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Performing your original search, "*low rectal cancer*" "*quality of life*", in PubMed will retrieve [13 citations](#).

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1: Br J Surg. 1983 Aug;70(8):460-2.

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The quality of life after rectal excision for low rectal cancer.

Williams NS, Johnston D.

The quality of life for patients with carcinoma of the lower two-thirds of the rectum (5-12 cm from the anal verge) treated by abdominoperineal resection (APER, n = 38) was compared with that of a similar group of patients treated by low sphincter saving resection (SSR, n = 40). Assessment was by questionnaire conducted a minimum of one year after operation. Thirty patients (75 per cent) after SSR were entirely continent and ten patients (25 per cent) had occasional episodes of incontinence. Each patient with a colostomy was incontinent and 25 (66 per cent) had leaks from their appliance (12 frequent; 13 occasional). Patients after APER avoided more items in the diet and took more medication to control their bowel habit than patients after SSR. Fifteen of the 18 patients (83 per cent) who were employed before SSR returned to work after operation; only 6 of 15 patients (40 per cent) returned to work after APER (P less than 0.05). Sexual function was impaired in 6 of 20 men (30 per cent) after SSR and in 12 of 18 men (67 per cent) after APER (P less than 0.06). Depression was significantly more prevalent after APER than after SSR. **Patients with low rectal cancer who are treated by modern sphincter saving resection have a quality of life superior to those who are treated by APER.**

PMID: 6871635 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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