| Quality of life | EuroQol five-dimensional questionnaire | Preoperative | Hospital discharge | One Year |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| N (%) or mean (SD) | Small stitches (n=50) | Large stitches (n=50) | p-value* | Small stitches (n=50) | Large stitches (n=50) | p-value* | Small stitches (n=40) | Large stitches (n=40) | p-value* |
| Mobility | | | | | | | | | |
| no problems | 44 (88.0%) | 47 (94.0%) | 0.485 | 42 (84.0%) | 37 (74.0%) | 0.248 | 31 (77.5%) | 33 (82.5%) | 0.957 |
| some problems | 6 (12.0%) | 3 (6.0%) | | 8 (16.0%) | 11 (22.0%) | | 8 (20.0%) | 7 (17.5%) | |
| many problems | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | | 0 (0.0%) | 2 (4.0%) | | 1 (2.5%) | 0 (0.0%) | |
| Independence | | | | | | | | | |
| no problems | 46 (92.0%) | 47 (94.0%) | > 0.999 | 44 (88.0%) | 41 (82.0%) | 0.630 | 29 (72.5%) | 37 (92.5%) | 0.039 |
| some problems | 4 (8.0%) | 3 (6.0%) | | 4 (8.0%) | 7 (14.0%) | | 11 (27.5%) | 3 (7.5%) | |
| many problems | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | | 2 (4.0%) | 2 (4.0%) | | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | |
| Daily Tasks | | | | | | | | | |
| no problems | 34 (68.0%) | 37 (64.0%) | 0.428 | 25 (50.0%) | 24 (48.0%) | 0.936 | 19 (47.5%) | 20 (50.0%) | >0.999 |
| some problems | 16 (32.0%) | 12 (24.0%) | | 21 (42.0%) | 21 (42.0%) | | 17 (42.5%) | 18 (45.0%) | |
| many problems | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (2.0%) | | 4 (8.0%) | 5 (10.0%) | | 4 (10.0%) | 2 (5.0%) | |
| Pain | | | | | | | | | |
| no problems | 32 (64.0%) | 27 (44.0%) | 0.475 | 27 (34.0%) | 23 (26.0%) | 0.301 | 24 (60.0%) | 19 (47.5%) | 0.417 |
| some problems | 16 (32.0%) | 20 (40.0%) | | 23 (26.0%) | 25 (50.0%) | | 13 (32.5%) | 17 (42.5%) | |
| many problems | 2 (4.0%) | 3 (6.0%) | | 0 (0.0%) | 2 (4.0%) | | 3 (7.5%) | 4 (10.0%) | |
| Fear | | | | | | | | | |
| no problems | 25 (50.0%) | 28 (56.0%) | 0.858 | 31 (62.0%) | 26 (32.0%) | 0.311 | 19 (47.5%) | 22 (55.0%) | >0.999 |
| some problems | 20 (40.0%) | 19 (38.0%) | | 14 (28.0%) | 21 (42.0%) | | 16 (40.0%) | 17 (42.5%) | |
| many problems | 5 (10.0%) | 3 (6.0%) | | 5 (10.0%) | 3 (6.0%) | | 5 (12.5%) | 1 (2.5%) | |
| Overall | 60.6 (20.3) | 66.1 (20.7) | 0.184 | 59.0 (21.5) | 58.2 (25.9) | 0.715 | 57.1 (23.2) | 68.1 (19.8) | 0.025 |

*Categorical variables: Chi-squared test; continuous variables: student’s t-test