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July 22, 2013

Lian-Sheng MA, MD

Jin-Lei Wang (Director, Editorial Office)

World Journal of Gastroenterology

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Dear Editor,

Dear Jin-Lei Wang,

Please find attached our revised manuscript:

Previous ESPS Manuscript NO: 4476

Article title: Is early limited surgery associated with a more benign disease course in Crohn's disease?

Authors: Petra Anna Golovics, Laszlo Lakatos, Attila Nagy, Tunde Pandur, Istvan Szita, Mihaly Balogh, Csaba Molnar, Erzsebet Komaromi, Barbara Dorottya Lovasz, Michael Mandel, Gabor Veres, Lajos S Kiss, Zsuzsanna Vegh, Peter Laszlo Lakatos

We are grateful to the reviewers for their comments that helped in further clarifying the manuscript. We thank you for finding our manuscript acceptable for publication, well-written and novel.

In addition to sending the revised version, as requested, **we attached at the end a "highlighted" version of the manuscript emphasizing the detailed changes that were made according to the reviewers' comments** (added new text is underlined, deleted text was placed in the margins).

Answers to editorial comments and requests:

1. We **shortened the title** as requested
2. We **added "core TIP" and "Comments" sections**
3. We revised references and **added DOI and PMID numbers**

Answers to reviewer comments:

Reviewed by **00503748**

"The paper is same with No.3884, which had been rejected"

1. The reviewer is correct; the paper was previously submitted to the WJG, as this was also highlighted in the title and the letter of submission. However, the only negative comment from the reviewers at the first evaluation process was that the paper was previously published and that resulted in the negative decision. No other negative comments were received. We discussed this with the editorial office (**Jin-Lei Wang**, Director, Editorial Office) and after proving that the paper was NOT published before we were invited to resubmit the paper for evaluation. Previous comments were otherwise positive.

However, **we added a clarification** also to the reviewers that the work was presented orally at DDW and at the Hungarian National GI Meeting in 2012 (only citable abstracts were published, but no full paper):

Lakatos L, Golovics PA, David G, Pandur T, Erdelyi Z, Horvath A, Mester G, Balogh M, Szipocs I, Molnar C, Komaromi E, Lovasz BD, Kiss LS, Lakatos PL. Is early surgery associated with a more benign disease course in Crohn's disease? Surgery rates in a population-based inception cohort from Western Hungary between 1977-2009. *Z Gastroenterol* 2012;50: A42

and

Golovics PA, Lakatos L, Erdelyi Z, Mester G, Balogh M, Szipocs I, Molnar C, Komaromi E, Lovasz BD, Kiss LS, Lakatos PL. Is Early Surgery Associated With a More Benign Disease Course in Crohn's Disease? Surgery Rates in a Population-Based Inception Cohort From Western Hungary Between 1977-2009 *Gastroenterology*. 2012;142 (suppl IV): 1066)

Answers to reviewer comments:

Reviewed by **00227398**

„This is good research. To add impact, adding in other centres in Europe should be considered in future"

1. **We** thank the reviewer for the positive comment and **agree** that confirmation from an independent population-based inception cohort could increase the impact of further works. However, the creation of a population-based inception cohort is very difficult and long-term follow-up studies with the presented patient numbers are exceptional. In fact, no comparable data are available from any population-based inception cohorts to the best of my knowledge. Most of the cohorts have not collected the necessary information and thus they are unable to do a similar analysis
2. **We also clarified** that a clinical trial will face the same limitations as a population-based follow-up study, since there is need for a fairly long follow-up and even then in a trial situation authors will compare most probably operation rates- to reoperation rates. This is why we highlighted the "observed" operation rates and performed an in depth analysis of the reoperation rates by using both multiple regression and propensity score matched analysis to increase accuracy as much as we could. This is why we

had a neutral conclusion (although the Cox-regression analysis was positive) to avoid the overinterpretation of the findings.

Please find attached the **“highlighted” version of the manuscript with the detailed changes that were made according to the reviewers’ comments** (new text is underlined, deleted text was put in the margins).

We would like to thank you again for the helpful comments and for considering our paper. We do hope that the changes that have been made, have improved the quality of the manuscript also with regards to the presentation of the data.

All authors have fulfilled the criteria of authorship and seen and approved the final version of the revised manuscript and they have authorized the first author to grant on behalf of all authors to transfer exclusive copyright to *World Journal of Gastroenterology* in case of acceptance.

We do hope that the new data presented could be of interest to the readers of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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2013/6/26 Wang, Jin-Lei (BPG)

<j.l.wang@wjgnet.com>

Dear Dr. Lakatos,

Sorry for the mistake.

Would you like to submit the manuscript again via online system? Then we will send it for peer review again.

Best regards,

Jin-Lei Wang, Director, Editorial Office

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2013-06-26

Wang JL

发件人：Peter Lakatos

发送时间：2013-06-25 06:39:46

收件人：esps; j.l.wang@wjgnet.com; Lian-Sheng Ma

抄送：

主题：Inquiring, asking for a revise of the decision-ESPS Manuscript NO: 3884

Dear Editors,

My name is Peter Lakatos and I am working for the WJG editorial board since many years now, in a successful way. Thank you for that.

I never complained so far about a manuscript decision, but this time I would like to ask you to revise the final opinion on our paper below (esps no 3884). The only critique of the reviewers on our paper was that a MEETING ABSTRACT version was published before, this was regarded as double publication and there was no other opinion transferred to us on our paper that it is of good quality and minor language correction is needed.

But the double publication critique is not true. The work was presented only orally at DDW and our National Meeting and the citation the reviewers noted points exactly to this MEETING ABSTRACT. A full publication of course was NOT done. I believe and understand that the journal has many submissions this is why the science editor may have overlooked the error in the reviewers opinion.

I would like to ask you to revise therefore the above opinion and re-evaluate our manuscript, SINCE THIS IS NOT DOUBLE PUBLICATION. Once again thank you for inviting me for working for the success of WJG that I am fully committed to do also I'm the future, and I hope that you will come back with a positive answer.

Best regards and looking forward to your reply. ASAP,

Peter Lakatos

Member of the WJG editorial board