

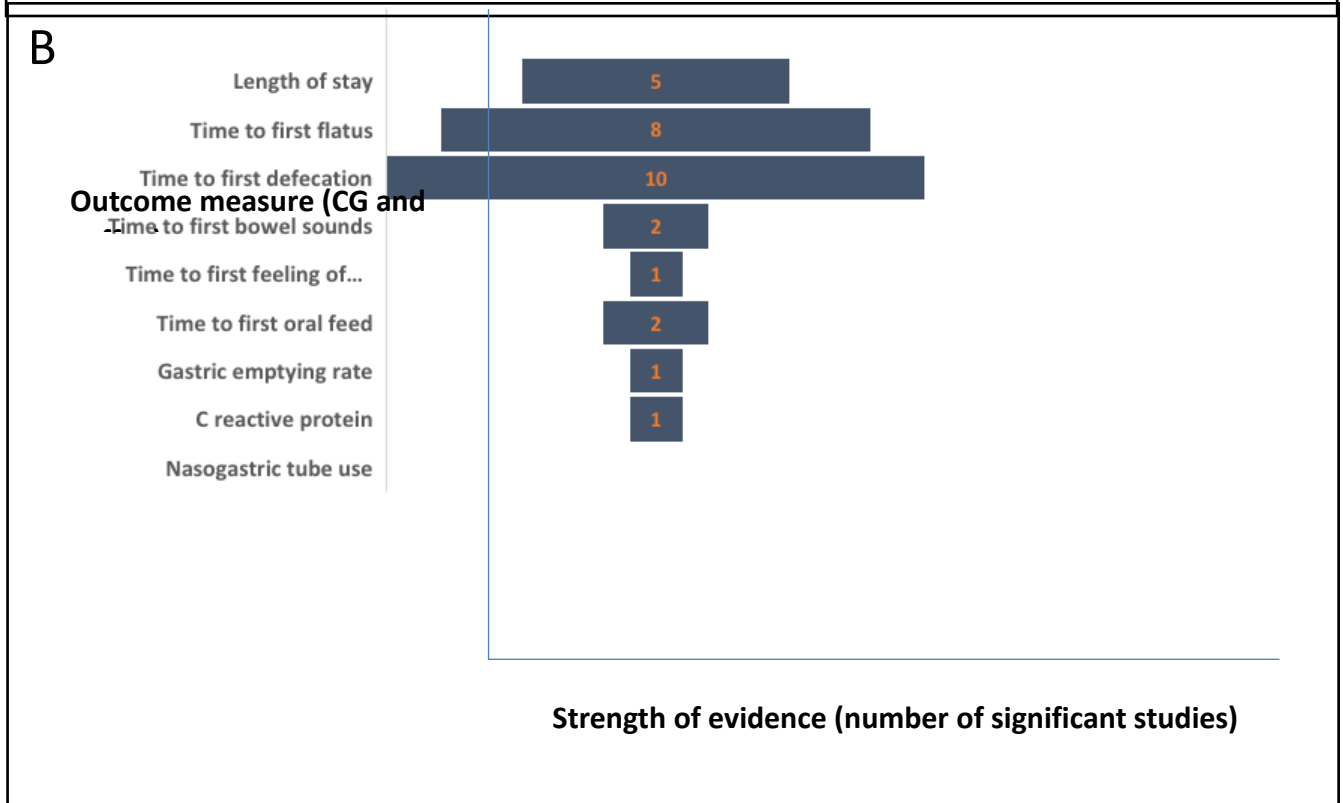
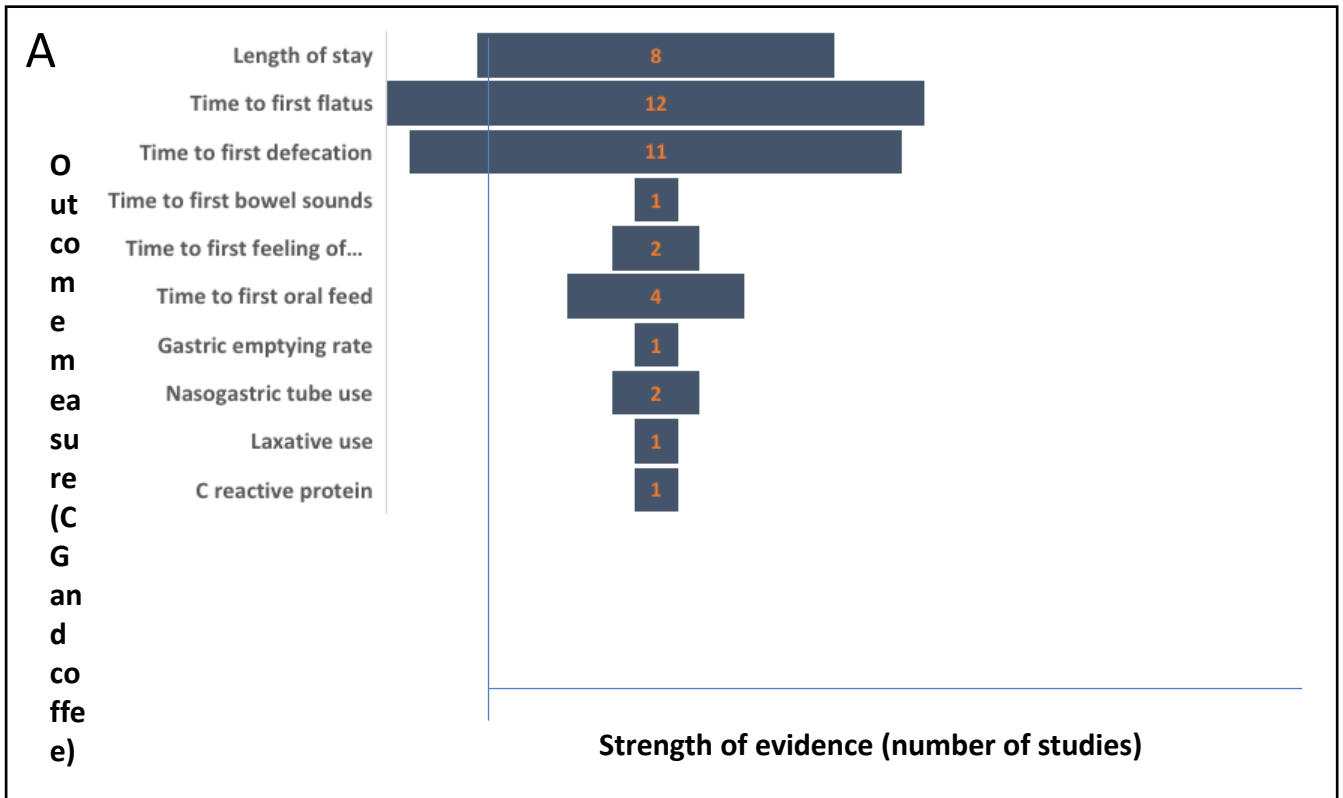
Appendix

Author	Number of patients who achieved flatus in 48 hours		p value
	Chewing gum	Standard care	
Van den Heijkant (2015)	34 of 52 (65%)	30 of 60 (50%)	0.044
Vergara-Fernandez (2016)	30 of 32(94%)	20 of 32 (63%)	0.002

Appendix 1 Frequency of patients achieving flatus within 48 hours. Significant findings have been highlighted.

Author	Number of patients who defecated within 4 days of surgery		p value
	Chewing gum	Standard care	
Van den Heijkant (2015)	44 (85%)	34 (57%)	0.006

Appendix 2 Frequency of patients defecating within four postoperative days. Significant findings have been highlighted.



Appendix 3 Funnel plot showing the strength of evidence for each outcome measure. A) Strength of evidence determined by number of studies reporting outcome measure. B) Strength of evidence was determined by the number of significant studies available for each outcome measure.