

Response to the reviewers' comments

Reviewed by #1

Authors

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: This study has been very well designed, well done for the study. However, this method was already used in some centers.

Response

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study assessing the feasibility and safety of peroral external traction-assisted transanal NOTES sigmoidectomy followed by intracorporeal colorectal end-to-end anastomosis by using only currently available endoscopic flexible accessories except a rigid grasper in a live swine model. The only similar study is that of Park SJ published in 2013. Our study has been accepted by ACG (American College of Gastroenterology) 2020 virtual annual meeting for poster presentation.

Park SJ, Lee KY, Choi SI, Kang BM, Huh C, Choi DH, Lee CK. Pure NOTES rectosigmoid resection: transgastric endoscopic IMA dissection and transanal rectal mobilization in animal models. *J Laparoendosc Adv Surg Tech A*. 2013 Jul;23(7):592-5. doi: 10.1089/lap.2012.0551. Epub 2013 Jun 11. PubMed PMID:23755854.

Reviewed by #2

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Interesting study, and well written. However, treatment method is a little difficult to understand just by reading from (1) to (8) and

the figures. So please kindly insert schema.

Response

The step-by-step detailed description in the part of **MATERIALS AND METHODS** has been revised. During the procedure, the vision was alternated between trans-gastric and trans-anal, so it was a little difficult to understand.