

Cover Letter in Response to Reviewer's Comments

Yuan Qi
Science Editor, Editorial Office
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Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
Manuscript NO.: 33914
Column: Retrospective Cohort Study
Title: Hypothesized summative anal physiology score correlates but poorly predicts incontinence severity.

14 June 2017

Dear Yuan Qi

Step 1. Thank you for the opportunity to revise our work. Please see our response to the reviewer's comments. Thank you for your consideration.

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors established the APS model and it is helpful to assess the incontinence. However, some details need to be clarified. 1. APS consisted of five variables. How to define the criteria of sphincter defect by EUS? Authors should describe the details on criteria and give a EUS image to illustrate it.

RESPONSE

Thank you. This is addressed now in Methods; 'All internal and external anal sphincter lengths found on EUS, specifically designation as fully intact or the proportion intact and proportion non-intact due to defects, were recorded by Author (CY) at the time of EUS (Figure 1.). This was measured relative to the length of anal canal found at EUS, whether intact or not, from the lower anal canal to puborectalis, allowing for rank classification of 0-4 as shown in Table 1.'

An EUS image of an internal (Fig 1a) and external anal sphincter (Fig 1b) defect is now shown in Figure 1.

2. All APS variables were significantly different between men and women, except for internal sphincter defect.

RESPONSE

We now have included in the discussion; 'All APS variables were significantly different between men and women, except for internal sphincter defect, and this may be a clue as to why there is a gender difference in CCCS.'

In discussion section, authors also mentioned that the gender difference in CCCS was highly significant in this study, but the data cannot be found in table?

RESPONSE

May we respectfully point out that this data can be found at the bottom of Table 4, which extends onto the top of the next page.

And how about the multiple regression results of APS or CCCS between men and women?

RESPONSE

Because of the small number of men, who were 17.5% of the total, we did not include gender in the multiple regression.

All the above changes have been reflected in the manuscript in red text.

We hope you find the revised manuscript acceptable for publication. Thank you once again for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

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