Author's response to reviews

Title: Mini-laparoscopic versus laparoscopic approach to appendectomy

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Carole Mongin-Bulewski, PhD
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Re: Mini-laparoscopic Versus Laparoscopic Approach to Appendectomy

Dear Dr. Mongin-Bulewski:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the reviewer’s inquiries on the above manuscript. With regard to the questions posed by Professor Harry Sax, please note the following:

1. Did all other surgeons use a standardized technique? Were discharges delayed due to timing of the case? Were the “experienced surgeons” on weekends and nights?

All surgeons used a standardized technique, and all were on call and available on weekends and nights. The variability of “timing of the case” affected both groups equally, as far as we can tell.

2. How were operative times defined?

Incision to dressing.

3. How durable are the instruments? This could be a cost issue down the road.

Quality of instruments has dramatically improved over the years 1995-2001. The non-disposable instruments now last months, but they remain less durable than the non-disposable 5-mm instruments.

With the introduction of disposable mini-laparoscopic instruments, the reliable but expensive route to pursue mini-laparoscopy will tempt many to forgo conservation of funds for ease of use.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a report of our research to your web site. If you have additional questions, please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Sincerely,

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