

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your advice on our manuscript. We have carefully revised the manuscript and uploaded additional files including the detailed figures and tables in PowerPoint version.

Reviewer 1: In Table 4 Multivariate analysis of risk factors for Fistula recurrence, some items had no data, and if they did not, the situation should be explained

**To reviewer 1,** Thank you for pointing this out. In Table 4 Multivariate analysis of risk factors for Fistula recurrence, the *P* values for “Previous repair history  $\geq 1$ ”, “Stoma”, and “Diameter of fistula  $\geq 0.5$  cm” were symbolized with “-” as all of them were above 0.05. In this version, we added specific *P* value for each item. Besides, the variable which was identified not statistically significant between groups was showed without hazard ratio and 95% confidence interval and we have explained this in paragraph 4 in the “Result” part of the manuscript.

Additionally, we have provided the approved grant application forms, original figure and table documents, Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement according to your recommendations. We hope this revision to be acceptable and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Qian Zhou