

Figure 1: Study recruitment & exclusion flow chart.

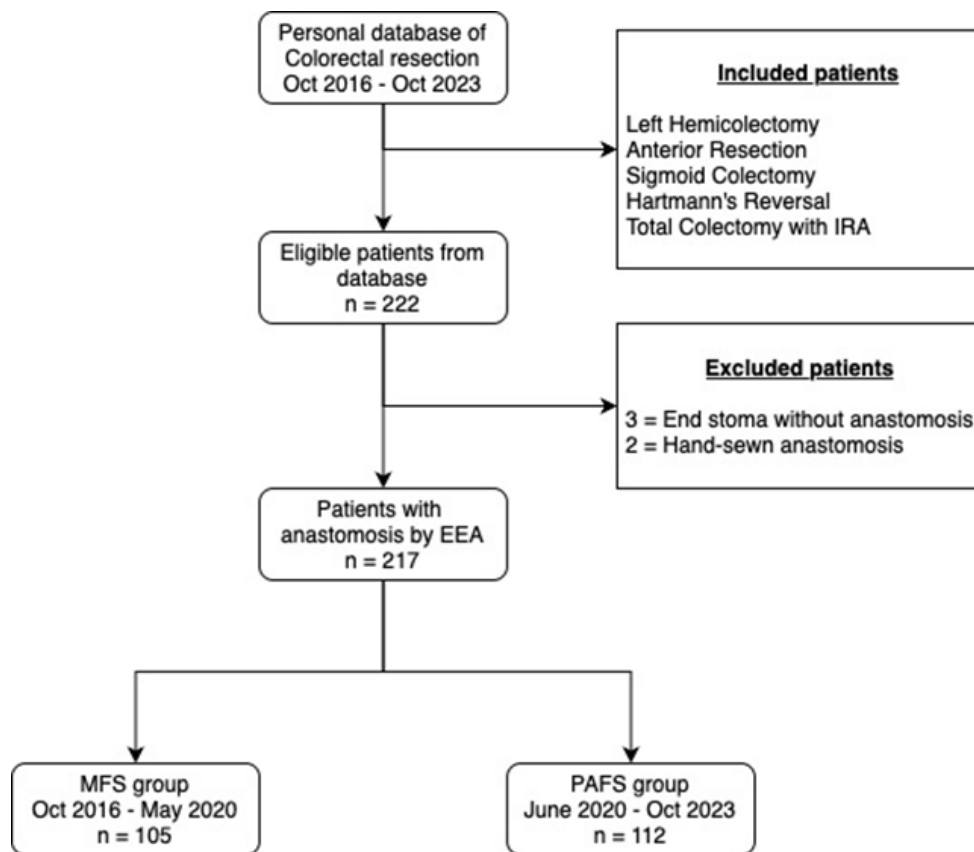


Table 1: Demographic and comorbidity characteristics of each cohort.

	Manual firing stapler (n=105)	Powered firing stapler (n=112)	P-value
Mean age (years)	65 (SD=14.4)	64 (SD=13)	0.9
Sex			
Male	55% (n=58)	54% (n=61)	0.99
Female	45% (n=47)	46% (n=51)	
Ethnicity			
NZ European/Pākehā	82% (n=86)	81% (n=91)	0.96
Māori	10% (n=10)	11% (n=12)	0.82
Other European	8% (n=8)	5% (n=6)	0.59
Other/Not recorded	<1% (n=1)	3% (n=3)	0.62

Table 1 (continued): Demographic and comorbidity characteristics of each cohort.

Mean BMI (kg/m ²)	27 (SD=5.3)	28 (SD=8.1)	0.15
Mean ASA	2 (SD=0.6)	1.9 (SD=0.5)	0.25

Table 2: Operation type, ileostomy formation rate and neoadjuvant radiotherapy rate. *ULAR = Ultra-low anterior resection, LAR = Low anterior resection, HAR = High anterior resection.

	Manual firing stapler (n=105)	Powered firing stapler (n=112)	P-value
Elective operation	96% (n=101)	97% (n=109)	0.71
Laparoscopic	69% (n=72)	64% (n=72)	0.56
ULAR*	31% (n=33)	26% (n=29)	0.37
LAR*	14% (n=15)	15% (n=17)	0.85
HAR*	33% (n=35)	40% (n=45)	0.33
Other	22% (n=23)	19% (n=21)	0.61
Covering ileostomy	40% (n=42)	36% (n=32 out of 88 complete data)	0.09
Neoadjuvant radiotherapy	18% (n=19)	18% (n=20)	1