



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 49614

**Title:** Sexual health and fertility for individuals with inflammatory bowel disease

**Reviewer's code:** 01587889

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-10 08:52

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-10 18:39

**Review time:** 9 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

I really enjoyed the opportunity to review the manuscript by Dr. Leenhardt and colleagues from Paris, France. The review topic by the authors is really interesting and very important. It is a review paper about sexual health and fertility for individuals suffering from inflammatory bowel disease. As herewith reported, sexual health is



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multidimensional with five dimensions: physical, emotional, social, mental, and spiritual as well as is associated with anxiety, depression, impaired quality of life, and fatigue. Along with body image, it is an important aspect of psychosocial functioning and has a significant impact on overall quality of life. In younger couples challenged with IBD are faced with failure to achieve pregnancy after 12 months of unprotected intercourse (infertility) is quite common and painstaking. In fact, as the authors have indicated that even pouch surgery, restorative proctocolectomy (RPC) with ileal pouch anal-anastomosis (IPAA), which in fact is supposedly intended to cure the patient increases the risk of infertility in women and men with UC by approximately threefold. The mechanisms likely responsible for this important increase of the subfertility rate have been related to postsurgical abdominal adhesions, tubal obstructions and damage to pudendal nerve, the main nerve of the perineum. The paper is well summerized and contains valuable information regarding chllenges and advances about sexual health in IBD patient.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

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- Plagiarism
- No

##### ***BPG Search:***

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[Y] No



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 49614

**Title:** Sexual health and fertility for individuals with inflammatory bowel disease

**Reviewer's code:** 04091933

**Reviewer's country:** Russia

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-10 06:21

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-11 17:23

**Review time:** 1 Day and 11 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This review is relevant because the incidence and prevalence of IBD is not reduced, and the sexual health and fertility of IBD patients can be seriously impaired. The review is structured, includes informative tables and a figure, and contains enough recent references. However, the manuscript has a number of inaccuracies and incomplete



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scientific data. 1. Consideration of fertility outside the context of the influence of common factors, especially medications, on the course and outcomes of pregnancy (with few exceptions) is an important omission. This can be misleading, for example, when the drug affects both fertility and pregnancy/fetus. 2. The description of medications that affect sexual health and fertility is incomplete. Reported that “the use of immunosuppressants or biological therapies is not associated with sexual dysfunction changes”, but the reference is missing. The authors cite that in women “corticosteroids were independently associated with sexual dysfunction”, but do not report a reduction of serum testosterone during prolonged corticosteroid treatment in men. There are also no data on sexual/erectile dysfunction with mesalazine or MTX (described in the literature and specified in the SPCs). Mesalazine-induced infertility described earlier is not mentioned. References are missing when describing that “MTX can be responsible for oligospermia and is reversible after stopping usage; this drug is contraindicated for both women and men because it is embryotoxic.” Authors report that “infliximab therapy seems to decrease sperm motility.” while only “a trend toward decreased sperm motility” (P = N.S.) was identified in the study. The possible associations between vitamin D deficiency (in women) and zinc deficiency (in men) and infertility are not reported. 3. The section “Male fertility” may be excluded because it does not claim to be complete, and many aspects are already included in other sections. In general, the manuscript may be published after the revision.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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[ Y ] No

***BPG Search:***

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**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 49614

**Title:** Sexual health and fertility for individuals with inflammatory bowel disease

**Reviewer's code:** 03027040

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-10 14:41

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-15 15:06

**Review time:** 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Dear authors, I appreciated reviewing your paper. It is globally clear and well structured and considers completely various aspects of the topic, which is more and more actual. I only have some suggestions: - as it is a review, you could add a brief "methods" paragraph to explain your literature search methods, if systematic or not and to express



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if literature is scarce or rich about this topic, what themes are well known and what is still unclear - it could be useful to add a table on drugs effects on fertility for both men and women, which could be immediate and useful for clinical practice - for what concerns the "surgery influence", it could be useful to expand on all the most common types of surgery IBD patients often undergo (e.g. ileo-cecal resection, ileal resections etc) to make clear eventual differences of the different types of surgical interventions on fertility problems or miscarriage. - finally, it could be useful to add strength to authors' proposals for ameliorating sexual health and fertility issues in IBD patients and explain what should be practically added to the usual clinical practice.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

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- No

##### ***BPG Search:***

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- Plagiarism
- No



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 49614

**Title:** Sexual health and fertility for individuals with inflammatory bowel disease

**Reviewer's code:** 00036825

**Reviewer's country:** Hungary

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-13 20:54

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-17 07:19

**Review time:** 3 Days and 10 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
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publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The paper merits the publication.

**INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

*Google Search:*



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***BPG Search:***

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