

Supplementary Table 1. Longitudinal GEE analyses additionally adjusted for operation time

Outcome	Source	Wald χ^2	<i>p</i> *
BT	Group	1.137	0.286
	Group $\times$ Time	15.221	0.085
	Operation time	3.382	0.066
Pain	Group	0.334	0.563
	Group $\times$ Time	5.899	0.750
	Operation time	0.024	0.878
WBC	Group	2.362	0.124
	Group $\times$ Time	23.493	0.005
	Operation time	1.018	0.313
CRP	Group	7.932	0.005
	Group $\times$ Time	25.066	0.003
	Operation time	6.862	0.009

*GEE with Gaussian distribution and exchangeable working correlation structure were used. Time was modeled as a categorical variable (postoperative day 1–10), and operation time was included as a covariate. Missing observations were excluded from each outcome-specific model. GEE, generalized estimating equations; BT, body temperature; VAS, visual analog scale; WBC, white blood cell; CRP, C-reactive protein.