

November 3, 2024

Dear editor and reviewer

We would like to thank the editors and reviewers' work devoted to our manuscript and we are very grateful for your valuable suggestions.

We have fully addressed each concern and hope that this revised manuscript is now acceptable. Each concern is discussed in detail below, which is highlighted in bold font.

Reviewer

The manuscript titled Small bowel obstruction due to intra-abdominal hernia: new thoughts on diagnosis and treatment presents valuable insights into a rare but significant cause of small bowel obstruction (SBO). The study emphasizes the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, particularly in distinguishing internal hernias (IH) as a potential etiology. While the incidence of SBO caused by IH is low (0.2% to 0.9%), the manuscript successfully highlights that the condition can be life-threatening, requiring swift surgical intervention, often laparoscopic, to avoid complications like bowel strangulation. However, the research could benefit from a broader analysis of post-surgical outcomes in different patient populations to solidify its findings. The

strengths of the manuscript include the comprehensive literature review and case study of IH. By referencing a 13-year retrospective study by Payal Kaw et al., the authors effectively contextualize the clinical importance of accurate imaging techniques like contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) and the role of laparoscopic surgery in managing SBO caused by IH. The discussion of diagnostic challenges, particularly the non-specific symptoms of IH and the low rate of preoperative suspicion, underscores the need for heightened awareness among clinicians. Still, the manuscript would benefit from a more detailed comparison of imaging modalities and their respective diagnostic accuracies in clinical practice. One area that could be improved is the manuscript's discussion of non-surgical interventions for SBO caused by IH. While surgical methods are adequately covered, conservative management strategies such as observation or medical treatment are briefly mentioned but not explored in depth. Expanding on this aspect could provide a more holistic view of the management of SBO, particularly in high-risk or post-operative patients where surgery might not be immediately feasible. Additionally, including data on long-term patient outcomes following various interventions would enhance the practical application of the research findings. Some sentences are overly long and complex, which could affect clarity. For example, sentences with multiple clauses could be broken into shorter, more focused

sentences. This would improve readability and ensure that key points are not lost in dense text. Example from the manuscript: "Small bowel obstruction (SBO) due to IH although rare is still an important cause of SBO." This could be revised to: "Although rare, small bowel obstruction (SBO) due to internal hernia (IH) remains an important cause of SBO."

Use of Articles and Prepositions: There are several instances where articles (a, an, the) and prepositions are either missing or incorrectly used, which can lead to awkward phrasing. Example: "Accurate diagnosis helps to develop an appropriate rehabilitation program after surgery and reduce the complication rate." A better version would be: "An accurate diagnosis helps develop an appropriate rehabilitation program after surgery and reduces the complication rate."

## Q1

One area that could be improved is the manuscript's discussion of non-surgical interventions for SBO caused by IH. While surgical methods are adequately covered, conservative management strategies such as observation or medical treatment are briefly mentioned but not explored in depth. Expanding on this aspect could provide a more holistic view of the management of SBO, particularly in high-risk or post-operative patients where surgery might not be immediately feasible.

**Response:**

Dear reviewer, thank you for your comment. We have added a discussion on non-surgical intervention for SBO caused by IH to the manuscript (highlighted).

**Q2**

Some sentences are overly long and complex, which could affect clarity.

**Response:**

We revised the sentences (highlighted) in the manuscript that were overly long and complex to improve readability and ensure that key points were not lost in the dense text.