**Figure: Enrollment, Randomization, and Follow-up of the Study Participants**

Allocated to planned vaginal delivery (n=112)

* Received allocated intervention (n=92)
* Had cesarean section (n=17)
  + Withdrew participation (n=1)
  + Lost to follow up before delivery (n=2)

Analysed (n=112)   
 Excluded from analysis (n=0)

Analysed (n=110)   
 Excluded from analysis (n=0)

## Follow-Up

## Analysis

Allocated to planned cesarean section (n=110)

* Received allocated intervention (n=91)
* Had vaginal delivery (n=18)
* Withdrew participation (n=1)

Assessed for eligibility (n=555)

## Allocation

Excluded (n=327)

* Did not undergo anal endosonography (n=115)
* No sphincter lesion at endosonography (n=170)
* Refused randomisation (n=42)

Randomized (n=222)

Included (n=549)

Not included (n=6)

* Not meeting inclusion criteria (n=5)
* Declined to participate (n=1)

## Enrollment

Did not complete the trial (n=28)

* Withdrew participation (n=5)
* Lost to follow-up (n=22)
* Exit from the study by the investigator (n=1)

Did not complete the trial (n=19)

* Withdrew participation (n=6)
* Lost to follow-up (n=13)