**Figure 1** Patient flow diagram

Patients screened (n=15368)

Eligible patients (n = 7969)

Eligible patients not randomized (n=4760)

* Patient or family did not consent (n=2594)
* Patient not identified in time (n=714)
* Physician declined to have patient participate (n=295)
* Translator or impartial witness unavailable (n=205)
* Patient in another study not allowing co-enrolment (n=125)
* Patient scheduled for early morning surgery (n=123)
* Patient unable to consent due to cognitive function (n=106)
* Study personnel unavailable (n=105)
* Other (n=493)

Randomized (n=3209)

Analysed by intention-to-treat (n=1608)

Analysed by intention-to-treat (n=1601)

Refused follow-up (n=1)

Allocated to colchicine (n=1608)

Allocated to placebo (n=1601)