

May 11th, 2016

To the kind attention of the Editorial board of the Baishideng Publishing Group:

**Object: reply to the reviewers about the submitted manuscript number 25824,
World Journal of Gastroenterology**

Reviewer 2461826 = R1

Reviewer 53888 = R2

Reviewer 53950 = R3

- to R1: - the short title has been rephrased
- to R1, R3: - the pre- and intra-operative sections have been joined and substantially reduced
- the first sentence of the abstract has been modified
- to R2, R3: - the manuscript has been reduced from roughly 7700 words to 4660 from
Introduction to Conclusions
- to R3: - the construction of the subtitles has been modified according to journal's
instructions
- postoperative scoring systems have been reduced in their length
- conclusions have been shortened and, mainly, the whole manuscript has been
drastically reduced in its length
- references have been brought to 120 as suggested
- the oldest references have been deleted from Table 1

We thank R2 for suggesting the insertion of figures. Having reduced the length of the manuscript this heavily, making it more readable and comparable with the length of the reviews usually published on this journal, we prefer not to add figures that we do not consider essential for the understanding of the paper.

We thank R3 for the careful reading and the several suggestions. About IPF and PNF reported in the manuscript, we refer to specific reviews and papers, as specified in the references. We have changed the incidence reported in the text in accordance with the reviewer's indications specifically referring to a recent paper and a review published after 2012. We have to underscore the fact that, like written in the manuscript, the incidence of these conditions heavily relies on the non-univocal IPF and PNF definitions used.

We changed the distribution of the chapters, following R3 suggestion, in order to reduce the length of the pre- and intra-operative section and the redundancy of some techniques. Anyway, we conserved the overall pre- intra- and post-operative structure, considering it more understandable for the readers.

We found difficult to reduce the size of Table 2, since we think it to be a clarifying scheme of the overall review.

Finally, we have substantially reduced the length of the manuscript and, consequently, the order of some sentences, trying not to produce any significant change in the grammar. We are pleased to receive any further suggestion and critics, both about contents and structure of the paper. We are available to further revision of the text if required.

Yours sincerely,

Giuliano Bolondi, Federico Moccheggiani,
Roberto Montalti, Daniele Nicolini, Marco
Vivarelli, Lesley De Pietri.