

Answering Reviewers

Comprehensive review on the impact of anastomotic leak on outcomes of patients with colorectal cancer after surgery. Section on: "Relationship between AL and long -term prognosis" is relatively lengthy. Would recommend summarizing or sub-dividing into different sub-sections. minor spelling error on page 13: "In 2022, Dulskas et al. [95] evaluated AL in patients undergoing right colectomy for CRC and concluded that AL is a factor that negatively affects lon term prognosis" It should read: "long term prognosis"

This study focused on association between anastomotic leakage and long-term prognosis after colorectal cancer surgery. The authors reviewed relevant literature thoroughly. The theme of this study is important. The manuscript is well-written. However, I have several comments below: Page 4: Baeza-Murcia et al. [22] analyzed the accuracy of C-reactive protein (CRP) and procalcitonin (PCT) for early detection of AL... Comment: CRP and PCT are written in bold, did the authors make them bold to emphasize? Although CRP and PCT may be good markers, but they are non-specific markers, so I don't think they need to be bold. Page 6: Tavernier et al. [28] considered 5 criteria for safe early discharge after laparoscopic colorectal surgery: a CRP level of less than 150 mg/dL,... Comment: I noticed that Tavernier described the units of CRP incorrectly. "150 mg/dL" is definitely incorrect. "150 mg/L" or "15 mg/dL" is correct. In fact, the CRP cut-off value is described as 125-140 mg/L in the references of Tavenier's paper. According to Yeung's research introduced by the authors on page 5, the CRP cut-off level is reported to be 9.6-14.8 mg/dL. Considering the readers' readability, I think it would be better for the authors to describe Tavenier's CRP value as 15 mg/dL. Page 13: complication only on OS and the study of Noh et al. [89], demonstrating... Comment: "demonstrating" --- > "demonstrating" Page 13: In 2022, Dulskas et al. [95] evaluated AL in patients undergoing right colectomy for CRC and concluded that AL is a factor that negatively affects lon term prognosis. Comment: "lon term" --- > " long-term" Table1 Comment: Please define the abbreviations "PCS", "RCS", "C+R", "NR", "Clin", "Rad", and "Endo".

- 1) The bold has been removed from the words CRP and CPT as recommended
- 2) CRP value has been corrected to 15 mg/dl
- 3) Page 13: "demonstrating" --- > "demonstrating"
- 4) Page 13: "lon term" --- > "long-term"
- 5) Table1: we have added the abbreviations "PCS", "RCS", "C+R", "NR", "Clin", "Rad", and "Endo".
- 6) Section on: "Relationship between AL and long -term prognosis" has been synthesized, trying to indirectly create sub-sections and maintain descriptive accuracy.