

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



May 5, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17588-review.doc).

Title: Local excision by transanal endoscopic surgery. Indications, technical options and outcomes.

Authors: Luis J. García-Flórez, Jorge L. Otero-Díez

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17588

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

REVIEWER 182276:

The aim of this review to introduce the novel techniques and applicability of Transanal TEM. The article detailed the indications and contraindications and opened new questions of further usage as well. I think this is a valuable paper to overthink again the oncological treatment triages as well.

Answer: **Thank you very much for your comments**

REVIEWER 2548901:

This review is on an interesting and worthwhile topic. However, it is very lengthy, unstructured and attempts to cover too much. As such, it loses the reader midway through the article. The authors should attempt to reduce its length by half to a third, at least, and drop less critical elements. For example, the section on 'follow up' seems out of place and the section on cancer rambles on indefinitely. There is nearly a whole page on emr vs esd- again. Too long!

Answer: **We have removed the FOLLOW UP section from the text and reduced the total length by about 30%**

The article also seems somewhat dated. TaTME is the current hot topic in TAMIS technology and it is hardly mentioned at all.

Answer: **Although we introduce this novel technique and other indications beyond local excision, taTME is not the purpose of the article. We are reviewing transanal endoscopic surgery as a tool for local excision. We have made changes even in the main title to make ourselves clearer.**

Newer anatomical descriptions relating to this area eg by Coffey et al could also be incorporated.

Answer: **We found nothing about these newer anatomical descriptions. Searching in several data bases we have just found articles (from Coffey JC) about anatomical features regarding total mesocolic resections, nothing about rectal anatomy. There are no references of Coffey's anatomical descriptions in transanal endoscopic surgery literature in recent years either.**

More minor comments: 'advanced' cancers can be treated by taTME (technically speaking) so I would omit statements that these can only be treated palliatively by TES.

Answer: **When we state that, we are always talking about local excision therapies. We hope there are no further doubts about that issue.**

Omit the reference-less and non specific statement; 'tumour bx has a low accuracy'

Answer: We have omitted this statement in the INDICATIONS section. We maintain it in the OUTCOMES-Carcinoma section, with the corresponding reference.

The authors use of English is a little strange at times. I would omit the term 'diffusion' (used several times) and 'implantation' on p14. S

Answer: We have made these changes and a new general review by a native English Professor (Mr Mark DJ Chappell).

Several 'facts' are not referenced.. Eg '400 centres offer this technique'

Answer: We have omitted that fact and made a general review.

I found the 'practical tips' on p9 interesting and worth keeping in the article.

Answer: Thank you very much for your comments.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luis J. García-Flórez', with a stylized, flowing script.

Luis J. García-Flórez, MD, PhD
General Surgery, Colorectal Unit.
Hospital San Agustín. Avilés, Spain.
e-mail: luisjgf@gmail.com