Author's response to reviews

Title: A survey of abnormalities in the colon and rectum in patients presenting with haemorrhoids.

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Author's response to reviews:

To Rachel Neilan MSc
Editor of BMC Gastroenterology.

Zaandam April 30 2010

Dear mrs. Neilan,

Herewith, we submit the rerevised version of our paper entitled: “A survey of abnormalities in the colon and rectum in patients presenting with haemorrhoids” MS: 1447749879349426.

Both reviewers had some additional comments. We again shall discuss these.

Reviewer 1 (Varghese PT):
This reviewer is satisfied with the changes in the revision..

The data on sigmoidoscopy were not removed since the number is sigmoidoscopies is rather low in the entire data set. We still do not understand why this is a limitation of the study.

Reviewer 2 (Graf W)
Still we do not understand why a control group would be necessary. The purpose of the entire study was to describe concomitant findings in patients in whom haemorrhoids were seen. But, in order to please the reviewer we now included a very large reference group of patients (originating from the original data-set) undergoing endoscopy. In these patients no haemorrhoids were seen. These results are now included in the appropriate sections of the paper and in an additional table. A “healthy control” group as proposed by the reviewer of course is impossible since healthy people never undergo endoscopy!

As stated earlier the number of sigmoidoscopies is rather low. In addition a statistical comparison of sigmoidoscopy versus colonoscopy with regard to
polyps only leads to the conclusion that a sigmoidoscopy is not the appropriate investigation.

All additional changes are marked in red.

We hope we discussed the comments of the reviewers extensively enough and hope the paper is now acceptable for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.

Yours sincerely

RJLF Loffeld MD PhD