

21 December 2017

The Editor
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Baishideng Publishing Group

Re: Informed Consent

We hereby confirm that the Eastern Health Office of Research and Ethics considered on behalf of the Eastern Health Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) a quality assurance project entitled "Comparison of adenoma detection rates between gastroenterologists and colorectal surgeons" (Reference Number: QA94-2017).

The Eastern Health HREC considers retrospective auditing an important surveillance tool of clinical outcomes. Whilst it is usual practice to obtain informed consent from all patients who participate in research in the case of a retrospective audit where the clinical team has access to the data and the data use is related to the purpose for which it was collected it is not mandatory. This is particularly so when the data collected is anonymous with no traceability to patients.

The report "Comparison of adenoma detection rates between gastroenterologists and colorectal surgeons" satisfies the general consent exemption requirement. Therefore informed consent was waived by the Eastern Health Office of Research and Ethics due to the retrospective nature of the study, the large number of patients, and that the rights and the welfare of the subjects would not be adversely affected by this research.

Kind Regards



Gavin Davies
Eastern Health
Office of Research and Ethics
Phone: 03 99822470
Email: ethics@easternhealth.org.au