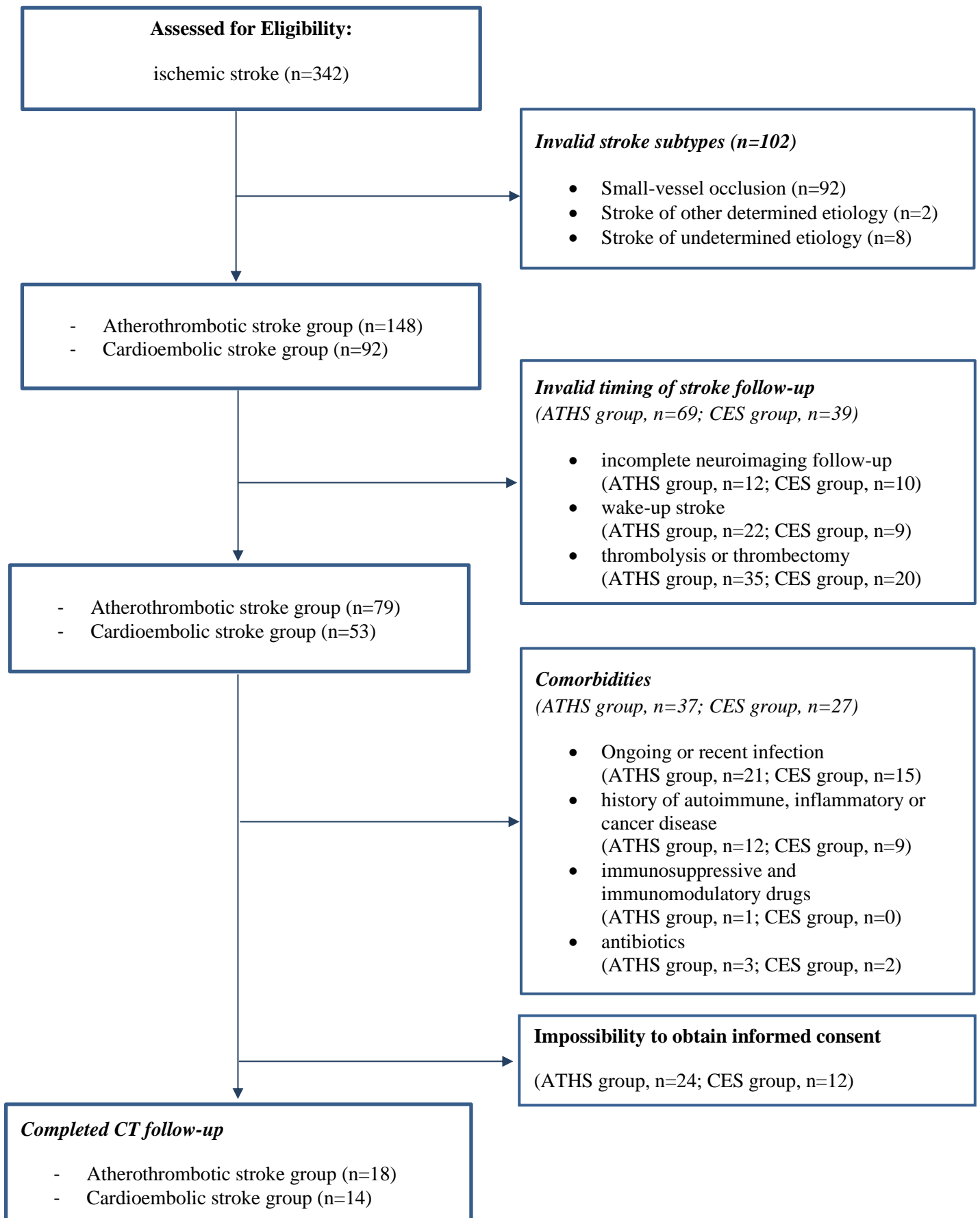


**Figure 1.** CONSORT flow Diagram of the study



**Figure legend:** CONSORT flow diagram showing data on enrolment, number of patients in ATHS and CES group at different time points and causes of patient exclusion. ATHS: atherothrombotic stroke; CES: cardioembolic stroke.