



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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 24712

**Manuscript Type:** ORIGINAL ARTICLE

***Retrospective Study***

**Critical appraisal of laparoscopic *vs* open rectal cancer surgery**

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** There are no conflicts of interest.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Min Hoe Chew', written over the correspondence text.

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