

October 20, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5728-edited....).

Title: Different standards for healthy screenees than patients in routine clinics?

Author: Geir Hoff

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5728

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Referee no 1: This article challenges the current standards of colorectal cancer screening. It is nicely written and well reference. I only have the following comments: 1. The title is long and needs to be shortened. I suggest (Quality assurance in colorectal cancer screening: Lessons to be learned. 2. There several typographical mistakes that could do with correction.

Author response: 1) The title has been shortened as requested. I suggest the title "Different standards for healthy screenees than patients in routine clinics?" I consider this to be more catchy than the title suggested by referee and it covers the essence of the article equally well. 2) Typos have been corrected. I now consider this manuscript to have language grade A

Referee no. 2: I should congratulate the authors for this paper. It is well written and I enjoyed it.

Author response: Thank you

Referee no. 3: Well written article giving directions for future research. I miss a reference to the fourth large randomised population based study - Lindholm Br J Surg 2008. New promising primary tests based on molecular biology could also have been mentioned, as an example of safe first round screening with better specificity than FOBT and accordingly avoiding unnecessary colonoscopies.

Author response: When stating that "....only fecal occult blood tests (FOBT) and flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) have been subjected to randomized trials (RCT) with long-term follow-up" I wanted to refer to studies having tested out regular screening rounds as in screening programmes. The Göteborg FOBT study only had 2-3 rounds during a 10-year period (1985-1995). Molecular markers have not yet been tested in prospective RCT's with adequate follow-up. No changes made in the manuscript on these points.

Referee no. 4: The manuscript concerns a very well written critical appraisal of screening for colorectal cancer. From my side there are no corrections to be suggested.

Author response: Thank you

3 References and typesetting have been corrected

Sincerely yours,

Geir Hoff (sign)
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