

Surgery and Oncology

morbidity data is collected prospectively in our institute and this includes data on wound infection. The elderly population generally have poorer performance indices with associated increased risk of post-operative morbidity. Our results are a true reflection of morbidity in this high risk population.

Discussion

10. I don't think this study to "specifically assess right hemicolectomy in the elderly population" is any different from other types of colectomies

The authors disagree with this reviewers comment. We believe that right hemicolectomy is a very different operation to left hemicolectomy and anterior resection. The mobilisation does not involve any difficult flexures or a long midline incision. For these reasons, the accepted benefits of laparoscopic surgery over open surgery are reduced as explained in the discussion.

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Thank you again for reviewing our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

Kind regards



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