ESCP: The European Society of Coloproctology has recognized the strengths of this form of research, as well as its power in bringing together surgeons and units across multiple regions or countries for a common research goal, thus strengthening an active network of research participation across Europe. ESCP’s first cohort study on right hemicolectomy was completed in 2015 across 284 centres, including 3200 patients.

Study participants: Any hospital performing reversal of intestinal stoma may participate. Teams of consultants/attendings and trainees/residents will collect data, with up to five investigators per site in total.

Study period: Patients will be prospectively included over a consecutive 8 week period, starting on any day from 18 January 2016 to 28 February 2015.

Study aim: To explore differences in patients, techniques and outcomes in closure of intestinal stoma across the international cohort to identify areas of practice variability resulting in apparent differences in outcome warranting further study.

Primary research question: Does anastomotic technique impact upon postoperative outcomes following stoma closure?

Inclusion criteria: All adult (>18 years old) patients undergoing closure of intestinal stoma. All operations are included, for any pathology, via any operative approach.

Exclusion criteria: Closure of intestinal stoma which is done as part of a more extensive bowel resection, beyond resection of the stoma site or the distal end stump. Patients undergoing concomitant major abdominal procedure (such as hepatectomy) at the time of stoma closure.

Outcome measures: 30-day follow-up: wound infection, anastomotic leak, intra-abdominal abscess, complication (Clavien-Dindo) and re-operation rates.

Follow-up: Outcome measures will be recorded if they occurred at any point from post-operative Day 0 (day of surgery) to Day 30.

Data collection: Data will be collected and stored online through a secure, approved University of Birmingham server running the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) web application. REDCap is widely used internationally by academic organisations to store research databases.

Data analysis: Data shall be analysed by the steering group. Data will not be analysed at a surgeon level or centre level.

Authorship: All collaborators will be eligible for PubMed-citable authorship.

You can sign up for updates at: bit.do/ESCP