**Supplementary file 4  
Subgroup analyses of the Wexner score with selection based upon severity of complaints at baseline.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Measurement nr.** | **Intention to treat** | | | **Per protocol** | | |
| **Control group** | **PFR group** | **p value** | **Control group** | **PFR group** | **p value** |
| Baseline Wexner ≥1: symptomatic patients only | | n=44 | n=44 |  | n=42 | n=36 |  |
| Total Wexner score, median (IQR) | M2 (baseline) | 6·0 (11·0) | 10·5 (8·0) | - | 6·0 (12·0) | 10·5 (7·0) | - |
| M3 | 5·0 (8·0) | 6·0 (8·0) | - | 5·0 (9·0) | 5·5 (8·0) | - |
| Change scores (M3-M2) | Objected mean difference | -1·3  95% CI -2·3 to -0·3 | -2·8  95% CI -4·0 to -1·7 | - | -1·2  95% CI -2·3 to -0·2 | -3·2  95% CI -4· To -1·8 | - |
| Adjusted mean difference \* | -1·6  95% CI -2·6 to -0·6 | -2·5  95% CI -3·5 to -1·6 | 0·18 | -1·6  95% CI -2·6 to -0·5 | -2·8  95% CI -3·9 to -1·7 | 0·10 |
| Baseline Wexner ≥5: at least moderate incontinence | | n=28 | n=35 | - | n=26 | n=30 |  |
| Total Wexner score, median (IQR) | M2 (baseline) | 12·5 (9·0) | 12·0 (6·0) |  | 12·5 (9·0) | 12·0 (7·0) | - |
| M3 | 6·5 (8·0) | 7·0 (8·0) |  | 6·0 (8·0) | 6·5 (9·0) | - |
| Change scores (M3-M2) | Objected mean difference | -2·6  95% CI -3·8 to -1·3 | -3·7  95% CI -5·0 to -2·4 |  | -2·6  95% CI -4·0 to -1·2 | -3·9  95% CI -5·3 to -2·4 | - |
| Adjusted mean difference \* | -2·6  95% CI -4·0 to -1·3 | -3·6  95% CI -4·9 to -2·4 | 0·27 | -2·6  95% CI -4·1 to -1·2 | -3·8  95% CI -5·2 to -2·5 | 0·23 |
| Baseline Wexner ≥9: at least severe incontinence | | n=19 | n=28 | - | n=17 | n=23 |  |
| Total Wexner score, median (IQR) | M2 (baseline) | 15·0 (4·0) | 13·5 (5·0) |  | 15·0 (4·0) | 13·0 (5·0) | - |
| M3 | 12·0 (9·0) | 9·5 (8·0) |  | 12·0 (9·0) | 8·0 (8·0) | - |
| Change scores (M3-M2) | Objected mean difference | -3·3  95% CI -5·1 to -1·5 | -3·8  95% CI -5·4 to -2·2 |  | -3·4  95% CI -5·4 to -1·4 | -4·1  95% CI -6·0 to -2·2 | - |
| Adjusted mean difference \* | -3·3  95% CI -5·2 to -1·4 | -3·8  95% CI -5·4 to -2·2 | 0·72 | -3·5  95% CI -5·7 to -1·3 | -4·0  95% CI -5·9 to -2·2 | 0·72 |
| Baseline Wexner <16: without near-complete incontinence | | n=45 | n=36 | - | n=43 | n=29 |  |
| Total Wexner score, median (IQR) | M2 (baseline) | 4·0 (9·0) | 9·0 (8·0) |  | 3·0 (7·0) | 9·0 (6·0) | - |
| M3 | 5·0 (4·0) | 5·0 (5·0) |  | 4·0 (4·0) | 5·0 (4·0) | - |
| Change scores (M3-M2) | Objected mean difference | -0·3  95% CI -1·2 to 0·6 | -2·6  95% CI -3·8 to -1·4 |  | -0·2  95% CI -1·1 to 0·7 | -2·9  95% CI -4·3 to -1·5 | - |
| Adjusted mean difference \* | -0·7  95% CI -1·6 to 0·2 | -2·1  95% CI -3·1 to -1·1 | 0·045 | -0·6  95% CI -1·5 to 0·3 | -2·3  95% CI -3·4 to -1·2 | 0·03 |

\* ANCOVA with mean change in Wexner incontinence score (M3-M2) adjusted for age, preoperatively assessed tumor height, neoadjuvant treatment and Wexner baseline score.