

APPENDIX 3 (as supplied by the authors): In the experimental arm: Patient, tumour, and process of care characteristics and outcomes for cases with and without an operative demonstration

	Cases with operative demonstration	Cases without operative demonstration	<i>P</i> value
Number of patients	69	489	
Patient characteristics			
Age, Median (years)	69	69	0.65
Male	42 (60.9)	297 (60.7)	0.98
Co-morbidities			
0	53 (76.8)	357 (73.0)	0.78
1	12 (17.4)	102 (20.9)	
≥ 2	4 (5.8)	30 (6.1)	
Tumour characteristics			
TNM stage			
Stage 1	20 (29.0)	114 (23.3)	0.63
Stage 2	15 (21.7)	113 (23.1)	
Stage 3	26 (37.7)	179 (36.6)	
Stage 4	4 (5.8)	55 (11.2)	
Unable to stage	4 (5.8)	28 (5.7)	
Distance tumour from anal verge, Median (cm)	6.0	10.0	<0.001
Process of care characteristics			
Number of lymph nodes examined, Median	9	10	0.07
Positive circumferential radial margin*	5 (7.2)	36 (7.4)	0.97
Preoperative radiation	16 (23.2)	71 (14.5)	0.06
Post operative radiation	17 (24.6)	94 (19.2)	0.29

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	Cases with operative demonstration	Cases without operative demonstration	<i>P</i> value
Outcomes			
Procedure at initial surgery			
Permanent colostomy	15 (21.7)	131 (26.8)	0.06
Hartmann's resection	0 (0.0)	20 (4.1)	
Low anterior resection with ileostomy	19 (27.5)	82 (16.8)	
Low anterior resection	35 (50.7)	256 (52.4)	
Primary outcome - permanent colostomy	24 (34.8)	194 (39.7)	0.44
Primary outcome - any local recurrence	5 (7.2)	31 (6.3)	0.77

* Positive circumferential radial margin = distance \leq 1mm