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| Supplementary Digital Content 8. Overview of subgroups with imbalanced covariates after propensity score matching |
| Subgroup | Covariates with imbalance (SMD) |
| Age |  |
|  >70 years | - |
|  <70 years | - |
| Sex |  |
|  Male | - |
|  Female | - |
| ASA Physical Status |
|  I-II | - |
|  III-IV |  |
| Tumor localization |
|  Colon | - |
|  Right hemicolon | - |
|  Left hemicolon | - |
|  Rectum |  |
| Surgical approach |
|  Laparotomy | - |
|  Laparoscopy | - |
| Urgency |  |
|  Acute | BMI (0.102), steroids (0.114), urate lowering drugs 0.155) |
|  Elective | - |
| Neoadjuvant oncologic treatment |
|  Yes | No. of different drugs dispensed (0.145) |
|  No | - |
| Preoperative metastases present |  |
|  Yes | BMI (0.106), Alcohol consumption (0.125), ASA Score (0.113), Antidiabetics (0.106), Beta blockers (0.126), Tumor localization (0.115) |
|  No | - |
| UICC stage |  |
|  I-II | - |
|  III-IV | - |
| Covariates were considered imbalanced if standardized mean difference between epidural and no epidural groups exceeded 0.1. In the regression models used to determine the effect estimate of epidural anesthesia on recurrence, imbalanced covariates were included in the respective subgroup. SMD = standardized mean difference, ASA = American Society of Anesthesiologist, BMI = body mass index, UICC = Union for International Cancer Control |