

Responses to Reviews:

1. a very relevant article that should bring into focus the various issues pertaining single incision laparoscopic surgeries.

We thank the reviewer for their comments.

2. This is well written review about Single port laparoscopic colon resection. All the references are up to date. My critics: Figure is not clear. Author can replace it with a clear one.

We thank the reviewer for their comments. We have amended the Figure 2 and used a high resolution photograph that is more clear.

3. Most surgeons who took this approach up abandoned doing it routinely. There are few advantages and some reports suggest more pain. There has yet to be a good randomized. It is hard to see how 2-3 5 mm ports add much to the risk. Indeed it overcomes the challenges of single port surgery. Therefore, the authors should write from a more balanced perspective.

We appreciate the point of view of this reviewer. The challenges of SILS are no different than challenges facing any new technology introduced into clinical practice, including the opposition and struggles when transitioning from open to multiport laparoscopy. In this review article, we used an evidence-based approach, which address the comments made by the reviewer. We agree with the review that there are technical challenges; we dedicated the entire section “Technical Considerations” to highlight and address these challenges. As with any procedure, SILS requires experience, modification, and

refinement for the operator to master the technique. We have found this in our own practice, as the platform was difficult at first, but witnessing the clinical benefits, experience, was dedicated to evolve our initial struggles to the point where SILS is used routinely as the preferred technical platform. There are distinct advantages to the SILS approach, including non-cosmetic. There have been RCTs (reference 42), as well as systematic reviews (35, 52, 59, 60) and single and multi-institutional case-controlled trials (29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 54, 55, 64, 68, 75) comparing SILS to other MIS platforms. SILS has not been abandoned; this is not a supported comment. SILS is in fact routinely used by several of the best-regarded minimally invasive colorectal surgeons in the world, including Drs. Marks, Young-Fadok, Geisler, Panis, and Law. Above all, the platform is a tool in the toolbox for the surgeon to expand use of minimally invasive colorectal surgery. We hope this review would provide a broader view of the current state, benefits, limitations, and possible ways to overcome them for an unbiased view on the platform