

28 April, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word Format (file name: 01076835-review.doc).

Title: The History and Present Status of Pulmonary Metastasectomy in Colorectal Cancer.

Authors: Tom Treasure, Mišel Milošević, Francesca Fiorentino, Joachim Pfannschmidt.

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology.

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5957

With respect to References and typesetting, the request for square bracket superscript 'call outs' such as this^[9] is not readily dealt with. Is there a Journal using that style? If so we can apply it from our reference manager software. With over 100 references and at this stage in the process we find this difficult. Is it not an editorial office matter?

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

Reviewer 02438485

It is an interesting paper with special aspect. Unfortunately, however, style and focusing topics are not so good. Major comments 1. What is news in this paper? Please clarify the news focusing on the current topics of diagnosis and treatment.

This paper is a review of the present position with respect to liver and lung metastasectomy for colorectal cancer. In particular it focuses on how metastasectomy as a practice has been adopted in the management of metastatic colorectal cancer. Thus, the intention was not to report on new diagnoses or treatments in this field.

2. What is aim in this paper? Please be more specific including backgrounds in the previous reports.

The aim of this paper is to examine the history of the management of liver and lung metastases, how it has reached its current form in current clinical practice. This is clearly explained in the introduction section (4th paragraph). We analyse in details the type of evidence on which this practice is based. We set the problem in the context of past and current approaches to deal with metastatic colorectal cancer, from second look surgery to the advent of liver metastasectomy and the concept of oligometastatic state of the disease and the use of biomarkers. Different type of

approaches to describe the evidence on which the practice of metastasectomy is based are illustrated, systematic reviews, case series, citation network analysis and mathematical modelling.

Minor comment: Author should prepare for table and/or figure to make clear topics. It will be helpful for many readers to understand it well.

We note the reviewer's comment. We do not think that this would be helped by a table or figure but if the editor would specifically tell us what is required, we can work on it.

Reviewer 00073640

Manuscript Number: 5957 Title: The History and Present Status of Pulmonary Metastasectomy in Colorectal Cancer ID 01076835 COMMENTS: This is a well written and very interesting paper with very high level of scientific validity from different point of views. From this paper it can be clearly seen that the authors are true experts on their fields and that they have broad knowledge and also high ethic and moral values. I have only few minor comments/suggestion to improve the quality of this contribution: - the Introduction section. It is very well written but I would include information about colorectal cancer statistics (both incidence and mortality) as well as a few sentences that CRC can be cured if diagnosed earlier. But in spite of that fact, there are still 600,000 deaths... Colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers worldwide, with over 1.2 million new cases being recorded in 2008. There are different approaches and strategies concerning how to reduce the incidence of and mortality due to CRC. Those directed toward the treatment of CRC, i.e., surgical and therapeutic measures, are mostly costly, painful and the prognosis is not promising. Efforts have also recently been directed toward the identification and removal of precancerous lesions (visible polypoid adenomas) through screening programs, which is a promising approach and is an important step in reducing mortality due to CRC.

We thank the reviewer for the useful comments. We have added text into the manuscript in line with these comments.

There are unanswered questions in the paper located in line 155/156 and 201/202 and 291/292 I would sincerely suggest to reform these questions into appropriate form for instance " we found no data whether they lived longer or better as result ..." or "Since we found no data about ..."

We have edited the text and removed the questions.

There is no conclusion. At the end of the paper I would expect few sentences that summarize authors' the most important take home message.

We have inserted a conclusion section at the end of the manuscript.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jian Feng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "F".