Opening of the abdomen: The time from placement of the scalpel/diathermy into the hand of the surgeon until the abdomen is opened. And the length of the incision is what initially planned.

Dissection / Resection: The time between opening of the abdomen and commencement of the anastomosis.

Hand-sewn intestinal anastomosis: The time from placement of the needle holder in the surgeon’s hand, until the anastomosis is completed and the suture is cut.

Stapled intestinal anastomosis: The time from the moment the surgeon gets the staple machine in the hand, until the anastomosis is completed and any strengthening suture sewn.

Closure of the abdomen: The time from the moment the surgeon gets the suture to the fascia in the hand, until the skin is closed.

Total operating time: Sum of the above.