

Maastricht 16 Jan 2017,

Dear Sir/Madam,

First of all I would like to thank the editorial offices of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology* and *Word Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology* for their appreciation of our work. Also I would like to thank the reviewers for their time and insightful comments to our manuscript.

The first remark regarding the unclear message in the second paragraph of the results section has been clarified and marked in grey.

With regards to the second remark we provided a more detailed mention of the surgeons' experience in this study. These revisions are also marked in grey.

As a final revision we provided comment in the discussion section on long term potential cost reductions by laparoscopic surgery (e.g., less incisional hernia complications) as requested by the reviewer. This addition is also marked in grey.

We thank the reviewer and editorial office of the *Word Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology* for kindly provisionally accepting our manuscript and we expect that our revisions meet your standards.

With kind regards,

Mr. Juul J.W. Tegels