

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



8 December 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: crc among pilots 6504).

Title: Incidence of colorectal neoplasms among male pilots

Author: Moshkowitz M., Toledano O., Galazan L. , Hallak A. , Arber N. , Santo E.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6504

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:

Reviewer 00041966: We have added clarifications regarding the study subjects recruiting in the **study design** section. We emphasized that all subjects in both groups performed the colonoscopy as a screening test for cancer prevention. We added exclusion criteria such as patients with a personal or family story of cancer or symptoms or laboratory tests suspicious for cancer.

Given that the average prevalence of adenomatous polyps in the general population among subjects aged over 40 is about 20%, the size of both groups: 270 pilots and 1150 controls is definitely appropriate and enable statistical analysis. Enclosed please find a sample size calculation which shows this conclusion:

Assuming that the proportion rate of adenomas are 20% and 30% in the general population and the pilot group respectively and the ratio of sample size will be 25%, we estimated that a sample of 992 subjects in the general group and 248 subject in the pilot group would provide 90% power to detect this difference.

On the basis of these assumptions, a sample of 1150 and 270 subjects in the general population and the pilot group respectively were chosen.

The following is the output of the sample size calculation: (COMPARE2 Version 2.51)

DATA:

Difference between proportions

Significance level = 5% Power = 90% Ratio A:B = 0.25

Proportion B = 0.2 Proportion A = 0.3

RESULTS:

REQUIRED SAMPLE: 1,240 (992 in A, 248 in B)

Continuity-corrected: 1,305 (1,044 in A, 261 in B)

EXPECTED PRECISION:

Approx. 95% CI for difference between proportions (D) =

D - 0.065 to D + 0.065

Reviewer 00503405: We changed the title and added the word **male** pilots. In regard to the second question regarding patients with IBD, we refer to the paragraph of the "study design" in which we wrote that patients with inflammatory bowel diseases were excluded.

Reviewer 00057695:

- (1) Given that the purpose of the study was to assess the rate of neoplastic polyps among the two groups, and given the precise computerized registry data, it appears that the effect that the study was retrospective is not high
- (2) The title of the article was changed accordingly
- (3) Calculation of statistical power shows that the size of the groups allows proper statistical analysis. (See above answer to the first reviewer)
- (4) Exclusive criteria were added to the "study design" section.
- (5) The control group consisted of randomly assigned subjects who underwent screening colonoscopy in our institution
- (6) There were no significant side effects resulting from endoscopic examinations.
- (7) Typographical errors were corrected.
- (8) The opening sentence of the discussion was deleted

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,
M. Moshkowitz
N. Arber