

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 16, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (14606-edited-revised).

Title: The role of colonoscopy in the diagnostic work-up of bowel endometriosis.

Author: Marco Milone, Antonio Mollo, Mario Musella, Paola Maietta, Loredana Maria Sosa Fernandez, Olena Shatalova, Alessandro Conforti, Gianni Barone, Giuseppe De Placido, Francesco Milone.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14606

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1

This is an interesting paper that adds to the literature.

We want to thanks the reviewer for his comment.

The authors need to clarify how the bowel endometriosis diagnosis was made.
They need to clarify whether biopsies were taken or the diagnosis was made at bowel resection.

We have added these informations in the revised manuscript.

They need to clarify how the colonoscopy influenced the extent of laparoscopic surgery. The method of diagnosis at surgery would affect the correlation. They have also confirmed that all cases of mucosal endometriosis were correctly identified. This might be considered a use of colonoscopy as some would consider this an indication for bowel resection.

We have added this informations in the revised manuscript.

This paper needs some correction of the English and clarification of these points prior to publication.

The manuscript has been reviewed by a native speaker of English.

Reviewer 2

Comments to Authors The topic of this paper regards to the diagnosis of endometriosis, especially when compromising the bowel or the rectum, a very challenging field. The authors mentioned at the beginning of the manuscript that the role of colonoscopy in the assessment of bowel involvement

remains controversial. I don't completely agree with this affirmation, since the main guideline, which has been a reference point for best clinical care in endometriosis for years (ESHRE, Hum Reprod 2005; 20(10): 2698-2704) and the recent updated version (ESHRE, Hum Reprod 2014; 29(3):400-12) don't consider colonoscopy as a diagnostic tool for endometriosis, even for deep-infiltrating endometriosis (DIE) of the bowel or rectum. However, to the best of my knowledge, no one has shown in the literature so far the accuracy of colonoscopy as a diagnostic technique for DIE affecting the bowel in a prospective manner as the authors have well done in the present study. Therefore, I believe it would be of interest to have such work published and for that, some issues should be addressed and discussed before:

1. The authors mentioned that the patients included in the study had clinical and radiological diagnosis of DIE. My query is: Was the endoscopist blinded or did the endoscopist know about the previous radiological diagnosis? This information should be cited in the manuscript - methodology section.

We want to thanks the reviewer for his suggesrtion. We have included this information in the revised manuscript

2. The manuscript contains some grammar mistakes or has areas that do not flow nicely for the reader. With all due respect I would suggest asking a native English speaker in the field to review the manuscript and make relevant changes.

The manuscript has been reviewed by a native speaker of English.

3. I think the title could be improved, for instance using the results and conclusions. The authors should be more direct here. This can help the chance for acceptance and also enhances the interest of readers.

We have modified the title according to the reviewer's suggestion.

4. In the 'Conclusion statement' I would suggest to mention that colonoscopy should always be performed in patients with intestinal symptoms such as rectal bleeding as the differential diagnoses are important in these situations.

We have modified the conclusion according to the reviewer's suggestion.

5. Perhaps the authors could mention and compare the accuracy of new procedures with the purpose to diagnose bowel endometriosis like 'virtual colonoscopy' (J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2007; J Minim Invasive Gynecol 2013).

We have mention this issue in the revised manuscript, according to the reviewer's suggestion.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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