

Answering Reviewers

Dear Editor,

February 16, 2019

Title: Khubchandani's procedure combined with stapled posterior rectal wall resection for rectocele

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Manuscript NO:46133

Thank you for giving us the chance to resubmit the manuscript. Moreover, we really appreciate that the reviewers have given us many valuable comments. We have studied the comments from you, and tried our best to revise the manuscript. The point to point responses to the reviewers' comments are listed as follows:

Reviewer #1:

Comment #1: Interesting study about a novel rectocele repair combining Khubchandani's procedure with stapled posterior rectal wall resection. The title needs to be shortened.

Response: We really appreciate you pointing out the problems in our title. We have shortened the title in the new manuscript.

Comment #2: Tables need to be checked and revised.

Response: Thank you for your valuable advice. We have rechecked all the tables and redesigned Table 2 and Table 3 with professional assistance without changing any data.

Comment #3: The manuscript requires editing.

Response: Thank you very much for pointing out the sentence structure and grammatical issues in our manuscript. According to the comments from you and the editors, we polished the manuscript with professional assistance in writing, conscientiously.

Reviewer #2:

Comment: This study is very interesting. Only the title is too long, and a minor language revision is required.

Response: Thank you for your appreciation and valuable advice. We have shortened the title and had our manuscript polished with professional assistance.

Reviewer #3:

Comment #1. In the method section, the inclusion criteria is in detail and very clear. Are there any exclusion criteria? Please make a statement.

Response: Thank you for your valuable advice. We are sorry for not listing the exclusion criteria specifically. The exclusion criteria were: Defecography, colonoscopy, transmission test, and rectal and canal manometry were performed to exclude slow transit constipation, rectal or colorectal carcinoma, complete rectal prolapse, enterocele, inflammatory bowel disease, severe fecal incontinence, and pelvic floor dyssynergia. Patients with an ODS score <10 or a

depth of rectocele<2.0cm, which was shown on defecography were not recruited in our study” , which was mentioned in the inclusion criteria but not listed independently. Moreover, patients who failed to keep up to the follow-up and those patients who hadn't receive any medical treatment before were excluded from our trial, which was mentioned in the revised manuscript. We have polished the statement of the exclusion criteria listed it independently in our new manuscript.

Comment #2 The follow up is good, are there any plans to make a continued follow up? The results are well discussed. And the limit of this study is also listed and discussed. Any plans for a larger number of patients, a multiple center study, and a longer-term follow-up to further prove the effectiveness and safety?

Response: Thank you for your thoughtful advise. We have planned to further detect the safety and effectiveness of our procedure with a longer period follow-up, larger number of patients and a multiple center trial. This plan was mentioned in the revised manuscript.

Comment #3 Manuscript requires an carefull editing. Some minor language polishing should be corrected.

Response: Thank you for your valuable advise. We have polished the manuscript with professional assistance.

Reviewer #4:

Comment #1 The manuscript requires an editing, many blanks are missing, and some minor language polishing should be revised;

Response Thank you for your carefully reading. We are sorry for the mistakes. We carefully double checked and polish the manuscript.

Comment #2 I suggest to edit the table 2 and table 3, if possible, please combine them into one table

Response Thank you for your valuable advise. We combined table 2 and 3 together in the revised manuscript without changing any data.

Comment #3 the title seems too long, please short it.

Response We really appreciate your suggestion. We have shorten the title in the new manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

San-Yuan Hu

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