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# Figure 2

# Step 1 Preparatory phase (May 2020):

15 trialists and methodology experts were asked to provide feedback on the preliminary survey questionnaire, and to suggest further trialists with expertise in rectal cancer to form the international consensus panel

## Step 2

# 1<sup>st</sup> Delphi round (R1; June-July 2020):

31 trialists were asked to participate in R1 to answer 32 questions on 7 key outcome measures of organ preservation. 28 of 31 (90%) individuals participated. Two experts on clinical trial outcome measures and PROMs were involved (but did not vote). The final expert consensus panel consisted of 30 members. 18 of 32 (56%) questions received at least 70% of votes and were therefore agreed following R1

## Step 3

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Delphi round (R2; August-November 2020):

The raw data and summarised results of R1 together with 12 new questions of R2 were circulated to all panel members, with the request to vote again to reach a consensus. 11 of 12 (92%) were voted by at least 70% of the panel and, agreed following R2

## Step 4

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Delphi round (R3; December 2020-January 2021):

The final consensus manuscript recommendations on the 7 key outcome measures of organ preservation in rectal cancer was prepared and agreed upon by all members (100%) of the panel in R3