

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



January 21, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7222-Review.doc).

Title: Laparoendoscopic single-site distal pancreatectomy in pigs

Author: Dong Wang, Zhen-Ling Ji, Xiao-Hua Jiang, Jing-Min Wang, Yu-Yan Tan, Yan Wang, Ya-Zhou Wen

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7222

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

1 Format has been updated according to the **BPG's Revision Policies for Brief Articles**. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) **Reviewer 1:** Dear Editor: I have read with much enthusiasm the manuscript entitled "Laparoendoscopic single-site distal pancreatectomy in pigs" by Zhen-Ling Ji and coworkers. The manuscript is very interesting for gastroenterologist and surgeons, it is very well written and can be published.

Answers: We are grateful for the reviewer's compliment.

- (2) **Reviewer 2:** In the manuscript "Laparoendoscopic single-site distal pancreatectomy in pigs", Wang et al. present their experiences on single-port distal pancreatectomies in pigs. A total of 6 pigs underwent surgery, using a single-port system that provides different access-channels, angulated instruments and an intraabdominal retractor-technique using a fish hook. The first pig died during the procedure, the following surgeries were uneventful. Operation time reduced with an increased learning curve. The devices used (the novel flexible multichannel port; curved instruments) are not unique in their basic design, as a wide variety of e.g. multichannel ports already exist. Overall, this is a well written manuscript presenting a technique for single-port distal pancreatectomy. Clearly, single-port surgery of the pancreas is in an experimental phase, and careful assessment is mandatory before its application in humans.

Answers: As the Reviewer noted that multichannel ports and curved instruments were not unique in our basic design, we give them novel characteristics. From the literature, we can conclude that a wide distance between the channels of the multichannel port provides a broad fulcrum, which is important for LESS. (Brown-Clerk B, De Lavenga AE, LaGrange CA, Wirth LM, Lowndes BR, Hallbeck MS. Laparoendoscopic single-site (LESS) surgery versus conventional laparoscopic surgery: comparison of surgical port performance in a surgical simulator. *Surg Endosc* 2011; 25: 2210-2218. doi: 10.1007/s00464-010-1524-x. PMID: 21184104; Kanehira E, Siozawa K, Kamei A, Tanida T. Development of a novel multichannel port (X-Gate) for reduced port surgery and its initial clinical results. *Minim Invasiv Ther* 2012; 21: 26-30. doi: 10.3109/13645706.2011.649291.

PMID: 22214281.) This is the main characteristic of our novel port. The distance between the channels is wider than most of the available multichannel devices and has been demonstrated to reduce instrumental collision in our procedures. Another advantage of the novel multichannel cannula is the flexible characteristics that are especially suitable for articulated instruments and devices with larger diameters, such as the 12-mm ENDO GIA stapler used in this study, while maintaining the pneumoperitoneum perfectly without the trocars. To avoid frequent replacement of instruments and extraperitoneal collisions, we redesigned the LMOD to the C-LMOD with many functions, including scraping, dissecting, cutting, coagulating, irrigating and aspirating. By using this device, we can perform many types of manipulations without instrumental substitution. The C-LMOD can evacuate smoke quickly to maintain clear laparoscopic vision, while the electrocautery is in use. This is useful in LESS.

In this study, we present our surgical technique for laparoendoscopic single-site distal pancreatectomy in pigs using the novel flexible multichannel port, C-LMOD and a fish hook retractor, providing a favorable operative field. It is a safe and feasible procedure and can be implemented in humans in selected cases at qualified surgical centers.

3 English language of our manuscript was edited by **American Journal Experts (AJE)**, and we got double A in peer reviewers' language evaluation. AJE has sent an email to the editorial office of "World Journal of Gastroenterology" (h.h.zhai@wjgnet.com and esps@wjgnet.com) to specify that the English language of the manuscript (ESPS Manuscript NO: 7222) was edited by them. The Editorial Certificate, Invoice and Credit card payment voucher are uploaded as the supplements.

4 The **Author contributions, Core tip and Comments** were completed seriously.

5 References and typesetting were corrected.

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

Sincerely yours,

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