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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

1st 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

2nd 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

3rd 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