

Certainty assessment						
Studies	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall certainty of evidence
<b>Postoperative mortality</b>						
9 Observational studies	Serious <sup>a</sup>	Serious <sup>b</sup>	Not serious	Not serious	None	⊕⊕○○ Low
<b>Postoperative complications</b>						
9 Observational studies	Serious <sup>a</sup>	Very serious <sup>c</sup>	Not serious	Serious <sup>d</sup>	None	⊕○○○ Very low
<b>Postoperative severe complications</b>						
6 Observational studies	Serious <sup>a</sup>	Serious <sup>b</sup>	Not serious	Not serious	None	⊕⊕○○ Low
<b>Fecal incontinence</b>						
9 Observational studies	Serious <sup>a</sup>	Very serious <sup>c</sup>	Not serious	Serious <sup>d</sup>	None	⊕○○○ Very low
<b>Free of the stoma at the end of the follow-up</b>						
10 Observational studies	Serious <sup>a</sup>	Very serious <sup>c</sup>	Not serious	Not serious	All plausible residual confounding would reduce the demonstrated effect	⊕⊕○○ Low
<b>Length of hospital stay</b>						
7 Observational studies	Serious <sup>a</sup>	Serious <sup>b</sup>	Not serious	Not serious	All plausible residual confounding would reduce the demonstrated effect	⊕⊕⊕○ Moderate

**Supplementary Fig. 1.** Certainty assessment (GRADEpro). <sup>a</sup>Bias in selection of participants into the study; <sup>b</sup>high clinical heterogeneity; <sup>c</sup>high clinical and statistical heterogeneity; <sup>d</sup>high range of 95% confidence interval (> 20%).