

March 9, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9118-review.doc).

Title: Perioperative advantages of modified laparoscopic versus open splenectomy and azygoportal disconnection

Author: Guo-Qing Jiang, Ping Chen, Jian-Jun Qian, Jie Yao, Xiao-Dong Wang, Sheng-Jie Jin, Dou-Sheng Bai

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9118

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The author mentions the advantages of laparoscopy in reducing inflammatory stress and the immune response. But I think it merits consideration the fact that these benefits are also due to insufflation of carbon dioxide and the acidification of peritoneal environment. Infact it has been demonstrated that compared with conventional surgery, postoperative immune function is faster restored or even preserved. Most experimental evidence suggests that peritoneal changes are due to CO₂-specific effects and the evoked peritoneal acidification may deactivate the macrophage function. Hence, among all the variables considered in laparoscopic surgery, the evoked acidic environment and the pressure used for CO₂ insufflation appear to be important factors for the peritoneal homeostasis that underline the laparoscopic surgery philosophy: a minimal invasive surgery. Therefore a consideration on this variables of laparoscopic surgery should be considered.

We agree that acidification and the pressure of CO₂ pneumoperitoneum may be important for peritoneal homeostasis. This has now been mentioned in the manuscript.

(2) The authors use an electromechanical Morcellator? what is the advantage of this tool compared to traditional Morcellator? were never recorded complications related to the use of this tool ?

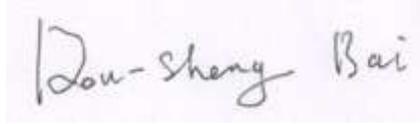
The morcellator we used was a traditional electromechanical morcellator, as now illustrated in Figure 1. To date, there have been no complications related to the use of this tool.



3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light pink background. The signature reads "Dou-Sheng Bai" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

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