

**Supplemental Table S1.** Blood test results: Group mean data.

	Proactive therapy group (n = 24)	p <sup>†</sup> : vs. start of maintenance treatment	Rank-down therapy group (n = 25)	p <sup>†</sup> : vs. start of maintenance treatment	p <sup>‡</sup> : Between- group comparison
<b>Atopic dermatitis-related biomarkers</b>					
Serum total IgE, mean ± SD, IU/mL					
At start of maintenance treatment	1598 ± 1529 (n = 4)	-	1590 ± 2359 (n = 3)	-	-
Peripheral blood eosinophil count, mean ± SD, /μL					
At start of maintenance treatment	512.0 ± 384.6 (n = 4)	-	313.4 ± 417.5 (n = 3)	-	p = 0.4795
At 4 weeks	387.3 ± 165.4 (n = 3)	p = 0.1088	662.0 ± 619.4 (n = 2)	p = 0.1797	p = 0.5637
Serum LDH, mean ± SD, U/L					
At start of maintenance treatment	332.5 ± 84.1 (n = 2)	-	303.0 ± 86.0 (n = 3)	-	p = 0.5637
At 4 weeks	243.0 ± 32.5 (n = 2)	-	273.5 ± 71.4 (n = 2)	p = 0.6547	p = 0.4386
Serum TARC, mean ± SD, pg/mL					
At start of maintenance treatment	504.0 ± 238.5 (n = 4)	-	918.0 ± 664.2 (n = 3)	-	p = 0.4795
At 4 weeks	703.0 ± 256.6 (n = 3)	p = 0.1088	1689.0 ± 1156.8 (n = 2)	p = 0.1797	p = 0.2482
<b>Corticosteroid-related parameters</b>					
Serum cortisol, mean ± SD, μg/dL					
At start of maintenance treatment	3.13 ± 1.64 (n = 3)	-	6.24 ± 1.08 (n = 2)	-	p = 0.0832
At 4 weeks	3.13 ± 1.38 (n = 2)	p = 0.1797	4.87 ± 2.07 (n = 2)	p = 0.6547	p = 0.4386
ACTH, mean ± SD, pg/mL					
At start of maintenance treatment	18.7 ± 12.7 (n = 2)	-	28.4 ± 8.7 (n = 2)	-	p = 0.4386
At 4 weeks	8.4 (n = 1)	-	16.7 ± 2.0 (n = 2)	p = 0.1797	p = 0.2207

p<sup>†</sup>: Wilcoxon signed rank-sum test, p<sup>‡</sup>: Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

Abbreviations: ACTH, adrenocorticotrophic hormone; IgE, immunoglobulin E; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; SD, standard deviation; TARC, thymus and activation-regulated chemokine.