

April 9 2020.

Sudbury, ON

Professor Na Ma

Editor-in-chief

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Dear professor Ma:

We are very grateful for the opportunity to have our work considered for publications by the prestigious World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. Hereby and on behalf of the co-authors, I submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled "The Introduction of New Techniques & Technologies in Surgery. Where is taTME today?"

As the primary submission, this work is original and is not under consideration by any other journal. We are grateful to the reviewers for their insightful comments. Careful consideration was given to each recommendation in order to make specific corrections and strength the manuscript. We are confident, the provided responses can meet the standards of the WJGS.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Antonio Caycedo-Marulanda MD, MSc.

Response to reviewers

Code 04089095

Dear reviewer #1

Thank you very much for your supportive comments. Please also notice the language on the manuscript has been thoroughly revised.

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Code 02929648

Dear reviewer #2

Thank you for your valuable comments. We understand your perception of the technique considering it is a controversial subject, specially due to the existing concerns regarding the safety profile of the procedure. On the paper we acknowledge and value those potentially harmful aspects related to the procedure, additionally to that we intended to provide the reader with the current evidence from several publications reporting positive results. We have added and discussed three recently published studies (27-29) that present reassuring outcomes in relation to the accepted standards for local recurrence. At the end of the manuscript we have cautioned the reader on the potential harms of adopting this technique without rigorous assessment of the needs and close oversight.

Please also notice the language on the manuscript has been thoroughly revised.

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Code 03707183

Dear reviewer #3

Thank you for your valuable and supportive comments. Please also notice the language on the manuscript has been thoroughly revised.

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Code 02536988

Dear reviewer #4

Thank you for your valuable and supportive comments. Please also notice the language on the manuscript has been thoroughly revised.

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Code 03477653

Dear reviewer #5

Thank you for your valuable and constructive comments. As per your recommendation we have added a comment regarding robotic surgery and taTME, this is on page 5, paragraph, in addition references () were included. Please also notice the language on the manuscript has been thoroughly revised.