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**Quality Improvement Study** 

# The first international Delphi consensus statement on Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal surgery

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#### **Abstract**

### Background

<u>Laparoscopic surgery</u> has almost replaced open surgery in many areas of Gastro-Intestinal (GI) surgery. There is currently no published expert consensus statement on the principles of laparoscopic GI surgery. This may have affected the training of new surgeons. This exercise aimed to achieve an expert consensus on important principles of laparoscopic GI surgery.

#### Methods

A committee of 38 international experts in laparoscopic GI surgery proposed and voted on 149 statements in two rounds following a strict modified Delphi protocol.

#### Results

A consensus was achieved on 133 statements after two rounds of voting. All experts agreed on tailoring the first port site to the patient, whereas 84.2% advised avoiding the umbilical area for <u>pneumoperitoneum</u> in patients who had a prior midline <u>laparotomy</u>. Moreover, 86.8% agreed on closing all 15 mm ports irrespective of the patient's <u>body mass index</u>.