

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 71098

Title: Guidelines to diagnose and treat peri-levator high-5 anal fistulas: supralelevator, suprasphincteric, extrasphincteric, high outersphincteric and high intrarectal fistulas

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 04170922

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-05 16:13

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-10 09:34

Review time: 4 Days and 17 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for inviting me to review this interesting manuscript regarding the management of perianal fistulae. In fact these types of fistulae are quite challenging to both the patient and the surgeon and difficult to treat. My main concern regarding this manuscript, this is not a guideline following a proper methodological way for development of guideline such as the GRADE or any other equivalent, nor a systematic review of literature. so I suggest to delete "guidelines" from the title as this might be confusing to the reader and instead it could be a review article. please provide a statement regarding the incidence of these fistulae, and percentage of healing to each technique proposed.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03477919

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FEBS, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-01 05:28

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-10 15:19

Review time: 9 Days and 9 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: [☒] Anonymous [☐] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Accept in current form

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03805189

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-03 14:24

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-14 06:00

Review time: 10 Days and 15 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

High anal fistula is challenging in both diagnosis and treatment, and there is a lack of recognized guidelines for diagnosis and treatment. In this manuscript, supralelevator, suprasphincteric, extrasphincteric, RIFIL and high intrarectal fistulas were clearly described and are collectively referred to as peri-levator high-5 anal fistulas. The anatomical structure diagram and MRI images presented in this paper are of great significance for the diagnosis and treatment of high anal fistula and have reference value for clinical practice. Pros 1. Enough cases and clear diagrams help the reader to understand. 2. Different types of anal fistulas are clearly defined and described. Cons 1.

Since the results of MRI are dependent on the imaging physician to some extent, how to avoid the effect of individual differences leading to the judgment of fistula course is a problem 2. Lack of introduction and advice on treatment. 3. As a guideline for diagnosis and treatment, this article lacks some necessary items, and it is recommended to improve the content by referring to Tools of Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation (AGREE II), Reporting Items for Practice Guidelines in healthcare (RIGHT), International centre for globed Health Evidence (ICAHE) and global Rating Scale.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03714081

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Consultant Physician-Scientist, Lecturer, Surgical Oncologist, Teacher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-07 05:28

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-19 16:53

Review time: 12 Days and 11 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The title could reflect the content if there was included a specific section on acute and chronic treatment of this kind of fistula. The abstract resume correctly the aim of this guidelines paper. Although they are mentioned in other chapters, creating a bit of confusion specific sections should be created to order the work - A section of various treatment options . Also should be indicated different options of treatment depending on the different etiopathogenesis features. - A section on ultrasound diagnosis is mandatory in the diagnostic process. - A diagnostic and treatment flow chart should be included The images are good even if the captions should be integrated.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 04170922

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-25

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-04 18:48

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-04 18:49

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors responded to my comments

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Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-25

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-05 15:16

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-05 16:16

Review time: 1 Hour

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Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Accept in current form