

To the Editor,

We greatly appreciate the favorable review of our manuscript. In response to the individual Reviewer's comments – we have commented on their comments and the mention the specific changes to the manuscript.

Reviewer #1 (00227446):

There did not appear to be any comments from this reviewer that needed to be incorporated into our manuscript

Reviewer #2 (00506591):

In response to this Reviewer's comments we have made the following changes:

- 1) We mentioned the name of our Hospital/Health Care Institution (Summa Akron City Hospital)
- 2) We made a comment regarding recurrent vs initial CDI. As part of the protocol design, in part considering sometimes the complex medical histories of these patients, we did not have this data available nor could we appropriately comment on this interesting concept. This statement was included as a Limitation for our study.
- 3) We trimmed some of the redundant and unnecessary aspects of the Discussion – particularly the background on Appendectomy.
- 4) Regarding the specifics of the treatment of CDI prior to colectomy – we agree that this is important considering the spectrum of disease presentation and factors that go into treatment. Unfortunately, this data was not included in the study and given the variable time course in presentation and options for therapies (particularly with some of the newer medical treatment strategies) it is unclear if having this data would have provided statistically meaningful information in the context of the study. Nevertheless, clearly this provides an opportunity for further study given current trends in standard treatment of this disease process.
- 5) The formatting error has been corrected.

Reviewer #3 (00070061)

We greatly appreciate the favorable review and comments by this reviewer. At their request, we incorporated some of the references that were suggested to illustrate the point of the conflicting literature on this evolving and important topic.

Again, we greatly appreciate the favorable review of our manuscript. In addition to the revisions requested by the Reviewers, there were various other formatting changes that were made to the manuscript at the request of the Journal's Editors.

Hopefully, our manuscript is now suitable for publication. If there are any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Michael S. Firstenberg, MD