Response to Reviewers: Manuscript ID 6099

November 22, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6099-review.docx).

Title: Colorectal Cancer Surveillance: What's New and What's Next?

Author: Johnie Rose, Knut Magne Augestad, Gregory S. Cooper

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6099

The invited manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers:
1 Format has been updated

2 A 'Core Tips' paragraph has been added as requested.

3 Revisions have been made based on the suggestions of the reviewers (Reviewer critiques are reproduced in *italics*)

Reviewer 159630:
- No comments

Reviewer 2446404:
'…However the authors should carefully notify the selection criteria adopted. Whether the authors did not perform a systematic review they should have to justify clearly in the text because they exclude some articles.'
- At the end of the Introduction section, two sentences have been added which further frame the purpose of the work. Also, a short "Search Strategy" section has been added immediately following the Introduction section.
- Note that the randomized controlled trial by Grossman et al (*Surg Oncol.* 2004;13:119-24.) was not reviewed because it only reported interim results of an ongoing trial. The trial by Wattchow et al (*Br J Cancer.* 2006;94:1116-21) was not reviewed because it did not compare different surveillance regimens, but rather the same regimen in different settings. The latter trial is referenced within the "Innovations in Surveillance" section. For clarification, the first sentence of the "What the trials tell us" section was amended to specify that we reviewed completed trials comparing distinct surveillance regimens.

Reviewer 1333103:
'Mynor comments - Paragraphs "what should colonoscopy role play" and "what are the quality of life 'implications of CRC surveillance?". In these paragraphs the authors repeat things they have previously reported in the text. I suggest to condensate these concepts in two lines or to eliminate them.'
- These paragraphs were highly repetitive of what had been previously stated in the "Balancing benefits and harms" section. To improve the flow of the paper, and to be more consistent with the theme of informing the research agenda, the "Balancing benefits and harms" section was eliminated, and the "What role should colonoscopy play" and "What are the quality of life

implications of CRC surveillance" subsections of the "Other areas for future research" section were augmented slightly.

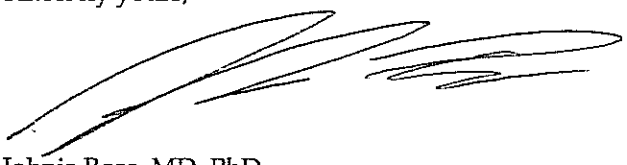
In paragraph 'Balancing the benefits and harms' the authors report of possible damages induced by colonoscopy and/or psychological damages, but they do not report, in patients long-term survivors, the possible damage induced by ionizing radiation.

- As stated above, the "Balancing benefits and harms" section was eliminated. To place the issue of ionizing radiation exposure in the context of the research agenda, it was mentioned within the subsection titled "The need for model-based research" as a risk whose long-term effects (though small) could be examined using modeling. Given the infrequency of related sequelae and the difficulty in assigning causality, there is not solid empirical data describing the impact of ionizing radiation as part of CRC surveillance. Problems such as this which are not amendable to direct observation can often be explored using simulation modeling.

4 References and were updated and missing digital object identifiers (DOI's) added where available.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We feel that the reviewers' critiques have helped us create a stronger manuscript.

Sincerely yours,



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