

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

**Manuscript NO:** 86927

**Title:** Multi-national observational study to assess quality of life and treatment preferences in patients with Crohn's perianal fistulas

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04718191

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Surgeon

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-07-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-07-28 14:38

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-08-02 07:35

**Review time:** 4 Days and 16 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an observational study to quantify symptom burden and impacts, and treatment experience, satisfaction, and preferences associated with Crohn's perianal fistulas (CPF) across multiple countries. The manuscript is well written. I have some comments list below: 1. Seton placement was not included in PF-related procedures. However, seton placement is the most common procedure in CPF patients. Many patients are very cared about the long duration of seton placement, which greatly affect patients' quality of life. 2. The grade of CPF is not reported in the manuscript. However, the grade of CPF is correlated with burden and satisfaction of patients. 3. The tile "Burden of illness with Crohn's perianal fistulas" may be modified, usually Burden of illness includes financial and psychological burden.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03645427

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Chief Doctor, Director

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-07-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu (Quit 2023)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-08-08 06:35

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-08-09 11:45

**Review time:** 1 Day and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is evident that perianal complications in Crohn's disease (CPF) significantly impact the quality of life for patients, which is important not only from the perspective of treating physicians but also from the patients' standpoint. CPF is known to be more common among Asian patients. The conclusion in this paper that CPF has a greater influence on the patient's burden of illness is not a novel one. However, understanding what aspects patients prioritize when making treatment choices provides valuable insights from the perspective of treating physicians. Above all, a critical concern of this study lies in how well patients comprehended the survey questions and provided accurate responses. Another limitation is that, compared to the clinical study of Sahnun (Treatment Preferences in Crohn's Disease Perianal Fistula: Patient Perspectives. Official journal of the American College of Gastroenterology | ACG 2022; 117), this research offers less utility in real-world decision-making within clinical practice. For instance, crucial information regarding a patient's past or current medication history is lacking. In the context of choosing surgery as a treatment option, not only the disease activity level of the patient's condition but also their treatment history holds immense significance.



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Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

Information such as whether immunomodulators or biologics were used becomes necessary. Overall, this paper, organized and executed under the auspices of a pharmaceutical company, is systematic and well-planned. However, it feels deficient in terms of the information it provides to practicing physicians compared to existing literature.