

May 18, 2021

Dr. Lian-Sheng Ma  
The Editor in Chief  
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Dear Dr. Lian-Sheng Ma

**Re: Manuscript 64153**

We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and their effort in reviewing our manuscript. We have read the reviewers' constructive criticisms and made the necessary corrections.

We would like to re-submit a revised version of our manuscript with the corrections made in bold type and also listed below point-by-point:

- **Reviewer #1 Commented: *"The authors tackle an interesting question in this paper. Patients in developed countries have a high frequency to accept laparoscopic pancreatic surgery in a small cadre of institutions. Conversely, the chance for patients in developing countries is low due to the low-income, resource-poor condition. In fact, only 3.25 laparoscopic distal pancreatectomies are performed per annum across the entire Caribbean. In this paper, the authors explore the obstacles to incorporating a minimally invasive service for pancreatic surgery."***

We thank the reviewer for these comments. There are no specific suggestions or recommendations made by this reviewer. Therefore, no changes have been made in response to this reviewer's comments.

- **Reviewer #2 commented: *"Thank you for submitting the article. It reviews laparoscopy in pancreatic surgery. Generally pancreatic surgery should be performed at high volume centers with high volume surgeons. There is description of multiple surgical modalities in the paper."***

We thank the reviewer for these comments. There are no specific suggestions or recommendations made by this reviewer. Therefore, no changes are deemed necessary.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: *"(1) Scientific quality: The manuscript describes an opinion review of the minimally invasive pancreas surgery and opinion on its incorporation into low volume and resource poor centres. The topic is within the scope of the WJGS."***

We thank the reviewer for these comments. There are no specific suggestions or recommendations. Therefore, no changes are deemed necessary.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: "(2) Classification: Two Grades C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The authors tackle an interesting question in this paper. In this paper, the authors explore the obstacles to incorporating a minimally invasive service for pancreatic surgery"**

No specific recommendations or questions. Therefore, no changes are necessary.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: "(3) Format: There is 1 figure"**

No specific recommendations or questions. Therefore, no changes are necessary.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: "(4) References: A total of 79 references are cited, including 12 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 12 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations."**

Six of the references have been removed from the manuscript. There are now seven (7) self-citations that are indispensable to the discussion. Therefore, they have been left in the references. This means that the number of references has been reduced to 74. And, with 7 self-citations, there is now a 9.5% self-citation rate, which falls below the 10% self-referencing rate that was requested.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: "Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A and Grade B. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search."**

No specific recommendations or questions. Therefore, no changes are necessary.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJGS. 5 Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor**

There is only one figure accompanying this manuscript. The figure is reproduced, with permission, from Springer Nature. Consequently, the figure is not to be modified. However, we have included the figure in power point as requested.

- **Editorial Office's Comments: (2) If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that**

**the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights.**

There is one figure that is reproduced, with permission, from Springer Nature. We have included a written document from Springer Nature granting us permission to re-publish the figure in our manuscript. The figure correctly indicates the reference source and copyright as stipulated by the copyright holder.

- **The Editorial Office Commented: Correctly indicate the reference source and copyrights. For example, “Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]”. And please cite the reference source in the references list.**

Figure 1: Learning curve pyramid illustrating the suggested mastery of pancreatic operations in a step-wise fashion, starting with simpler dissections initially and gradually rising to the most difficult operations. Citation: Speicher PJ, Nussbaum DP, White RR, Zani S, Mosca PJ, Blazer DG 3rd, Clary BM, Pappas TN, Tyler DS, Perez A. Defining the learning curve for team-based laparoscopic pancreaticoduodenectomy. Ann Surg Oncol. 2014; 21(12): 4014-4019. Copyright © Speicher PJ et al., 2014. Published by Springer Nature [74]. The reference source has been added as a new citation, reference 74.

- ***Editorial Office’s Comments: Please provide decomposable Figures (whose parts are all movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as “64153-Figures.ppt” on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of “Image File”.***

There is only one figure accompanying this manuscript. The figure is reproduced, with permission, from Springer Nature. Consequently, the figure is not to be modified. However, we have included the figure in power point as requested.

- ***Editorial Office’s Comments: If your manuscript is an original study (basic study or clinical study), meta-analysis, or systemic review, the “Article Highlights” section should be provided.***

The study is an opinion piece. This is not listed in the above categories and therefore we assume an “Article Highlight” section is not required. We are happy to provide one if desired by the publisher.

- ***Editorial Office's Comments: Please provide decomposable Tables (whose parts are all movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as "64153-Tables.docx" on the system. The tables should be uploaded to the file destination of "Table File".***

There are no tables accompanying this manuscript. Therefore, no change is required in response to this comment.

- ***Editorial Office's Comments: Please upload each of the following files: (1) 64153-Answering Reviewers, (2) 64153-Audio Core Tip, (3) 64153-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form, (4) 64153-Copyright License Agreement, (5) 64153-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate, (6) 64153-Image File, (7) 64153-Supplementary Material***

Each of the above listed files have been uploaded to the manuscript system

- ***Editorial Office's Comments: Please upload a PDF (scanned) version of the Copyright License Agreement Form that has been signed by all authors to the file destination of 'Copyright License Agreement'.***

A scanned copy of the completed and signed copyright license agreement form has been uploaded to the electronic system.

- ***Editorial Office's Comments: Please upload the completed ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest form to the file destination.***

A scanned copy of the completed and signed copyright license agreement form has been uploaded to the electronic system.

- ***Editorial Office's Comments: Please revise the references according to the format for reference guidelines and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.***  
We have ensured that the references all adhere to the format guidelines for references. Specifically, the references are numbered in order of their appearance in the text in Arabic numerals. The reference numbers appear as superscripts in square brackets at the end of each sentence with, with no spaces.
- ***Company editor-in-chief: I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors***

We thank the editor in chief for these comments. All recommendations made by the reviewers have been addressed and the changes listed in a point-by-point fashion.

We hope that the revised manuscript meets the requirements for final acceptance and publication.

Best regards  
Shamir Cawich