Responses to the reviewer's comments

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for your kind consideration of our manuscript for revision. Our evidence synthesis group are very grateful to you and the Reviewers for the valid comments which undoubtedly will enhance the quality of our manuscript. Please find below our responses to the Reviewer's comments.

Reviewer #1:

Meta-analysis was carried out by the author to confirm which is better for trans versus laparoscopic surgery in low rectal cancer. Trans anal may be more suitable for low rectal cancer. This is a good article. As stated in the discussion, the indications of patients must be strictly selected, otherwise the advantages of trans anal cannot be demonstrated. It is recommended to accept.

Our response: we are grateful to Reviewer 1 for the kind positive comments

Reviewer #2:

It fits the scope of the journal.

Our response: we are grateful to Reviewer 2 for the kind comment

Company Editor-in-Chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted.

Our response: we are grateful to the Editor-in-Chief for the kind positive comments

The title of the manuscript is too long and must be shortened to meet the requirement of the journal (Title: The title should be no more than 18 words).

Our response: we are thankful to the Editor-in-Chief for this important valid comment. We indeed agree with the comment. We have amended the title and made it shorter as "*Meta-analysis of transanal versus laparoscopic total mesorectal excision of low rectal cancer: Importance of appropriate patient selection*" which now consists of 17 words.

Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file.

Our response: We thank Editor-in-Chief for the important recommendation. We have now provided decomposable figures in a single PowerPoint file.

Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content.

Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.

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Looking forward to your favourable consideration

Yours sincerely

Corresponding author