

Dear Editors, dear Reviewer team

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled: “Prophylactic drains in totally laparoscopic distal gastrectomy: are they always necessary?” for consideration in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

All comments and suggestions by the editors and reviewers were very well received and are addressed in the point-by-point reply below. Amendments in the manuscript have been done accordingly and they have been tracked. Furthermore, the manuscript underwent editing revision by a native speaker who has been added to the acknowledgements. Please note that he is not part of a company providing paid service.

Our article is not under consideration elsewhere and has not been published previously. The revised manuscript was approved by all co-authors.

We hope you find our revised manuscript of interest for the World Journal of Gastroenterology and we are looking forward to receiving your kind suggestions.

Sincerely,

Tommaso Maria Manzia

Alessandro Parente

Roberta Angelico

Prophylactic drains in totally laparoscopic distal gastrectomy: are they always necessary?

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Author contributions: Manzia TM and Angelico R designed research; Parente A wrote the letter. Manzia TM revised the letter. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

Supported by

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Comment by Reviewer: This manuscript is a letter article regarding the necessity of prophylactic drain insertion in total laparoscopic distal gastrectomy in response to the study from Liu et al. The authors pointed out several concerns in this study, which will be of interest to clinicians and researchers in the field. However, the following minor issues require clarification: Minor 1. (Title) I recommend “subtotal” is replaced with “distal” in accordance with other descriptions in the manuscript. 2. Please provide some concrete examples of grade I postoperative complications, which can help readers’ understanding

Authors’ response: we thank the reviewer for the kind comments. 1) We do agree and the title has been amended accordingly. 2) Many thanks for highlighting this important point. We have added three examples of common grade I complications which can help the readers’ to better understand minor complications. Furthermore, the manuscript underwent full revision by native speaker and the overall readability has been ameliorated.