**Supplemental Digital Content Table 5**

**Table 5 Functional defecation performance at 12 months after TME surgery for rectal cancer**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Total**(n=171) | **TME with pIONM**(n=82) | **TME without pIONM**(n=89) | *P* |
| **Defecation conditions** |  |  |  |  |
| Pads during the day, n (%) | 70 (55) | 30 (46) | 40 (64) | **0.049** |
| Missing data, n | 43 | 17 | 26 |  |
| Able to wait 15 min before going to the toilet, n (%) | 79 (62) | 41 ( 64) | 38 (60) | 0.663 |
| Missing data, n | 44 | 18 | 26 |  |
| Daily stool frequency, mean, (SD) | 4.2 (3.6) | 4.3 ( 3.9) | 4.2 (3.2) | 0.985 |
| Missing data, n | 44 | 18 | 26 |  |
| Feeling of fragmented emptying, n (%) | 83 (65) | 35 (56) | 48 (75) | **0.021** |
| Missing data, n | 44 | 19 | 25 |  |
| Fecal incontinence at night, n (%) | 22 (17) | 9 (14) | 13 (20) | 0.349 |
| Missing data, n | 43 | 18 | 25 |  |
| **Anal sphincter resting tone\*** |  |  |  | 0.060 |
| No discernable tone at rest, n (%) | 1 (1) | 1 (2) | 0 (0) |  |
| Very low tone, n (%) | 3 (2) | 3 (5) | 0 (0) |  |
| Mildly decreased tone, n (%) | 9 (7) | 2 (3) | 7 (12) |  |
| Normal, n (%) | 106 (88) | 56 (90) | 50 (85) |  |
| Elevated tone, n (%) | 2 (2) | 0(0) | 2 (3) |  |
| Very high tone, n (%) | 0 (0) | 0(0) | 0(0) |  |
| Missing data, n | 50 | 20 | 30 |  |
| **Anal sphincter squeeze tone\*** |  |  |  | 0.873 |
| No discernable increase, n (%) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |  |
| Slight increase, n (%) | 6 (5) | 4 (6) | 2 (3) |  |
| Fair increase, n (%) | 15 (13) | 7 (11) | 8 (14) |  |
| Normal, n (%) | 91 (76) | 47 (76) | 44 (76) |  |
| Strong increase, n (%) | 8 (7) | 4 (6) | 4 (7) |  |
| Very strong increase, n (%) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |  |
| Missing data, n | 51 | 20 | 31 |  |
| **Medications for regulating bowel movements** |  |  |  |  |
| Anti-diarrheal / constipating medication, n (%) | 32 (25) | 16 (25) | 16 (25) | 0.960 |
| Missing data, n | 42 | 17 | 25 |  |

TME: total mesorectal excision; pIONM: pelvic intraoperative neuromonitoring; SD: standard deviation; n: number

\* DRESS Score after stoma closure. DRESS: Digital Rectal Exam Scoring System. Orkin BA et al. Dis Colon Rectum 2010;53:1656-1660