

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Bariatric surgery reduces colorectal cancer incidence in obese individuals: systematic review and meta-analysis" Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper. We have studied the comments carefully and have made a correction, which is marked in yellow on the paper. We have tried our best to revise and improve our manuscript according to the comments. The responses comments are as follows:

### **Reviewer Comments**

#### **Reviewer #1:**

**Comment:** 1. The authors should exclude the 3 studies without follow-up.

#### **Response:**

Thank you for carefully reviewing our work and providing valuable feedback. Regarding your suggestion to exclude the three studies without follow-up, we have the following considerations:

Retaining these three studies ensures that our meta-analysis has a broader representation. Although these three studies did not have long-term follow-ups, they provided important data on the immediate risk of colorectal cancer.

In the interest of maintaining consistency in our methodology, we chose to include all studies that met the inclusion criteria. Altering the inclusion criteria might lead to other potential issues.

In previous meta-analyses, some studies have chosen to include studies without long-term follow-up as a supplement to the primary data.

Through sensitivity analysis, we found that even if these three studies were excluded, the overall effect size and direction would not change significantly.

We have explicitly pointed out in our paper the inclusion of these three studies as a potential limitation and explained its possible impact on the results (page 15).

Based on the above reasons, we have decided to continue including these three studies. Thank you once again for your feedback, and we look forward to further

suggestions from you.

**Comment:** 2. In the last 2 years we have 4 systematic reviews and meta-analysis with the same topic:

The Impact of Bariatric Surgery on the Incidence of Colorectal Cancer in Patients with Obesity-a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Registry Data. Davey MG, et al. Obes Surg. 2023 Aug.

Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Impact of Bariatric Surgery on Future Cancer Risk. Wilson RB, et al. Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Mar.

The Protective Effect of Bariatric Surgery on the Development of Colorectal Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Pararas N, et al. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023 Feb.

Does Bariatric Surgery Reduce the Risk of Colorectal Cancer in Individuals with Morbid Obesity? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Chierici A, et al. Nutrients. 2023 Jan.

**Response:**

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for taking the time to review our manuscript and for providing valuable insights. Your recommendation to consult the recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses was immensely beneficial and pivotal to enhancing the quality of our work.

I would like to inform you that, based on your suggestions, we meticulously reviewed and compared the studies you listed. This exercise not only enriched our understanding but also allowed us to situate our findings more precisely within the existing literature.

In our revised manuscript, the discussion section (Page 14) now offers an in-depth comparative analysis. We highlight the unique contributions of our research while acknowledging the foundational work of Davey MG et al., Wilson RB et al., Pararas N et al., and Chierici A et al. Specifically, our research extends the findings of these recent studies in certain key aspects such as the risk assessment metrics used, the protective effects of diverse bariatric procedures, and the pronounced reduction in CRC risk

observed in female patients.

We believe that with these additions and modifications, our paper presents a more comprehensive, nuanced, and informed view on the topic. We hope that our revisions address your concerns and that the paper now meets the rigorous standards of the journal.

Thank you once again for your invaluable feedback. Your constructive critique and recommendations have been crucial in refining our manuscript.

**Comment:** 3. The authors should include in the discussion a citation about "Impact of bariatric surgery on early-onset colorectal cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis" by Bustamante-Lopez L, et al. Updates Surg. 2023 Aug.

**Response:**

Thank you for your constructive comment. We have taken note of the work by Bustamante-Lopez L, et al., titled "Impact of bariatric surgery on early-onset colorectal cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis", published in "Updates Surg. 2023 Aug." As you recommended, we have incorporated a discussion on this study into our manuscript, specifically on **page 13**. We appreciate your insightful suggestion as it has undoubtedly enriched our discussion and contextualized our findings in relation to this recent research.

Thank you once again for your valuable feedback.

**Reviewer #2:**

**Comment:** The manuscript is well written and could be published after a minor language publishing.

**Response:**

First and foremost, I would like to express our profound gratitude for dedicating your valuable time to review our manuscript. Your positive feedback on the manuscript is truly encouraging and has been instrumental for us.

We genuinely appreciate your suggestion regarding the need for minor language polishing. We will make every effort to ensure that the manuscript receives appropriate refinements before its final publication.

Thank you once again for your invaluable feedback. We hold your insights in high regard and consider them pivotal in enhancing the quality of our work.

## EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

### **(1) Science editor:**

The manuscript has been peer-reviewed, and it's ready for the first decision.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

### **Response:**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the time and effort you and the peer-reviewers have dedicated to evaluating our manuscript. I truly appreciate the positive feedback on the scientific quality of our work.

Regarding the language quality, I understand the need for minor polishing, and we are committed to making the necessary improvements to ensure the manuscript meets the journal's standards.

Thank you once again for considering our work, and I genuinely hope our research contributes positively to the field and the journal.

### **(2) Company editor-in-chief:**

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. However, the quality of the English language of the manuscript does not meet the requirements of the journal. Before final acceptance, the author(s) must provide the English Language Certificate issued by a professional English language editing company. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend:

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>. Before final acceptance, uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, "Figure 1 Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...;

B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...". Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. In order to respect and protect the author's intellectual property rights and prevent others from misappropriating figures without the author's authorization or abusing figures without indicating the source, we will indicate the author's copyright for figures originally generated by the author, and if the author has used a figure published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author needs to be authorized by the previous publisher or the copyright holder and/or indicate the reference source and copyrights. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2023. Authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply a new tool, the RCA. RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. In it, upon obtaining search results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for more information at: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>.

**Response:**

Thank you for your detailed feedback and guidance regarding our manuscript. We truly appreciate the time and effort taken to review our work.

We have had the entire manuscript professionally edited for language clarity and coherence. We can provide the English Language Certificate from the professional English editing company as required.

All other concerns you raised, including the presentation of figures, copyright information, and table formatting, have been addressed and modified in line with your instructions.

We hope that these revisions meet the standards and expectations of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. Please let us know if there are any further changes needed.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable feedback.

We are deeply appreciative of your meticulous attention and insightful suggestions, which guided the revision of our manuscript. The suggested changes have been meticulously incorporated. While they do not alter the original structure or central message of the study, they unquestionably increase its scholarly profundity and clarity. Your dedication to enhancing the caliber of our research is greatly appreciated. We sincerely trust that these revisions meet your stringent requirements. We would like to express our gratitude once more for your insightful comments and suggestions.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

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