

General	
Title	
Citation	
First author	
Year of publication	
Journal	
Country of publication	
Characteristics of study	
Aim	
Study design	
Method of recruitment	
Participant characteristics	
Number of patients	
- Bowel resection	
- Shaving	
- Disc excision	
Mean age	
Mean Body Mass Index (BMI)	
Smoker (n / %)	
Significant difference in baseline patient factors (Y/N)	
Primary outcome	
Bowel resection	(n / %)
Altered bowel habits	
- Faecal incontinence	
- Faecal urgency	
- Frequent bowel movements	
- Clustered stools	
- Dyschezia	
- Constipation	
- Diarrhoea	
Shaving	
Altered bowel habits	
- Faecal incontinence	
- Faecal urgency	
- Frequent bowel movements	
- Clustered stools	
- Dyschezia	
- Constipation	
- Diarrhoea	
Disc excision	
Altered bowel habits	
- Faecal incontinence	
- Faecal urgency	
- Frequent bowel movements	
- Clustered stools	
- Dyschezia	
- Constipation	
- Diarrhoea	
Secondary outcomes	

Low anterior resection syndrome (LARS) score	
Bowel resection	
- 0 – 20 (No LARS)	
- 21 – 29 (Minor LARS)	
- 30 – 42 (Major LARS)	
Shaving	
- 0 – 20 (No LARS)	
- 21 – 29 (Minor LARS)	
- 30 – 42 (Major LARS)	
Disc excision	
- 0 – 20 (No LARS)	
- 21 – 29 (Minor LARS)	
- 30 – 42 (Major LARS)	
Post-operative pain	
Bowel resection	
- 0 (Never)	
- 1 – 4 (Mild)	
- 5 – 7 (Moderate)	
- 8 – 10 (Severe)	
- Post-operative pain (not specified)	
- Dyspareunia	
- Painful defecation	
Shaving	
- 0 (Never)	
- 1 – 4 (Mild)	
- 5 – 7 (Moderate)	
- 8 – 10 (Severe)	
- Post-operative pain (not specified)	
- Dyspareunia	
- Painful defecation	
Disc excision	
- 0 (Never)	
- 1 – 4 (Mild)	
- 5 – 7 (Moderate)	
- 8 – 10 (Severe)	
- Post-operative pain (not specified)	
- Dyspareunia	
- Painful defecation	
Risk of bias	
Selection	(Y / N)
- Allocation sequence random	
- Allocation sequence concealed	
Detection	
- Blinding	
Attrition	
- Incomplete outcome data	
Measurement	
- Inappropriate method of measuring the outcome	
Reporting	

- Selective reporting	
Overall risk of bias judgement	
Other	