

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 15, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8118-review.doc).

**Title:** Over-The-Scope-Clipping system for anastomotic leak after colorectal surgery: report of two cases

**Author:** Hirotohi Kobayashi, Satoshi Okazaki, Megumi Ishiguro, Toshiaki Ishikawa, Satoru Iida, Hiroyuki Uetake, and Kenichi Sugihara

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8118

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

(1) Reviewer 1 (00042960)

Although this article is limited to the presentation of 2 cases, the technique is new and only few reports have been published. The Authors should better describe the 2 cases by specifying the level of the anastomosis.

Thank you for your kind comments. We have added some descriptions regarding the level of the anastomosis. (page 5, line 6-7; page 6, line 4-5)

(2) Reviewer 2 (00058613)

The case report is interesting and usefull and add a new technique for the treatment of anastomotic leakage in colorectal surgery. It's important to report other experience with this technique.

We appreciate your kind comments. Unfortunately , we do not have other experience with this technique. However, we describe other usefulness of OTSC system such as closure of gastrointestinal perforation in the introduction section of the original manuscript. (page 4, line 8-9)

(3) Reviewer 3 (01429306)

This is an interesting manuscript which proposes a new treatment method for the management of anastomotic leaks following colorectal surgery: the application of OTSC system. Major comment: the authors should describe in detail the technique of the application of the OTSC system. Moreover they are strongly advised to discuss the possible complications of the applied system, as well as its cost.

Thank you for your precise comments. We have revised the manuscript according to your comments. The possible complications are perforation, mucosal laceration, and postprocedural pain. (page 8, line 12-page 9, line 1)

(4) Reviewer 4 (00044067)

This is an interesting paper about the usefulness of the OTSC system for an anastomotic leak following

colorectal surgery, which was reported in the *Surgical Endosc* 2012 by Arrezo et al, and was originally developed for closing the gastrointestinal perforation or the orifice in natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery (NOTES). However, there are some points to be added. First, explain the OTSC in detail in comparison with previous clips for anastomotic leak or endoscopic tearing. Please make one table for the clips in the introduction. Second, what is the advantage of OTSC for anastomotic leakage, overcoming the inflammation, which makes the tissue friable. Discuss it in the discussion section. Third, move some description of the discussion into the case report section.

We appreciate your precise comments. We have revised the manuscript in each point accordingly.

- 1) We have added the description of OTSC in the introduction. (page 4, line 10-12)
- 2) We have added the statement in the discussion. (page 8, line 12-page 9, line 1)
- 3) We have moved some description of discussion into the case report section. (page 5, line 7-9)

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Kobayashi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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