We would to like to thank the reviewers for the time and effort they spend in reviewing our manuscript and for the valuable feed-back and comments. In this letter we will address any issues raised in a point to point manner.

The underlying mechanism of stone recurrence is addressed in the discussion section. The original draft of this manuscript contained additional data on the topic. However we felt that a more extensive analysis would be more appropriate on a review article, our discussion section was already running too long. The issue of a cut-off value of a CBD diameter that predisposes to higher rates of recurrence was a major issue for us too. We felt that if we could offer a specific value it would be of great clinical value because it could help distinguish patients who were in need of more vigorous follow-up, or even prophylactic stone extraction from patients who could be investigated only upon clinical recurrence. Unfortunately although we investigated several different aspects/clinical scenarios (single/multiple recurrences, different thresholds) the small sample size prevented any safe conclusions. Appropriate comments on the discussion section have been added on page 13 and 14.

The small case volume is already commented in the study limitations in the discussion section. We have added a note on table 4, page 23 so we do not confuse the reader on the timing of performed cholocystectomy. Early recurrence in our study was defined in the *data collection and definitions subsection of the* materials and methods section. 21/67 patients suffered from an early recurrence. Although our study was not designed to study risk factors of multiple recurrences we did investigate several factors as possible candidates. Unfortunately the small size sample prevented any safe conclusions; the only risk factor that reached statistical significance was early recurrence. The rest of the manuscript has been revised according to the instructions (mainly table – headline formations) and any of the ‘’some spelling mistakes’’ have been attended accordingly.