Reviewer's report

Title: DISSECTION OF THE INFERIOR MESENTERIC VEIN VERSUS OF THE INFERIOR MESENTERIC ARTERY FOR THE GENITOURINARY FUNCTION AFTER LAPAROSCOPIC APPROACH OF RECTAL CANCER SURGERY: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL.

Version: 0 Date: 23 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Gregorio Di Franco

Reviewer's report:

The authors accurately describe the criteria used for the definition of post-operative genitourinary complications and the methods used for their evaluation. The definition of the minimum number of patients to be enrolled is defined with a statistical criterion. The statistical methods used for the comparison are also well described.

However, the authors considered only the use of the laparoscopic approach. This could be specified in the title and should be better highlighted in the introduction section. In fact, some authors have shown better functional results with the robotic approach due to the superior movements of the wristed instruments that facilitate fine dissection, coupled with a stable and magnified view that helps in recognizing the inferior hypogastric plexus. (Luca F, Valvo M, Ghezzi TL, Zuccaro M, Cenciarelli S, Trovato C, Sonzogni A, Biffi R. Impact of robotic surgery on sexual and urinary functions after fully robotic nerve-sparing total mesorectal excision for rectal cancer. Ann Surg. 2013 Apr;257(4):672-8; Morelli L, Di Franco G, Guadagni S, Rossi L, Palmeri M, Furbetta N, Gianardi D, Bianchini M, Caprili G, D'Isidoro C, Mosca F, Moglia A, Cuschieri A. Robot-assisted total mesorectal excision for rectal cancer: case-matched comparison of short-term surgical and functional outcomes between the da Vinci Xi and Si. Surg Endosc. 2018 Feb;32(2):589-600). The authors could add some comments on these aspects in the introduction section or in the discussion section.
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