Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease

Reponse to Reviewers

Reviewer 1

I appreciate the reviewer's comments. I think there are some differences in baseline characteristics in the early surgery cohort (ES) and initial medical therapy cohort (IMT). These differences are less pronounced when selecting out those in the IMT cohort who ultimately required surgery, as the phenotypes are similar. We feel that the ES cohorts exhibit a more aggressive phenotype of Crohn's as they have presented with an acute complication of Crohn's disease hence may make the findings somewhat more significant.

Reviewer 2

Comments from reviewer 2 are acknowledged with thanks. The study is a retrospective study although our database was collected prospectively to clarify the misunderstanding. In regard to the comment about baseline differences, this was touched upon in response to reviewer 1. This a consecutive series of patients managed within a contemporary period and so reflect a real world cohort. We feel again, that some of the differences suggest the ES cohort my exhibit a more aggressive phenotype than those undergoing medical management upfront. This would be reflected in the clinical decision made by the treating team.

Reviewer 3

Many thanks to the reviewer's comments. The changes which I have incorporated into the manuscript are as follows;

a) the definition of IMT cohort has been clarified.
b) Description of statistical methods were changed to reflect the methods used for the whole analysis and type of analysis described
c) Regarding duration of follow-up the error was corrected as outlined
d) Indications for surgery in the DS cohort has been added to the table
e) Median time to deferred surgery from diagnosis was mentioned in the body of the results.
f) The discussion regarding cost was changed to reflect that no cost analysis has been performed so the assumption was removed.
g) Limitation on short term complication of surgery and medical therapy added to the paragraph on limitations

h) The terminology of the tables have been adjusted

Reviewer 4

Many thanks for the reviewer's comments. There response to comments are as follows

a) The definition of the IMT cohort has been clarified as suggested.
b) The description of the statistical analysis for the tables have been amended to provide more clarity.