**Table 2:** Baseline characteristics of the included population. SD: standard deviation, BMI: Body mass index, NA: unavailable, DM: Diabetes Mellitus.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study** | **Age** [mean±SD or Median (Range)] (years) | **Gender**  Male: Female | **BMI** (Average / Mean±SD) | **Comorbidities** |
| **De La Portilla 2008 [19]** | Mesh: 66.2±12.53  No-mesh: 63.1±15.6 | Mesh: 41:30  No-mesh: 39:33 | NA | Mesh: DM= 7, Steroids= 2, Respiratory disease= 5, Obesity=2  No-mesh: DM= 4, Steroids= 4, Respiratory disease= 4, Obesity= 0 |
| **Garcia-Urena 2015 [20]** | Mesh:65.6±13.3  No-mesh: 61.46±15.6 | Mesh: 31:22  No-mesh: 33:21 | Mesh: 24  No-mesh: 22 | Mesh: DM= 18, Immuno-compromised=6, Smoking= 5  No-mesh: DM= 9, Immuno-compromised=5, Smoking= 9 |
| **Hoyuela 2018 [21]** | Mesh: 76.4±11  No-mesh: 71±11 | Mesh: 10:5  No-mesh: 23:14 | Mesh: 27.8±2  No-mesh: 28.9±2 | Mesh: DM= 4, Respiratory disease= 2  No-mesh: DM= 10, respiratory disease= 4 |
| **Pereira 2019 [22]** | Mesh: 72.4±10.9  No-mesh: 69.3±12.5 | Mesh: 17:17  No-mesh: 40:21 | Mesh: 30.2±5.6  No-mesh: 26.8±4.4 | Mesh: DM= 10, COPD= 10, Obesity= 19, Immuno-compromised=3  No-mesh: DM= 13, COPD= 7, Obesity= 7, Immuno-compromised=2 |
| **Wong 2020 [23]** | All patients: 65 (20-96) | All patients:  55.5%:44.5% | NA | NA |
| **Cano-Valderrama 2022 [24]** | Mesh: 73.4±11.3  No-mesh: 69.6±11.9 | Mesh: 53:45  No-mesh: 113:98 | NA | Mesh: DM= 33, COPD= 8, Obesity= 27, Steroids= 4, Malnutrition= 9  No-mesh: DM= 41, COPD= 18, Obesity= 52, Steroids= 8 |