together with the routine blood samples at St. Olav's University Hospital's medical laboratory.

Plasma levels of interleukin 6 were analyzed with Bio-Plex Pro™ Human Cytokine 27-plex Assay (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) by bioengineers according to the manufactures.

Plasma levels of syndecan-1 were measured by enzyme immunoassays in duplicate using commercially available antibodies (R&D Systems and Agilent, Minneapolis, MN) in a 384 format using a combination of a CyBi-SELMA pipetting robot (Analytik Jena, Germany) and an automatic washer-dispenser (BioTek, Winooski, VN). Absorption was read at 450 nm with wavelength correction set to 540 nm using an ELISA plate reader (BioTek). Intra- and inter-assay coefficients of variation were <10 % for all enzyme immunoassays.

Measurements of interleukin 6 and syndecan-1 under the lower limit of detection were set to 0.01.