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November 21, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Manuscript-14310.doc).

Title: Surgical Management of Rectal Prolapse: The Role of Robotic Surgery

Author: Zhubin Moghadamyeghaneh, Mark H. Hanna, Grace Hwang, Joseph C. Carmichael, Steven D. Mills, Alessio Pigazzi, Michael J. Stamos

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Surgical Procedures*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14310

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated
2. References and type setting were corrected
3. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

Comment: *Many thanks for asking me to review this narrative review of robotic surgery for rectal prolapse. It is very well written and gives a concise overview of the topic and of the limitations with the literature. One minor drawback, which I do not believe should inhibit the manuscripts publication, is the omission of 2 papers published over the past month or so: Rondelli F et al, Int J Surg Oct 2014 Mehmood RK et al, Int J Colorect Dis Sep 2014 The authors may wish to expand their comments on outcome reporting. For example, they have, like most other authors, focused on recurrence and "safety" (I assume they mean perioperative complication rates) rather than patient focused outcome measures such as quality of life, anorectal and / or sexual function. Only one study reported functional data (as they have noted) which is rather disappointing. This reflects the current published data rather than any oversight of the authors of this manuscript, but I can't help but feel the authors have missed the opportunity to highlight the glaringly obvious gap in the available data. Overall this is a very good paper and I enjoyed reading it. The English language style is superb.*

1. **Answer:** The recently published clinical trial and systematic review articles were cited and discussed in the outcome section of the manuscript.

A sentence was added to the second paragraph of the “outcomes of robotic surgery for rectal prolapse” section: A published systematic review by Rondelli and a recently published clinical trial by Mehmood et al. confirmed safety of the robotic approach in treatment of rectal prolapse.”

A section was added to the third paragraph of the “outcomes of robotic surgery for rectal prolapse” section: “in a recently published systematic review of 340 patients in six observed studies by Rondelli a meta-analysis showed that the robotic approach does not influence the recurrence rate of rectal prolapse. However, the only available clinical trial with 12 month follow-up reported a better functional outcome and quality of life in patients undergoing robotic surgery compared to laparoscopic surgery”

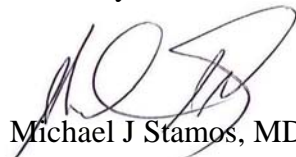
A section was added to the fourth paragraph of the “outcomes of robotic surgery for rectal prolapse” section: “Rondelli, in a systematic review, reported a decrease in intra-operative blood loss and post-operative complications in patients who underwent robotic surgery compared to laparoscopic surgery. However, Mehmood et al., in a recent clinical trial did not find any significant difference in blood loss between robotic and laparoscopic approaches”

A section was added to the fifth paragraph of the “outcomes of robotic surgery for rectal prolapse” section: “However, a recent clinical trial by Mehmood et al. reported that postoperative Wexner fecal incontinence severity index scoring were significantly lower in the robotic approach compared to the laparoscopic approach. Also, they reported the SF-36 questionnaires regarding physical and emotional component had better scoring with the robotic approach compared to the laparoscopic approach. Considering the limited number of published studies regarding functional outcomes, further studies should be planned to evaluate functional outcomes of patients undergoing robotic treatment of rectal prolapse.”

A sentence was added to the conclusion section: “Further randomized clinical trials are needed to report functional outcomes and long term outcomes of robotic surgical treatment of rectal prolapse.”

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Surgical Procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Stamos', is written over the printed name.

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