

15 October, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5494-revised.doc).

Title: Prediction and diagnosis of anastomotic leakage after colorectal surgery: a systematic review of literature.

Authors: Freek Daams, Zhouqiao Wu, Max J. Lahaye, Johannus Jeekel, Johan F. Lange

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5494

We are very pleased for having received important considerations for our paper from the reviewers. The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of Reviewer 2546361:

1 Suggestion that two sentences could be omitted in the introduction, from "There..." to "...key."

This correction was carried out. The reviewer also suggested to add a reference is the first of the two deleted sentences. Since this sentence was removed, no reference was added. The sentences before and after the deleted fragment are marked in the manuscript.

2 Reason for omitting paper of Vignali et al. Dis Colon Rectum 2000 Jan;43(1):76-82.

During the screening of the articles yielded by the web-search and additional screening of references, this article was erroneously discarded. According the reviewer's comment, it has been taken up in the "Intra-operative techniques" section. Corrections were made to Results section, to Figure 1, Table 4 and the Referencelist have been highlighted.

3 Suggestion to omit two fragments based on unpublished studies

The first fragment was not removed, since during revision of the current paper, the paper that is referred to by ref.no. 82 was published. The corresponding sentence in the manuscript has been revised.

The second fragment was removed, for the reason stated by the reviewer. The sentences before and after the removed fragment, were highlighted.

Reviewer 57989 did not provide any suggestions or comments.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

Sincerely yours,

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