**Appendix 1**

Linear model design and output

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Estimate (95% CI)** | **T-value** | **P** |
| (Intercept) |  | 7.895 ( 7.387 , 8.403 ) | 30.471 | <0.001 |
| Gender | Female |  |  |  |
|  | Male | -0.348 ( -0.672 , -0.023 ) | -2.096 | **0.036** |
| Smoker | Non-Smoker |  |  |  |
|  | Current | -0.396 ( -0.88 , 0.088 ) | -1.602 | 0.109 |
| Time | Baseline |  |  |  |
|  | 3 Months | -2.29 ( -2.573 , -2.007 ) | -15.861 | **<0.001** |
|  | 12 Months | -2.905 ( -3.187 , -2.623 ) | -20.172 | **<0.001** |
|  | 24 Months | -3.203 ( -3.506 , -2.9 ) | -20.711 | **<0.001** |
| Type of Surgery | PCF (Baseline) | -0.237 ( -1.054 , 0.579 ) | -0.569 | 0.569 |
|  | PCF (3 Months) | -0.205 ( -1.056 , 0.646 ) | -0.473 | 0.636 |
|  | PCF (12 Months) | -0.167 ( -0.994 , 0.659 ) | -0.396 | 0.692 |
|  | PCF (24 Months) | 0.802 ( -0.237 , 1.84 ) | 1.513 | 0.13 |
|  |  |  |  |  |