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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 116827

Title: Magnetic resonance imaging predicts perianal fistula in Crohn's disease

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08647903
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: PhD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-10

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-02-10 11:53

Reviewer performed review: 2026-02-27 11:16

Review time: 16 Days and 23 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes** Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

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	Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Yes** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **No** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Yes** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Yes** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Yes** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Yes** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **Yes** Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes**
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)

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Novelty of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Language quality	Grade C (Good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Overall Evaluation: This article reports a retrospective analysis primarily aimed at assessing the value of magnetic resonance imaging in predicting perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease. The study included hospitalized patients with anal fistulas who underwent MRI examinations from two hospitals, thereby avoiding a single-sample source. The topic is highly relevant and addresses a critical clinical need. The article is well-structured, clearly written, and adheres to the standard format of academic journals. The research focus is clear, and the study design effectively achieves the research objectives. Due to the large sample size and the use of robust statistical techniques, the

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results are instructive. However, the text could still benefit from further clarification and revisions to enhance scientific clarity and impact. Specific feedback and revision suggestions are provided below. Key Comments: Strengths include scientific reasoning and originality. The authors recognize the critical clinical significance, noting that MRI is not only used as an auxiliary diagnostic tool but can also predict perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease, thereby guiding treatment decisions. The abstract provides a general description of the study's background, objectives, results, and conclusions. However, the background and objectives are described in a mixed manner, leading to unclear structuring. Separating these sections would improve clarity. In the methods section, the statement "Images were classified according to whether the magnetic resonance images had transmural inflammation or active proctitis" does not specify the detailed classification criteria. Although the study received approval from the medical ethics committee, specific inclusion and exclusion criteria for patient selection are not described in detail. It is recommended to add a dedicated section for this description. Additionally, the black arrows in the figures should be changed to a different color, as black arrows are not clearly visible against a black background. With these revisions, the manuscript has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the study of perianal fistulas in patients with Crohn's disease.

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Reviewer's code: 08647867
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: MD, PhD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-10

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-02-10 12:14

Reviewer performed review: 2026-03-02 09:03

Review time: 19 Days and 20 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes** Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

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Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)

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Novelty of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
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Language quality	Grade C (Good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This paper addresses a topic of significant clinical importance, supported by strong pathophysiological logic, an adequate sample size, internal and external validation, and methodological advantages. Below are my specific suggestions: Title: The title is overly broad and should include key information on MRI features, such as transmural inflammation or active proctitis. Abstract: The structure is complete, but the results section contains unclear descriptions, e.g., "57/69 (82.6%) with perianal fistula in Crohn's disease and 35/182 (19.2%) patients with cryptoglandular anal fistula had transmural inflammation or active proctitis." Please provide further clarification for

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better expression. Introduction: The introduction explains Crohn's disease, the current treatment risks and complications associated with perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease, and the application of MRI. However, there is a lack of information on the current use of MRI in distinguishing between perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease and cryptoglandular anal fistulas. Additionally, language expression needs improvement; for instance, phrases like "(Fig. 1b, 1c, 1d)]are important MRI features of PFCD" should be revised into complete declarative sentences. The innovation of this study is not clearly articulated. Methods: The methods section states, "The diagnostic criteria for PFCD is based on…… released by World Gastroenterology Organization in 2014," but does not specify the implementation methods of this study. The inclusion and exclusion criteria are not fully described. It is recommended to add a section on diagnostic criteria. In the MRI analysis, terms such as transmural inflammation or active proctitis are mentioned but not clearly defined. Results: The results are presented with charts and descriptions, which are relatively complete. However, the resolution of Figure 3 is insufficient and needs to be resubmitted. Discussion: The discussion is overly lengthy and contains multiple grammatical errors that require further improvement. Additionally, the reference format does not comply with journal standards; please revise it according to the journal's requirements.