



Mar 15, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

Title: Laparoscopic pancreatectomy: indications and outcomes

Author: Shuyin Liang, Usmaan Hameed, and Shiva Jayaraman.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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Thank you for your thoughtful comments.

The studies in Tables 1A & 1B have indeed reported a wide range of pancreatic fistulas. After carefully looking through the individual articles, we noticed that they used different definitions of pancreatic fistulas. Some reported their overall rate of pancreatic fistula, and others reported only the pancreatic fistulas that required interventions. Therefore, it is difficult to observe a trend in rate of pancreatic fistulas chronologically or compare them among different studies.

We appreciate that you pointed out this limitation, and we advocate for clear reporting of pancreatic fistulas by severity. For example, many studies already use the International Study Group of Pancreatic Fistula (ISGPF) grading system to report their incidences of pancreatic fistula after laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy and pancreaticoduodenectomy. We will make this clear to the readers by emphasizing this limitation under the section "Post-operative Outcomes" for Laparoscopic Distal Pancreatectomy.

Regards,

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