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Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,  
315-321 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6504

**Title:** Incidence of colorectal neoplasms among pilots

**Reviewer code:** 00057695

**Science editor:** Ma, Ya-Juan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-22 18:24

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-02 13:51

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a retrospective study evaluating the incidence of colorectal lesions among male pilots during screening colonoscopy in comparison of with a matched group of normal male subjects. However, the manuscript is briefly written due to easy study design, and it is well-referenced with an unexpected but interesting study findings. I have the following comments: 1. The study is retrospective, hence a degree of bias cannot be avoided. This is the greatest weakness of this manuscript. 2. As the subjects were all males, I suggest the word male is added to the title to become (..... male pilots). 3. There is a great disparity between the number of the number of subjects in the study group (n = 270) and the number of the control group (n = 1150). I consider this another weakness in the study design. 4. The exclusion criteria was not clearly defined in the Methods. 5. How was the control group was randomly selected? 6. As a surgeon, it would be interesting to mention if any adverse events or complications have happened. 7. Some typographical errors: first paragraph of the introduction: mentally stabile (due mean stable). 8. The opening sentence of the Discussion is a repetition.



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**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6504

**Title:** Incidence of colorectal neoplasms among pilots

**Reviewer code:** 00503405

**Science editor:** Ma, Ya-Juan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-22 18:24

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-03 01:16

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the original article of Moshkoiwitz et al. the authors aimed to assess the prevalence of colorectal neoplasias amongst pilots. As all patients in the study group were male, the title should be changed to "Incidence of colorectal neoplasms amongst male pilots". The manuscript is well written, clear. One important question: how was the incidence of inflammatory bowel disease within the study group? It is important to clarify that patients with hyperplastic polyps also suffered from IBD or not. Some typos must be corrected. After minor revision I suggest to accept the manuscript for publication in WJG.



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### ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6504

**Title:** Incidence of colorectal neoplasms among pilots

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**Science editor:** Ma, Ya-Juan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-22 18:24

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The Authors performed a retrospective analysis to study the incidence of colorectal neoplasms among military and commercial pilots. The principal weakness of this study is the lack of a statistical power analysis that should be done to evaluate any statistical significance. The reason for performing colonoscopy is not clear and the screening programs both for pilot and for the general population is not stated. In other words the methods of the study should be better described: was the colonoscopy performed after positive fecal occult blood test? Was it the first colonoscopy of there was any colonoscopy before? In my opinion the number of the population studied (270 subjects) is too small to draw any conclusion, given the incidence of colorectal neoplasms.