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Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

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Title: Preoperative albumin levels predict prolonged postoperative ileus in gastrointestinal surgery

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is good study but suffers from being retrospective in nature which may not bring out many variables in a clinical setting such as this -a surgical procedure in carcinoma of the gut, eg complications and blood requirement during surgery, total procedure time, bowel handling and manipulation during the procedure and the resultant release of local inflammatory mediators and the like. That preop serum albumin does affect the outcome and mortality of patients undergoing any surgical procedure is well known. Hence, it seems logical that a low albumin level might also affect adversely the gut motility in the post op period. However, the authors need to emphasize the above -mentioned deficiencies and also exercise caution in proposing the nomogram based on preop serum albumin level.

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Thank you very much for your letter and we are very appreciated of these crucial comments. We understand the concern that reviewers put forward about the deficiencies. In the revised manuscript, we have emphasized the deficiencies of the retrospective design in nature in the DISCUSSION section (Page 14, Line 1-6) and exercise caution about using the nomogram in the CONCLUSION section (Page 14, Line 18-19). All of the revisions were highlighted in red in the updated version of the manuscript.