



Figure 1. Participant flow

***Assignments for those who dropped out are not recorded in the report.**

Table 1 Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	Gum	Control
Age (mean [sd])	70.62 [16.97]	69.22 [13.35]
Male (n [%])	14 [54%]	11 [41%]
Cancer (n [%])	20 [77%]	20 [74%]
Laparoscopic procedure (n [%])	17 [65%]	15 [55%]
Epidural pain relief (n [%])	13 [50%]	16 [59%]

Table 2 Outcomes – recovery times (hours)

	Gum	Control	Mann Whitney
Outcome	Median (IQR)	Median (IQR)	p
Length of hospital stay	130(96.5-180)	147 (201-242)	0.11
First oral fluids	6 (4-12)	7.5 (5-22)	0.12
First solid food	39 (23-49)	48 (30-72)	0.04
First flatus passed	47 (16-65.5)	67 (39.5-80)	0.06
First bowel movement	74 (58.5-90.5)	112.5 (61-128)	0.03

Table 3 Gastrointestinal symptoms

	Gum	Control	Mann Whitney
Outcome	n	n	p*
Nausea	8	13	0.264
Vomitting	6	10	0.372
Ileus	4	4	1.00
N	26	27	-

* Chi-squared or Fisher's exact

Table 4 Adverse events

	Gum	Control
Outcome	n	n
None	18	15
Cardiac	1	0
MRSA	1	0
Splenic injury	0	1
Retained swab	0	1
Surgical emphysema	0	1
Wound infection	1	3
30 day readmission	1	0
Death	0	1
N	26	27