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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Research in Surgery**](https://journalajrs.com/index.php/AJRS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJRS\_136904** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Role of Exploratory Laparoscopy in the Management of Locally Advanced Colorectal Cancer: Experience of Ibn Rochd University Hospital in Casablanca** |
| Type of the Article | **Original** |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | Colorectal cancer is a growing burden of global health and economic significance. This study is focused on exploratory laparoscopy, which can play important role in improving staging and influence therapeutic approaches in locally advanced forms of colorectal cancer. The manuscript is focused on improvement of medical care of patients with colorectal cancer mid-low-resource countries like Morocco. Whereas the study has several limitations, it significantly contributes to the general database of evidence and is significant for both scientists and clinicians. | We thank the reviewer for this valuable question. This manuscript addresses the significant burden of colorectal cancer in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), highlighting the challenges of accurate staging and management in these settings. Exploratory laparoscopy offers a minimally invasive alternative to conventional imaging for detecting occult metastases and informing treatment decisions. While the study has limitations due to its retrospective design and small sample size, it contributes important real-world data on the feasibility and potential benefits of laparoscopy in resource-limited environments. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes, surely** | Yes, we agree with the reviewer that the current title accurately represents the content of the manuscript and is suitable. |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | **The abstract fully depicts the most important findings, and is sufficient** | Thank you for your feedback. We have revised the abstract to ensure clarity and conciseness, and we confirm that it covers the main findings and implications of our study. |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | **The manuscript itself, and selected scientific methodical approach are correct.** | Thank you for your comments. We have carefully reviewed the scientific content and methodology of the manuscript. We agree that the approach is sound, and we have also addressed the limitations in the Discussion section, as suggested. |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | **In general, selection of references is sufficient. However, I'd like to recommend considering a following paper for mentioning in Discussion section, as it compares several groups of patients and several treatment approaches:**  Coccolini, F., Mazzoni, A., Cremonini, C. et al. Colorectal neoplastic emergencies in immunocompromised patients: preliminary result from the Web-based International Register of Emergency Surgery and Trauma (WIRES-T trial). Updates Surg 75, 1579–1587 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s13304-023-01521-8 | Thank you for your suggestion to include the reference by Coccolini et al. (2023). We have now incorporated this reference into the Discussion section to strengthen the manuscript. |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The English language quality of the article is suitable for scholarly communications, minor grammar and style corrections may apply. | We appreciate the reviewer’s positive assessment. We have made minor edits to improve grammar and style where necessary. |
| Optional/General comments | **No additional comments** |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* | No ethical issues were identified in this study beyond those already addressed in the manuscript, and we have ensured that all ethical standards have been met. |