

October 19, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 18897-Revised manuscript.doc).

Title: Advances in Endoscopic Ultrasound Imaging of Colorectal Diseases

Author: Elena Tatiana Cârțână, Dan Ionuț Gheonea, Adrian Săftoiu

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 18897

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

1. The format has been updated.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers, as detailed below:

Reviewer 1 (code 00030205)

Comments: This a well written article about possible applications of EUS in the rectum and colon. The article is however not presenting any clear cut and well documented application but describing mainly future possible applications that may be studied in future studies. This reflects correctly the literature in this area. This stands in contrast to the selling abstract and core tip. The abstract and core tip should reflect the accurate contain of the article and tell the reader the true place for EUS in the rectum and colon, which is still in the evolving and research stadium.

Response: We have addressed this suggestion and modified the abstract to better reflect the current literature:

‘In the light of recent developments other EUS applications for colorectal diseases have also been also envisaged and are currently under investigation, including beyond-rectum tumour staging by means of the newly developed forward-viewing radial array echoendoscope.’ Or ‘However, reports on the use of EUS in colorectal subepithelial lesions

are currently limited.'

The core tip has also been changed according to the reviewer's suggestions:

'Beyond staging rectal cancer, an already established EUS indication, novel applications for colorectal diseases are under investigation, including the possibility of staging tumours throughout the entire colon with the recently developed forward-viewing radial echoendoscope. Contrast-enhanced EUS may be used for the characterization and the prognostic assessment in both colorectal tumours and inflammatory bowel disease, while EUS elastography could enhance the differential diagnosis of benign and malignant colorectal lesions, pending on further studies. EUS-guided therapeutic procedures include drainage of abdomino-pelvic collections and other experimental procedures, such as insertion of fiducial markers and targeted microbubble drug delivery, which will be also reviewed.'

Reviewer 2 (code 00043396)

Comments: A well written and informative review of a seldom discussed topic.

Response: We thank the reviewer for taking the time to read and comment upon our paper.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

We hope that you will find our revised manuscript to be appropriate for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,

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