

Dear Editor,

We thank for the opportunity to revise our paper, which we are now re-submitting for publication in World Journal of Clinical Cases.

We have responded to all reviewers' comments in turn below with edits in the revised manuscript indicated by yellow font.

## **RESPONSE TO THE REVIEWER AND EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

### **Reviewer #1:**

*The authors deal with a very important issue, the epidemiology and treatment of acute colonic diverticulitis during the SARS-CoV2 pandemic. For this scoping review, they searched for different types of studies in the main databases, analyzed a total of 21 papers and found a relevant decrease of admissions for acute diverticulitis and a shift toward predominantly conservative treatment. Despite the important aspects of this analysis, I would recommend some corrections.*

We thank the reviewer for his/her support.

*Please specify the start time of the search period.*

We have specified the start date (1 December 2019).

*Please provide a definition for uncomplicated diverticulitis.*

We have provided this definition (e.g. localized diverticular inflammation without any abscess or perforation) where it is first mentioned on page 6.

*Two of the so called "cross sectional studies" are no original articles but "Correspondence" and "Research letter" (Chung et al., Guadalajara et al.). In one of these papers, there is no comparison period (Chung et al.). I would therefore recommend that these two papers should be removed from the analysis.*

We deliberately decided to maintain such types of articles (i.e. correspondence and research letters) in our scoping review, given the paucity of data in the literature. We have put these two papers under the umbrella of cross sectional studies as this was the reported design. Although not reporting row data for comparison between the lockdown and pre-lockdown period, these studies met the inclusion criteria stated on page 4 (i.e. To be included in the review, papers needed to report on the management of patients with acute diverticulitis during the COVID-19 pandemic).

*Based on the data, I cannot support the conclusion that most of the decline in admissions is due to the decline in uncomplicated cases. Please explain in more detail.*

We thank the reviewer for his/her comment. As stated in the Discussion on pages 8-9, a significant decrease in the overall number of diverticulitis failed to mirror a concomitant reduction of complicated diverticulitis. Indeed, the number of more complicated cases usually requiring surgery and/or hospitalization remained fairly unchanged or slightly reduced in some studies.

However, we have softened the conclusion by stating that the decline may have likely affected the spectrum of uncomplicated disease.

**Editorial Office (Science Editor):**

*Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a systematic review of the management of acute diverticulitis during the COVID-19 pandemic. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The authors deal with a very important issue, the epidemiology and treatment of acute colonic diverticulitis during the SARS-CoV2 pandemic. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered;*

We thank the Editor for his/her support. Please see above our response to the reviewer's comments.

*(3) Format: There is 1 table and 1 figure; (4) References: A total of 31 references are cited, including 31 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 7 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; and (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to [editorialoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:editorialoffice@wjgnet.com). The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.*

We have reduced the number of self-citations and kept those strictly related to the topic of the manuscript.

*Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;*

We have resubmitted the original pictures.

*and (2) The "Article Highlights" section is missing. Please add the "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text.*

We have provided the Article Highlights at the end of the main text.