

## **Cover letter**

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Dear "World Journal of Gastroenterology" Journal Editor:

Our original article "Sonographic Appearance of Anal Cushions of Hemorrhoids" was the original work performed by the research team of the Anorectal Surgical Department of the First and Second Affiliated Hospital of Xinjiang Medical University. The purpose of this prospective study was measurement of the anal cushion area using sonographic examination in a group of patients with hemorrhoids with different grade disease (I-IV) compared with a control group of age-matched normal healthy volunteers. This research also aimed to evaluate the diagnostic value of sonographic examination of the hemorrhoid cushion through different sonographic methods to obtain an early analysis and early intervention. Patients with grade III and IV hemorrhoids presented with a pathologically abnormal cushion which usually appeared as a mosaic pattern in sonography and an arteriovenous fistula in pathology. In the patient group, there were clearly different hemorrhoid structures shown by sonography compared with the control group. Therefore, sonography may be useful for the early detection of hemorrhoids and early intervention.

The responsible author Prof Ma-Mu-ti-jiang A ba-bai-ke-re certifies that all the authors have no any commercial associations and have no conflicts of interest regarding this article. The content of the manuscript is original and it has not been published or accepted elsewhere for publication, either in whole or in part, in any form. No part of the manuscript is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

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