

Response to reviewers comments

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 20950

Manuscript Type: REVIEW

The impact of thiopurines and anti-tumour necrosis factor therapy on hospitalisation and long-term surgical outcomes in Ulcerative Colitis

Thank you for your important and useful contributions whilst reviewing the above manuscript. Please find below responses to the individual reviewers comments:

68978 - no specific changes asked for

2941672 - Thank you for your useful suggestions. We have now added a second table to the manuscript highlighting the key evidence for thiopurines and aTNF and their impact in reducing hospitalisation. With regards to your comments about the definition of 'long-term', we thank you again for highlighting this important point. As we are sure you will appreciate, there is no clear, accepted definition of what constitutes 'long-term' in conditions such as ulcerative colitis, that are essentially lifelong conditions. Nonetheless, we have focused primarily on research that looked at the outcomes at least 1 year after exposure to the therapeutic intervention. We have added a relevant paragraph explaining this at the end of the introduction.

3261471 - Thank you for your useful comments. We appreciate that too many non-standard abbreviations can make the article less reader-friendly. As such, we have reviewed the article, and altered these abbreviations (MA, IM, TP, ASUC, SR-UC, SD-UC) to their full versions where appropriate.

2548813 - Thank you for your useful comments. As with other reviewer, you highlighted the excessive use of non-standard abbreviations. We have reviewed the article and altered much of these where appropriate to make the article more reader-friendly. For formatting reasons, we have kept some of these in the tables, but provided detailed legends to guide the reader as to the meaning of the non-standard abbreviations. Regarding your second point about discussing the mortality and post surgical complications in patients treated with aTNF agent, we thank you again for

highlighting this important area. We have added an extra paragraph discussing this issue and included the reference you suggested.

2999914 - no changes or alterations suggested

Editorial comments - thank you for your editorial suggestions with regards to the manuscript. The revised version incorporates the changes and additions you have suggested.