Summary Results Overview

1. Baseline Characteristics

A total of 102 children undergoing major bowel surgery were enrolled and randomized equally into two groups:
- Early NGT removal group: 51 participants
- Delayed NGT removal group: 51 participants

Age:
- Early group: 30.82 ± 12.57 months
- Delayed group: 25.00 ± 11.23 months
- Combined mean age: 27.31 ± 9.12 months

There was no statistically significant difference in age between groups ($p = 0.082$).

Indications for surgery included colo-colic intussusception, ileo-colic intussusception, intestinal atresia, and malrotation syndrome, with no significant difference between groups ($p = 0.464$).

2. Participant Flow (CONSORT)

110 children assessed for eligibility
↓
8 excluded (did not meet inclusion criteria or declined consent)
↓
102 participants randomized
↓
Allocated to Early NGT Removal (n = 51)
Allocated to Delayed NGT Removal (n = 51)
↓
All participants received allocated intervention
↓
No loss to follow-up
↓
102 participants included in final analysis

3. Adverse Events

No serious adverse events related to the timing of nasogastric tube removal were recorded in either group. No cases of aspiration, bowel perforation, or mortality attributable to the intervention were observed.

4. Outcome Measures

Primary Outcome:
Time to return of bowel sounds:

- Early group: 83.7 ± 11.67 hours
- Delayed group: 97.15 ± 17.71 hours
The difference was statistically significant (p = 0.029).

Secondary Outcomes:
Time to passage of flatus/faeces:
- Early group: 96.79 ± 13.15 hours
- Delayed group: 107.13 ± 15.38 hours (p = 0.041)

Time to full-scale feeding:
- Early group: 121.84 ± 13.67 hours
- Delayed group: 132.63 ± 12.79 hours (p = 0.031)