

February 23, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16346-revision.docx).

Title: Single-port Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Versus Standard Four Port Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy: A Non-randomized Single Center Trial

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16346

Thank you for the great opportunity for a possible publication in your journal. We read the comments of the reviewers and improved our manuscript using these comments. Below we will explain the improvements made in the manuscript.

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

1. The format has been updated.
2. References and typesetting were corrected.
3. A comment section was added to the manuscript.
4. Revision has been made according to the suggestion of the reviewers:

Reviewer 1:

- (1) The title is changed.
- (2+3) Spelling was checked and the language has been polished.
- (4) Abbreviations were removed from the Abstract section
- (5) The Surgical Technique section is shortened.
- (6) All cholecystectomies were identified during the study period. The first 36 single-port cholecystectomies were titled as introduction period. The 100 following cholecystectomies were analyzed in this study. These 100 SPL cholecystectomies were matched by age to conventional laparoscopic cholecystectomies during the same period. The text in Methods is made more clearly.
- (7) The sentence in Results regarding operating times of surgeons was clarified.
- (8) The text concerning the correlation between BMI and operating times was more clarified.
- (9) Conversion was defined in the method section.
- (10) The contradicted sentence in the Result section has been changed.
- (11) In the Discussion section our results are compared to other studies.
- (12) The conclusion has been changed.

Reviewer 2:

- (1) The first 36 SPL cholecystectomies were not analyzed in this study because of the learning curve. This is clarified in the Method section. In the first SPL cholecystectomies the procedure was performed a little bit different, for example the gallbladder was retracted using a suture, in some patients this caused a pneumothorax. For this reason, after a couple of procedures, this suture is not used anymore.
- (2) The distinction between cases performed by residents and surgeons is more clarified.
- (3) The text regarding the correlation between BMI and operating times are changed in the Results and

Discussion sections. We do not have guidelines for BMI values, because of successful experience of single port procedures in obese patients.

(4) No correlation was seen between placement of extra trocars and BMI.

(5) This signify both groups together, the sentence has been clarified. The groups alone are also added.

(6) The surgical complication was a superficial wound infection. This is added in the Result section.

(7) Hernia cicatricalis is defined in the Method section.

(8) At this time we are analyzing patients for the long-term outcome of hernia cicatricalis, results will follow.

Thank you again for considering publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

Sincerely yours,

Handtekening!!!

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