

September 30, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (ESPS Manuscript NO: 13977)

Title: Surgery for obstructed defecation syndrome - is there an ideal technique

Author: Stefan Riss, Anton Stift

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13977

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

Reviewer 1:

This Editorial covers an important clinical problem and does so in an even handed way. The topics from assessment to treatment are addressed fairly but in no real depth and without any real direction for the reader. The place of non operative management even when there is an identified 'anatomical disorder' is not emphasised strongly enough as the condition is almost always multifactorial and the aim of treatment is symptom improvement rather than anatomical correction. Most patients with a rectocoele and ODS can be adequately managed without surgically correcting the rectocoele.

Thank you for helpful comments; the present editorial was not considered to be an extensive review about ODS treatment. It was conducted to highlight novel aspect of the surgical management of ODS and to discuss recent literature. We certainly agree with you that ODS is often a multifactorial condition and that conservative treatment is essential. However, here we focused on surgery mainly. According to the current literature it is difficult to give an absolute guide for each technique. We aimed to point out the pro and cons of each approach.

We have now included further comments about the importance of conservative treatment. In addition, we have extended the conclusion.

Reviewer 2:

This is an excellent editorial / mini review and I concur wholeheartedly with the balanced view offered by the authors, who have delicately negotiated a field replete with strong opinions and relatively limited evidence. The transperineal approach to rectocoele repair has its devotees, but is rarely employed nowadays. Perhaps this is worthy of a comment? The recent review by the group from the Royal London (lead by Charles Knowles) on defecating proctography in Colorectal Disease this year might also be worth a mention for its comprehensive overview of the role of radiological imaging. Accepting the limitations of the word count for this kind of article, this is a relatively comprehensive review and

the authors are to be congratulated.

1. We have now inserted a comment in regard to the perineal approach!
2. Thank you for your suggestions, we have now included the manuscript from the group of Charles Knowels.

Reviewer 3:

The manuscript addresses the surgical treatment of the obstructed defecation syndrome. This is one of the most polemical aspects of the treatment of the disease mentioned because the diagnostic evaluation methods are not efficient and the surgery outcomes are not successful to solve the patient's complaint. The Editorial is well designed and draws attention to the problem described above and therefore deserves to be published.

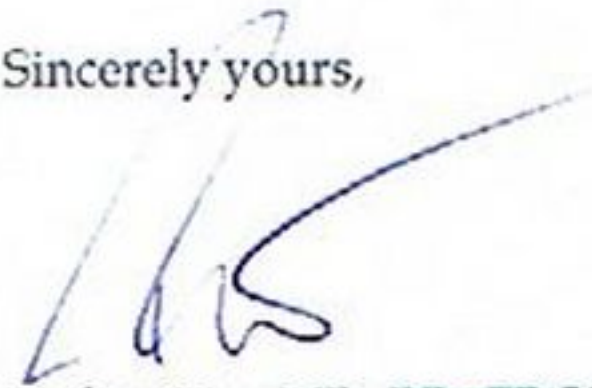
Thank you for you kind comment!

3 References and typesetting were corrected

4. The paper has been proof read by Pramithra Chitsabesan MBBS FRCS MA(Oxon) PhD Cert.Med.Ed, a colorectal consultant in York teaching hospital UK, who is a native English speaker

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

Sincerely yours,



Stefan Riss, MD, PD, FRCS,
Medical University of Vienna,
Department of Surgery,
Währinger Gürtel 18-20,
A-1090 Vienna,
Austria.

October 30, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (ESPS Manuscript NO: 13977)

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Author: Stefan Riss, Anton Stift

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

1 Format has been updated

2 All revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer after the

All comments of the reviewer 2, 3 and 4 have already been addressed after the first revision and have also been already re-submitted (marked in red).

Second Revision (only one new reviewer)

Reviewer 1:

Riss et al reviewed procedures and outcomes of surgeries for obstructed defecation syndrome. In general, this review article is concise and well-organized. The authors clearly pointed out pros and cons of each procedure for treating this difficult condition. Notably, the authors emphasized that not only defecation but also overall pelvic floor symptoms were to be evaluated. This paper provides useful information for surgeons in this field.

Thank you for your comment!

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

Sincerely yours,

Stefan Riss, MD, PD, FRCS,
Medical University of Vienna,
Department of Surgery,
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