

RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS:

We appreciate the comments of the reviewers to improve the quality of our manuscript.

The main changes that we have made are: revising the English of the entire manuscript by a professional native English-speaking editor; including more specific information about how to optimize the quality of cleansing; and revising the tables to make the information clearer. Moreover, we have eliminated the part about bowel preparation in Japan.

The review is lengthy, but we have tried to include information about several issues that should be considered to optimize the quality of preparation for colonoscopy. First, we wanted to review the best evidence available (meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials) about the most widely used preparation agents: polyethylene glycol and sodium phosphate. We then discussed low volume solutions that optimize preparation because of better tolerance, the timing of administration, the importance of diet and information, and alternative methods of bowel preparation for patients that cannot tolerate preparation agents. Finally, we discussed optimizing preparation in special situations. With this design, which can be lengthy, we believe that the reader is provided with information that is not usually put together in most reviews about bowel preparation for colonoscopy.

As well, we changed the titles of some of the epigraphs, and we believe that they can be easier for the readers to select the information they are more interested in, without having to read the entire review.

Please find our answers to the comments of each reviewer:

Reviewer 00831621

- We have shortened the title; we believe that the contents of our review are now adequate to the title.
- We have shortened some parts of the review that could appear too lengthy. We have not shortened parts in which different studies are discussed and their results compared as we feel that it could negatively impact on the quality of our review.
- We have included more information about modifiable issues that can affect the quality of preparation. Therefore, we believe that the reader can now understand more clearly how to achieve good preparation for colonoscopy.

Reviewer 00158379

- We appreciate the comments of the reviewer. We have included changes in order to eliminate repetitiveness. Although the first two epigraphs describe the results with the most widely used methods (specially PEG), in the first we discussed only the results from meta-analysis, and in the second one we discussed only low volume solutions (with PEG or other agents). Therefore, we believe that the information is not repeated now. The remaining epigraphs review different issues and we believe that information is not repeated in them.
- According to the reviewer's suggestion, we have included pediatric patients as special patients.

- The information about bowel preparation in Japan was written by a Japanese expert knowledgeable about the methods of bowel preparation in western countries, and of course in Japan. He trained some western endoscopists in the techniques of colonoscopy (including bowel preparation) to improve the detection of colonic polyps, mainly flat lesions, and the resulting papers are now considered seminal. He worked for many years in National Cancer Centers and other leading institutions for colorectal disease, and is currently working in his own private clinic. However, because this information can be considered subjective, and the methods of preparation may not be considered adequate in western countries, we have decided to eliminate this part.
- Certainly, specialists from several centers and countries have participated in this review. Most of the authors are experts in the field of colonoscopy, and two of the authors are trainees who have contributed significantly in the preparation of the manuscript. Authors from different countries were invited by the first author to participate. The first author is Spanish, with full training in gastroenterology in his country. He also received a four-year training program in advanced endoscopy in Japan. Currently he is working in Chile. Therefore, experts in the field from different countries and departments participated in this review.