

Biostatistics statement

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 35344


Title: Short-term clinical outcomes of laparoscopic vs open rectal excision for rectal cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

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Statement: The systematic review "Short-term clinical outcomes of laparoscopic *vs* open rectal excision for rectal cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis" submitted to World Journal of Gastroenterology follows the statistical methods of a systematic review and meta-analysis (PRISMA checklist for reporting a meta-analysis) in the literature search, data selection, data collection, data extraction, and data evaluation and analyses. The Meta-analysis has been performed with Review Manager (RevMan, version 5.3, Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark).

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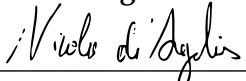
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