Author's response to reviews

Title: The initial experience of reduced port surgery using a 2-surgeon technique for colorectal cancer

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Author's response to reviews:

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Editor-in-Chief Dr. Kostiantyn Kopchak
Mr. Eden Nonato
BMC Surgery

Dear Editor:

1. Please kindly make sure that whether this is a retrospective study or a prospective study.

ANS; We changed a sentence to make a retrospective study clear. Between June 1, 2012 and August 31, 2014, a total 749 patients with colorectal cancer who underwent laparoscopic surgery at our institution were registered. Two patient groups were retrospectively assigned for data analysis. Four hundred nine patients (57%) received a conventional laparoscopic colectomy (5 ports performed by 3 surgeons) and 106 patients (14%) received a RPS performed by a surgeon and a surgeon’s assistant. Two hundred fourteen (29%) patients were excluded from the analysis for contraindications of RPS using the 2-surgeon technique (including synchronous other site cancer resection and rectal cancer).

2. It also should be explained that why some patients received conventional surgical procedure and others not.

ANS; Almost all of these surgeries were performed by 3 board-certified colorectal surgeons; the first author of this manuscript (JT) only performed the 2-surgeon technique and others performed a conventional procedure.

3. While if this is a retrospective study, this kind of study should be considered as
a clinical trial and should be registered.

ANS; This study was approved by the ethical committee of the Saitama Medical University International Medical Center. The in-hospital registration of the retrospective study was applied.

Sincerely,
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