

Dear Sir or Madam,

thank you very much for the conditional acceptance of our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of gastrointestinal Surgery*.

We also thank the reviewer for the remarks. We have revised the manuscript accordingly and think that these changes improved the manuscript considerably.

All changes are marked in the "track changes"-mode in the Word document.

Specific Comments to Authors:

1. Although the practical approach provided by the authors include a number of examinations, and full algorithm of actions in case of iron-deficiency anaemia is not expected here, I would suggest that the authors highlighted so-called "red flags" (like advanced age, recent unintentional weight loss, etc) to exclude tumours.

We have included this in section 3 on page 5 of the manuscript.

2. Faecal occult blood test seems to have low clinical utility, in both, either positive, or negative results. In contrast, iron deficiency associated with H.pylori infection (and atrophic gastritis) should be considered and treated appropriately, as well as coeliac disease, which is another well-recognized reason of this condition. Please, consider to add non-invasive testing for these conditions in the section 3 of the manuscript. This would correspond with the current clinical practice guidelines [24].

We have revised the text in section 3 on page 5 below and page 6 top. Additionally, table 1 was revised accordingly.

We also corrected missing DOI or PMID in references 7, 19 and 37. However, for references 1 and 12, there is no DOI, and for references 2 and 3, there is no PMID available.

Thank you again, we hope that our manuscript can now be accepted for publication in its present form.

Sincerely yours,

Christoph G. Dietrich, MD, PhD