

Reply to the reviewers

Thank you for your constructive comments, we have revised the manuscript according to your thoughtful remarks which we would like to respond to as follows:

Reviewer 1:

In the manuscript "Recurrent Anal Fistulas: When, Why, and How to Manage?" by Sameh Hany Emile the authors provide a review of the management of anal fistulas. The author contributes a comprehensive overview over current definitions of and risk-factors for recurrent anal fistulas. Furthermore, the author discusses several risk factors for failure of initial therapy and for recurrence of fistulas. There are some minor points, that should be addressed

Thank you for the favorable appraisal of our manuscript.

- The authors discuss risk factors in patient's history for persistence or recurrence of fistula. Is there any influence on preoperative medications (e.g. steroids or other immunosuppressives in IBD patients)?

The influence of preoperative medications as steroid and immunosuppressive drugs has been added to the manuscript.

- Can you comment on endoscopic drainage in treatment of these fistulas?

A comment on the endoscopic treatment of recurrent anal fistula has been added to the manuscript.

- there are some typos (e.g. "tarns" instead of "trans" on page 4)

Thank you for pointing out these typos which we have corrected.

Reviewer 2:

The topic is meaningful. While, the language could be improved a bit.

Thank you for the favorable appraisal of our manuscript. The English language was revised by a native speaker.