

RESPONSE LETTER

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your considerations, I am going to address each of the points raised by you in the revision of the manuscript “Transanal endoscopic microsurgery as optimal option in treatment of rare rectal lesions” (NO: 26052)

First of all as a response to the first reviewer (NO: 3002687) we specified in the text we use silver clips to fix the suture. For the second point we analyse the statement “disease-free margins was achieved in all the cases except for one case of endometriosis in which electrocautery reached one of the margins” we meanted that the pathologist could not assess this margin due to thermal damage. We analyse disease free survival including all lesions because, despite the benign nature of one quarter of these, however they can recur first of all if resection is not complete. The good overall disease survival, from our point of view, remark clearly how TEM can be considered as a good choice in the treatment of this conditions. We provided a more descriptive title to Figure 1. The comparison of TEM and traditional surgical approach was not the aim of this study.

As a response to the reviewer 2575643 TEM technique is well known and we think that an accurate description of this can be omitted.

The reviewer 742244 asked if we performed the three imaging techniques in all patients. We always accurately study patients to be sure to give the correct indication to TEM. The study is a retrospective analysis and all patients of this series underwent the three imaging technique described. Sometimes preoperative imaging prevent us from performing TEM and patients underwent traditional surgery, for example in case of malignant GISTs.

Yours faithfully

Monica Ortenzi, MD