Author's response to reviews

Title: Preoperative workup in the assessment of adrenal incidentalomas. Outcome from 506 consecutive laparoscopic adrenalectomies.

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Version: 2 Date: 27 May 2013

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Marielette Costoy  
Journal Editorial Office  
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Dear Ms. Costey, as requested we provided the following changes.

1. In the Methods section (rows 19-21) it is now reported that all patients treated with an adrenalectomy signed an informed consent.
2. The role of each author and his level of contribution to the study is now reported in the Authors section.
3. A competing interest disclosure declaration, according to your format has been now produced.
4. Just one thing I would like to be explained. We have been asked to provide an ethics statement according to the Helsinki declaration. Now the paper I sent you is basically a retrospective study in which all patients receiving an adrenalectomy in these last nineteen years have been evaluated. All patients, although receiving different preoperative workups, have been obviously studied and treated according to Helsinki principles. But it started about twenty years ago. So, I can absolutely add in the methods sections that all patients have been studied according to accepted ethical principles, but conversely, I cannot provide a declaration from the ethical committee of my hospital with a reference number. This is due to the nature of the study, retrospective, and to the six different centers involved. Probably should this paper be considered a "retrospective database study" more than a "research"? Would you please help me to classify the paper as you consider it should be classified? Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

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