**Supplementary Table 1. Systematic literature review search terms and strategy.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Search terms for PubMed** |
| #1((((((((Transanal opening of intersphincteric space[Title/Abstract]) OR (TROPIS[Title/Abstract])) OR (Transanal Surgery[Title/Abstract])) OR (Sphincter-Sparing Surgery[Title/Abstract])) OR (Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures[Title/Abstract])) OR (Colorectal Surgery[Title/Abstract])) OR (Anus Surgery[Title/Abstract])) OR (Transanal Approach[Title/Abstract]))  #2 (((((((((((((Fistula, Rectal[Title/Abstract]) OR (Anal Fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (Intersphincteric Fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (Anorectal Diseases[Title/Abstract])) OR (Rectal Fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (Perianal Fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (Fistula Tract[Title/Abstract])) OR (Low simple anal fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (Low complex anal fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (high simple anal fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (High complex anal fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (high anal fistula[Title/Abstract])) OR (low anal fistula[Title/Abstract]))  #1 AND #2 |
| **Search terms for Web of Science** |
| #1 ((((((TS=(Transanal opening of intersphincteric space )) OR TS=(TROPIS)) OR TS=( Transanal Surgery)) OR TS=(Sphincter-Sparing Surgery)) OR TS=(Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures)) OR TS=(Colorectal Surgery)) OR TS=(Anus Surgery)) OR TS=(Transanal Approach)  #2 ((((((((((((TS=(anal fistula)) OR TS=(Fistula, Rectal)) OR TS=(Intersphincteric Fistula)) OR TS=(Anorectal Diseases)) OR TS=(Rectal Fistula)) OR TS=(Perianal Fistula)) OR TS=(Fistula Tract)) OR TS=(Low simple anal fistula)) OR TS=(Low complex anal fistula)) OR TS=(High complex anal fistula)) OR TS=(high anal fistula)) OR TS=(low anal fistula))  #1 AND #2 |
| **Search terms for Embase** |
| #1 'transanal opening of intersphincteric space':ti,ab,kw OR 'tropis':ti,ab,kw OR 'transanal surgery':ti,ab,kw OR 'sphincter-sparing surgery':ti,ab,kw OR 'minimally invasive surgical procedures':ti,ab,kw OR 'colorectal surgery':ti,ab,kw OR 'anus surgery':ti,ab,kw OR 'transanal approach':ti,ab,kw  #2 'fistula, rectal':ti,ab,kw OR 'anal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'intersphincteric fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'anorectal diseases':ti,ab,kw OR 'rectal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'perianal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'fistula tract':ti,ab,kw OR 'low simple anal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'low complex anal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'high simple anal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'high complex anal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'high anal fistula':ti,ab,kw OR 'low anal fistula':ti,ab,kw  #1 AND #2 |
| **Search terms for Cochrane** |
| #1 (Transanal Opening Of Intersphincteric Space):ti,ab,kw OR (TROPIS):ti,ab, kw OR (Transanal Surgery):ti,ab,kw OR (Sphincter-Sparing Surgery):ti,ab,kw OR (Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures):ti,ab,kw OR (Colorectal Surgery):ti,ab,kw OR (Anus Surgery):ti,ab,kw OR (Transanal Approach):ti,ab,kw  #2 kw OR (Fistula, Rectal):ti,ab,kw OR (Anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Intersphincteric Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Anorectal Diseases):ti,ab,kw OR (Rectal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Perianal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Fistula Tract):ti,ab,kw OR (Low Simple anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Low Complex Anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (High Simple Anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (High Complex Anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Figh Anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw OR (Low Anal Fistula):ti,ab,kw  #1 AND #2 |

**Supplementary Table 2.** **Assessment of quality of included studies (Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale).**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Author | Year | Clear research objectives | Consistency in patient inclusion | Representativeness of the cohort | Adequate sample size | Complete data collection | Objectivity of evaluation | Sufficient follow-up duration or low follow-up loss rate | Clearly defined outcome measures | Appropriate and reproducible outcome assessment | Score |
| Pankaj Garg[1] | 2021 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Baolei Huang[2] | 2021 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| [Yu-Bo Li](https://pubmed.99885.net/?term=Li+YB&cauthor_id=33517706" \o "https://pubmed.99885.net/?term=Li+YB&cauthor_id=33517706)[3] | 2022 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Pankaj Garg[4] | 2021 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Shrivats Mishra[5] | 2024 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Pankaj Garg[6] | 2017 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 |

**Reference**

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