



Online Resource 1: Regression diagnostic plots for the fully adjusted linear regression model (Model 4) with postoperative change in low back pain between 6 and 12 months (Δ LBP 6–12M) as the dependent variable.

Standard diagnostic plots for Model 4, including residuals versus fitted values, normal Q–Q plot of standardized residuals, scale–location plot, and residuals versus leverage with Cook’s distance. Visual inspection indicated no major deviation from linearity. Standardized residuals were approximately normally distributed, with minor deviation in the upper tail. The scale–location plot did not suggest marked heteroscedasticity. No

highly influential observations were identified based on leverage values and Cook's distance.