

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in word format (file name: 19877-Review.doc).

**Title:** Quality of life in rectal cancer surgery: What do the patient ask?

**Author:** Giovanni D De Palma, Gaetano Luglio

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 19877

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:

We appreciated the reviewers' work and tried to address their comments at our best. All the modifications in the manuscript have been underlined in green, as requested.

Find below a point-by-point response to the comments:

### Reviewer 1

" ..... Another aspect we encountered in practice is the defunctioning stoma. Its indications,time to reversion and stenosis of anasomatic stricture caused by radiation are all related problems in terms of quality of life. Also, perineal wound complications such as abscess,dishescence and chronic pain after surgery accounts in the quanlity of life."

**RE:** Both the theme of temporary loop ileostomies and perineal wound complications have now been addressed in the manuscript.

### Reviewer 2

"There are a few issues that have not been adequately covered in this manuscript: 1. the issue of extended pelvic lymph nodes dissection and its impact in genitourinary function 2. the issue of transanal TME 3. the issue of robotic TME 4. the recently established scoring system dedicated for assessment of anterior resection syndrome"

**RE:** We have now touched all of these topics in the manuscript.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

This manuscript has been revised and approved by both the authors; we believe the information contained to be accurate and true. In addition we have no financial disclosures.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any further questions.

Kind regards,

Prof Giovanni Domenico De Palma.