

**Reviewer 02478901**

A very interesting textbook like article. It can certainly be interesting for many to read. It really looks more like a Ph.D. thesis Introduction chapter ( which as I understand actually is ) than an article, but still very well written and worth publishing.

Thank you for the explanation. We have no further comments.

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**Reviewer 00058378**

The present manuscript reviews current knowledge about Rectal cancer and Fournier's gangrene. The paper is well written and carefully designed. There are few suggestions: Generally, I suggest extensively shortening the entire paper and focus on relevant information only. Table 4 could be cancelled as it describes Avastin associated risk factors only. I am not convinced if all Tables are required as they are presenting a huge amount of data and, therefore, appear confusing.

All sections of the manuscript are shortened. The number of words is lessened from 7810 to 6848 (almost 1000 words) without losing any important data with adding several important data. Reconstructive surgery section was divided into two sections in the original version: now it is unified. Tables 4 and 6 are excluded. The number of references is lessened from 195 to 188.

The problem is that there is no comprehensive paper about Fournier's gangrene therefore it is difficult to compare our results with previous studies. That is why we made a more comprehensive review, for better orientation and comparison on the result from other groups of causes.

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**Reviewed by 00040529**

This is an interesting systematic review on Rectal cancer and Fournier's gangrene. The article is overall well written and widely detailed. The literature is updated. My major concern, it is the length of the manuscript, which sometimes it is hard to read. I would recommend some changes as below reported: 1) Pathophysiology: use anatomic schematic drawings to help the Readers to understand better the mechanisms of spreading of infection 2) Clinical presentations: it could be very useful to add some clinical images of the different phases and presentations 3) Diagnosis and treatment. I strongly recommend adding an algorithm or workflow or care path that could help the Readers to understand better the management of this condition

All sections of the manuscript are shortened. The number of words is lessened from 7810 to 6780. The Tables 4 and 6 are excluded. The number of references is lessened from 195 to 188.

We do not have images of different stages of Fournier's gangrene from perforated rectal cancer therefore we did not put any. Our opinion is that it is not suitable to put images of Fournier's gangrene of other causes. The algorithm is added.

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**Reviewer 00036825**

The manuscript is not well constructed. It contains repetitions, the explanations are too long and scholastic, even the facts and knowledges are now evident. Also, the language requires revision.

Thank you. Response to reviewers that overlap are explained in the corrections in the responses to previous reviewers.

The English language was edited, and proofreading made.