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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

ESPS manuscript NO: 24563

Title: Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease a Benefit in Selected Cases

Reviewer's code: 02840060

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-01-30 08:36

Date reviewed: 2016-02-09 22:20

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors evaluated the effectiveness of early surgery for Crohn disease. I'm interested in this study. However, because this study is prospective pilot study, it makes a substantial difference in between ES group and conventional therapy group. I have some concerns for statistical analysis of this study and this study is strongly biased by the difference in baseline characteristics. In ES group, users of anti TNF- α are fewer than in conventional therapy group; the difference may relate with the clinical outcome until surgery in ES group. It is doubtful whether the comparison between two groups is correct or not.



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

ESPS manuscript NO: 24563

Title: Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease a Benefit in Selected Cases

Reviewer's code: 03475767

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-01-30 08:36

Date reviewed: 2016-02-15 20:53

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a study about an interesting topic in CD: the effectiveness of early surgery in avoiding Crohn's disease recurrence. However, this study is not a prospective study, as reported, but a retrospective one for the majority of the evaluated study period, furthermore, as showed in figure 1, too many CD patients had been excluded by the analysis (222-156=66 pts=29.7%) thus creating a selection within the cohort. Therefore I think this study starts as statistically biased. Most of all, I have many concerns for the whole statistical analysis of the study, and in addition, I believe the two (three) groups analyzed are not homogeneous because of their difference in baseline characteristics and not only in the initial therapeutic approach they undergone.



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ESPS manuscript NO: 24563

Title: Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease a Benefit in Selected Cases

Reviewer's code: 03475736

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-01-30 08:36

Date reviewed: 2016-02-18 17:26

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Author, I found your manuscript 'Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease a Benefit in Selected Cases' interesting and valuable for publication. Nevertheless there are a few issues that I would like to point out for your revision: Material and Methods: - You may want to better specify definition of IMT cohort: did it include patients with at least 6 months medical therapy? Were patients with surgery prior to study period excluded? - Categorical data in Table 1 were compared with chi-square test whereas Mann-Whitney U-test was used to compare continuous variables in Table 3. However, you should mention which test you did use for the whole analysis, given that a p value is showed for every row in the tables. Did you assess for association between categorical variables in table 3 with chi-square test as well? - Did you also assess differences between the two population with non parametric tests or did you just performed an univariate analysis on all demographic data? Results: - Patients in the ES group are said to have had longer duration of disease but from data reported (ES 5.6 years, IMT 8.9, p=0.014) it seems duration of disease is actually shorter in the ES group. You may want to rephrase that. - Indication for surgery for the DS group should be mentioned: acute complications? Failure to respond to medical treatment? It may actually underline a difference



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between patients with more aggressive disease course versus patients with mild disease. Median time to deferred surgery from diagnosis would also be worth mentioning. Discussion: - You should better not make assumptions on the cost-effectiveness of ES versus medical therapy in this study given the fact that no analysis of costs has been made in it. - No data on short term complications of surgery and medical treatment were analysed and you should underline that in the limits of this study. Tables: - Column data for IMT group should be fully reported along with column for DS group (table 1 and 3) - Make sure to use same definition for the groups in each part of the manuscript including tables (check footnote in table 1 and heading in table 3 for IMT group)

Best regards.



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

ESPS manuscript NO: 24563

Title: Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease a Benefit in Selected Cases

Reviewer's code: 00505564

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-01-30 08:36

Date reviewed: 2016-02-20 04:33

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript - Early Surgery in Crohn's Disease a Benefit in Selected Cases - by Lawrence et al. is intriguing and of educational value. Few clarifications are required to our readers. How do you define IMT cohort? Clarify statistical methods used in Tab. 1, were compared with chi-square test whereas Mann-Whitney U-test was used to compare continuous/follow-up variables in Tab. 3, right? Further, you should also mention tests used for the whole analysis since a p value is depicted in all row in the Tables. Did you assess for association between categorical variables in table 3 with chi-square test as well? - Did you also assess differences between the two populations with non-parametric tests or did you just performed a univariate analysis on all demographic data? These questions need to be answered to avoid interpretation confusion of the data results. This paper is publishable once these minor but important questions are answered.