

## RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS

**Reply to reviewer 00477066:** Thank you for your helpful comments on our manuscript. The language is revised and polished by an authorized translator. Google search on the manuscript title gave no hits concerning plagiarism. The manuscript is also checked by Ithenticate for plagiarism and the report is given to the editor.

The recurrence rate is higher than reported in most of the literature. The reason for this is discussed and highlighted in the document. In the manuscript; look up reviewers code: 00477066-1. The study population is quiet small and this is discussed. In the manuscript; look up reviewers code: 00477066-2

**Reply to reviewer 02456643:** Thank you for your helpful comments on our manuscript. The language is revised and polished by an authorized translator. Google search on the manuscript title gave no hits concerning plagiarism. The manuscript is also checked by Ithenticate for plagiarism and the report is given to the editor.

The number of laparoscopic and open procedures including conversions are now corrected for in the manuscript. Please look up reviewers code 002456643-1.

The follow-up examination is given in months with mean, median and range. The follow-up examination was done at our hospital at different timepoints accordingly.

Please look up reviewers code 002456643-2. What regards the open ventral mesh repair technique it is no revised in the manuscript and the phrase “preperitoneal technique” is omitted. Please look up reviewers code 002456643-3. The terms clinical and overall recurrence are revised and defined. Please look up reviewers code 002456643-4.

The tables in text and legends are revised and now come in proper order. The quality of written English has improved while proofread and language edited by an authorized translator.

**Reply to reviewer 02976835:** Thank you for your nice comments on our manuscript.

**Reply to reviewer 03036083:** Thank you for your helpful comments on our manuscript.

We have revised the manuscript on the operative technique for open mesh repair. Please look up reviewers code 03036083-1. The Kugel patch technique is something we started with after the study was closed by using Ventralex<sup>®</sup> for open repair on small hernias. The mesh plug method is something we have never used for ventral hernias. Some surgeons at our hospital used it for inguinal hernias some years ago, but this technique was abandoned due to recurrence and pain.

The recurrence rate is higher than reported in most of the literature. The reason for this is discussed and highlighted in the document. Another reviewer also commented on recurrence: Please look up reviewers code:00477066-1