

Dear Editors and reviewers of WJG,

Thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript for consideration in World Journal of Gastroenterology. Below is our response to the reviewer comments:

Interesting study, limited though by the fact that it is a retrospective study. No detailed explanation on why there is a long waiting list for colonoscopy for the population in that region and no solutions suggested for resolving this important problem which according to the study could help reduce the burden of CRC if addressed.

We acknowledge the importance of understanding the underlying reason for long colonoscopy wait-times and have explored this topic further in a previous study recently published in International Journal of Circumpolar Health (<https://doi.org/10.1080/22423982.2020.1816678>). We have added the following phrase to address the editors' comments. "The underlying cause for long colonoscopy wait-times cannot be fully elucidated by this study but is likely multifactorial as demonstrated in our recent analysis of colonoscopy cancellations in this region. "

Sincerely,

Heather Smith, MD, MSc(c)