

August 13, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12233-Review.doc).

Title: Rethinking Elective Colectomy for Diverticulitis: A strategic approach to population health

Authors: Vlad V. Simianu, David R. Flum

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12233

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers (all changes have been highlighted in the text):

1 Format has been updated

- (1) Abstract has been included
- (2) Core tip has been included

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

(1) To reviewer 0245518: We have expanded our discussion of the Washington State population to reflect the rates of hospitalizations, surgery and percutaneous drainage between 1987-2012. The manuscript reflecting this data is currently under review, and we have cited it as [Simianu and Flum, unpublished data] in the text. If we receive notification of acceptance prior to this manuscript going to press, we will notify you so that we can update the reference.

(2) To reviewer 0245518: Using proportions to explain population-level trends can be misleading – while the proportion of admitted patients having surgery is decreasing, the overall rate of surgery can still be increasing (which is explained by increased hospitalizations for diverticulitis). We have added this wording

in the text to clarify these points.

(3) To reviewer 02445522: We have expanded our discussion of the Washington State population to serve as a population-level case study.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

(1) in-line references have been corrected as per your recommendations

(2) Reference list has been updated to include all authors names

(3) Reference list has been updated to include PMID and DOI

(4) References #3, and #30 have been attached as PDFs since PMID is not available.

(#3 is e-pub only, and #30 is in press)

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Simianu', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

--

Vlad V. Simianu, M.D.

Research Fellow, Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)

Resident in General Surgery, University of Washington Medical Center

1959 NE Pacific St, Seattle WA 98195

Box 356410

Pager 206-417-0267

Cell 317-445-7792

vsimianu@uw.edu