

### 3 SCIENTIFIC QUALITY

Please resolve all issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report and make a point-by-point response to each of the issues raised in the peer review report, and **highlighted the revised/added contents with yellow color in the revised manuscript**. Note, authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s); these are listed below for your convenience:

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** This is an interesting study of the therapeutic effect of electroacupuncture on postoperative low anterior resection syndrome of rectal cancer. The study is interesting. The methods are described in detail, and results are well displayed. The reviewer recommends to accept this study after an editing of the manuscript.

Reply: We are very glad that the reviewers can be interested in this article "The therapeutic effect of electroacupuncture on postoperative low anterior resection syndrome of rectal cancer". Electroacupuncture therapy is a very distinctive external therapy of traditional Chinese medicine, which is widely used in clinical treatment. We are very grateful to the reviewers for their guidance on the revision of this article, and accept all opinions. The corresponding parts of the article have been modified accordingly, and the modified parts are marked with yellow.

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** In traditional Chinese medicine, there is no disease called low anterior resection syndrome, but it can be classified into

constipation and diarrhea according to its clinical symptoms. Traditional Chinese medicine includes internal and external methods for low anterior resection syndrome treatments; as patients do not readily accept Chinese herbs because of their exceptional bitter taste, external methods include electroacupuncture, external application, and moxibustion. Some studies have found that electroacupuncture therapy can improve immune function and regulate the balance of intestinal flora. In this study, the authors explored the clinical effectiveness of electroacupuncture in managing rectal cancer patients with postoperative low anterior resection syndrome. The study is overall well designed and the findings are interesting. After a minor revision, this study can be accepted for publication. Comments: 1. The manuscript requires a minor editing. 2. The limit of the study should be listed and discussed. 3. The references should be edited and updated. 4. Images should be improved.

Reply: Thank you for your guidance regarding the article ' The therapeutic effect of electroacupuncture on postoperative low anterior resection syndrome of rectal cancer '. The limitations of the study have been supplemented, and the references have been changed to APA format. The image in this paper has been replaced by a higher resolution image.

## 6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

### *(1) Science editor:*

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

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

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

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, 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. 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. Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

Reply: Thank you for your advice. The tables in this study are all in the standard three-line table format, and the pictures have been replaced by high-resolution pictures. The diagram in the PPT content of the article has been supplemented and improved.