

September 3rd, 2014



Editor in Chief
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Sir,

RE- ESPS Manuscript NO: 13191

Title: Modern management of anal fistula

Authors: Elsa Limura, Pasquale Giordano

Many thanks for considering our study for publication on the World Journal of Gastroenterology and please accept our apology for the delay in returning the amended manuscript. We have taken in consideration all the reviewers suggestions and correct the paper accordingly.

Regarding the comments of the reviewer number two we would like to point out that the objective of this study is to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview on new treatment options for anal fistula proposed over the last few years to overcome the well known risks of conventional surgery; hence the choice of submitting the paper to the WJG rather than a surgical Journal. Therefore the nature of this review is not that of a systematic review or meta-analysis. Performing such type of review for all those different techniques in a single study would have been an immense task and not really appropriate for this type of paper. Furthermore a number of recent systematic reviews are now available for some of these techniques, such as LIFT, and we have added those studies to our review. We have also added more recently published study on the LIFT procedure as suggested by the second reviewer. Interested readers will have the option to select further reading as appropriate for their needs.

We trust you will find the amendments adequate, however we should be very

happy to address any further issues if needed.

Once again many thanks for your assistance and interest in our manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Pasquale Giordano MD FRCS FRCSEd

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. Giordano', written in a cursive style.