

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8279-review.doc).

Title: Performing colonoscopy in elderly and very elderly patients: Risks, costs and benefits

Author: Otto S Lin

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8279

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

We wish to thank the editor and reviewers for their comments about our manuscript. The following are point-by-point responses to specific critiques:

Reviewer #02729987

1. We have changed the title to “Colonoscopy in elderly and very elderly patients: risks, costs and benefits.”
2. We have added extra content regarding therapeutic colonoscopy in elderly patients, including information on EMR and ESD in such patients (see paragraph 1, page 13).

Reviewer #02551436

1. As the reviewer noted, this paper is “well written as a review article.” In fact, this article is an editorial, and meant to summarize and comment on existing data, not to add new information to the existing literature. Therefore, we feel that this manuscript should be published in WJGE.

Reviewer #02541999

1. The reviewer correctly points out that in elderly patients, small polyps may not necessarily need to be removed because the relative complication risk is high and the benefit is probably low. This is now discussed in paragraph 2, page 13.
2. As the reviewer states, physiological age, i.e. presence of comorbidities, is more important than chronological age when determining procedural risk. Thus, the overall health status of the patient should be considered, instead of relying on rigid age cutoffs. We discuss these issues in paragraph 2, page 6.

3. Several studies have shown that propofol sedation can be used safely in elderly patients (paragraph 2, page 6). We have included 3 references (reference 21, 22 and 23).
4. We have expanded the section on therapeutic colonoscopy in the elderly, and added some references on EMR and ESD in elderly patients (paragraph 1, page 14).
5. Since most American and European studies tend to focus on elderly white patients, we also referenced two published papers that focus specifically on elderly African American and Hispanic patients in the U.S., and elderly Asians (Japanese in this case) respectively (reference 16 and 26). Please refer to paragraph 2, page 6.

Editor

1. We have added each author's contributions to the article (see title page).
2. The reference numbers have all been reformatted in the WJGE style.
3. We have added PMID and doi numbers, and reformatted the bibliography such that all authors are listed.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,