

March 27, 2015

Dear Editor

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16763-Final.docx).

Title: Low rectal cancer: sphincter preserving techniques –s election of patients, techniques and outcomes.

Author: Nikoletta Dimitriou, Othon Michail, Dimitrios Moris, John Griniatsos

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

ESPS manuscript NO: 16763

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

REVIEWER 1. Please shorten the abstract to include a summary of the review. Please expand all abbreviations at first use in the abstract A table comparing different surgical techniques.....	The abstract was shorten to 200 words. (Page 3) All abbreviations were notified at their first use throughout the abstract. (Page 3) A table comparing the different surgical techniques, regarding their oncological outcomes, complication and success rate as well as the ideal patient selection criteria, was added. (Pages 43-44)
REVIEWER 2. The rebuilt of the organization of the draft is highly recommended	We change the "conclusion" for the whole draft to "summary". (Page 27).
REVIEWER 3. Provide a precise nomenclature for all forms of resectional colorectal surgery.	The new terminology for the mesenteric and the fascial contiguity related to the colorectal surgery is provided in their first appearance in the manuscript, under the section of "intersphincteric resection". (Pages 7-8). Two more references were added at that point and the rest references were changed accordingly throughout the manuscript.

Finally, the "conflict of interest" file was signed by the corresponding author and is provided in PDF format as a separate file in the resubmitting documents.

On behalf of all authors
Kindest regards
JOHN GRINIATSOS, MD