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February 19, 2014

Dear Editor,

RE: Reply to reviewers (Manuscript 8360)

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8360-review.doc).

Title: Robotic Surgery for Rectal Cancer: A Systematic Review of Current Practice

Authors (typed): Mak Tony Wing Chung, Lee Janet Fung Yee, Futaba Kaori, Hon Sophie Sok Fei, Ngo Dennis Kwok Ying, Ng Simon Siu Man.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8360

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

1. References and typesetting have been corrected (corrections highlighted)
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer
 - 1) Reviewer 00058345:
We thank the reviewer's comment and there was no specific corrections suggested.
 - 2) Reviewer 02462242:
We thank the reviewer's comments and the following has been changed according to reviewer's suggestion:
 - 1. Introduction and discussion on the reasons for an updated revision of robotic-assisted rectal cancer has been added.
 - 2. We feel that in view of the lack of randomized controlled trials on robotic-assisted rectal cancer, a meta-analysis on the subject will be inappropriate.
 - Explanation on the selected inclusion period has been revised.
 - 3. Title of the article has been changed and we thank the reviewer for the suggestion.
 - 4. Following reviewing the suggested articles, the following have been added with data revised: D'Annibale A, et al. Total mesorectal excision: a comparison of oncological and functional outcomes between robotic and laparoscopic surgery for rectal cancer. *SurgEndosc.* 2013;27 (6):1887-95. Fernandez R, et al. Laparoscopic versus robotic rectal resection for rectal cancer in a veteran population. *Am J Surg.* 2013 t;206 (4):509-17. The remaining articles have been reviewed and excluded to avoid duplication of data as they are from the same institute with similar study period to the already selected papers.

2/...

Page 2 (cont'd)

- 5. We have considered the reviewer's suggestion and have revised the article accordingly.
 - 6. References to the studies by Mirnezami et al and Kanji et al have been revised.
 - 7. We feel that by providing the additional references, this will enrich the discussion of the article.
- 3) Reviewer 02573214:
We thank the reviewer's comments. We have since revised the paper and included additional articles in the review.
- 4) Reviewer 02549348:
We thank the reviewer's kind comments.
- 1. Title has been changed to suggest.
 - 2. Discussion and conclusion have be reconsidered and revised following reviewer's suggestions

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

Kind Regards,



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