
Supplement table. Center-Specific recovery on ZCQ

scores at 52 weeks*

Center	number of	randomization group	mean Success score ZCQ
number	patients		(95% CI)

Center 1	56	IPD	#0.57 (0.39-0.74)
		bony decompression	#0.64 (0.46-0.79)
Center 2	14	IPD	##0.83
		bony decompression	##1.00
Center 3	8	IPD	##1.00
		bony decompression	##0.80
Center 4	68	IPD	#0.45 (0.45-0.78)
		bony decompression	#0.56 (0.40-0.72)
Center 5	8	IPD	##1.00
		bony decompression	##1.00

Abbreviation: CI confidence interval.

* The formal test on heterogeneity of treatment effects among centers, taking centers as a fixed effect in the model, was not significant.

The mean of successful recovery on ZCQ scores of patients treated with IPD or bony decompression based on Generalised Estimating Equations

Due to small numbers, repeated measurements were not possible; therefore using cross tabs and Chi-Square testing was performed to make an estimation of the mean success score at 52 weeks

Supplement table. Subgroup analysis (GEE)	OR (p-value)
interaction age and randomization	#2.312(0.273)
- Subgroup <70 years	*0.903 (0.805)
- Subgroup > 70 years	*0.391 (0.143)
interaction sex and randomization	#1.043 (0.954)
- Male	*0.660 (0.381)
- female	*0.633 (0.393)

interaction 'long medical history of pain' and randomization	#0.961 (0.955)
- less than one year	*0.686 (0.415)
- more than one year	*0.714 (0.523)

* Outcome was reported with an (OR) odds ratio (beta) on a better success rate when treated with IPD versus bony decompression, and overall p-value (based on GEE) of the mean difference between two groups based on a continuous outcome scale (MRDQ and VAS).

#Ratio between the ORs of the two subgroups: test for possible confounding.