

Table 1 Age, sex, duration of surgery and history of smoking in the 4 patient groups

| Variable | Placebo (<i>n</i> = 25) | Metoclopramide (<i>n</i> = 25) | Dexamethasone (<i>n</i> = 25) | Metoclopramide + dexamethasone (<i>n</i> = 25) | <i>P</i> -value ^a |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Age [mean (SD) years] ^b | 67.1 (9.3) | 61.5 (10.1) | 65.9 (11.4) | 71 (5.9) | 0.80 |
| Sex [no. (%)] | | | | | |
| Female | 13 (52) | 10 (40) | 11 (44) | 14 (56) | 0.70 |
| Male | 12 (48) | 15 (60) | 14 (56) | 11 (44) | |
| Duration of surgery [mean (SD) min] | 36.2 (2.3) | 38.5 (1.8) | 35.4 (1.1) | 37.2 (2.4) | 0.65 |
| History of smoking [no. (%)] | 3 (12) | 5 (20) | 3 (12) | 3 (12) | 0.09 |

^aChi-squared test and ANOVA; ^bRange 50 to 80 years.

SD = standard deviation.