Reply to: doi:10.1007/s00464-009-0765-z: Laparoscopic correction of perforated peptic ulcer: first choice? A review of literature

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Thanks for reading our article thoroughly and taking the time to evaluate it. In response to your letter, I can only support your observation that the chosen methodology was not ideal. Having performed a randomized trial in the Netherlands and having reviewed literature, in which only small collections of individual patient data are available, I can only confirm how difficult it is to gain data from representative groups of patients. The reason for this article was to make a start at reviewing the current state of the art, showing all the controversions that exist, and hopefully motivating people to do more research, or even better, to reach a consensus on how best to treat perforated peptic ulcers.

Regarding your remark about our statement that it is unwarranted to say a Boey score of three should be a contraindication for laparoscopic intervention, I comment that the usefulness of the Boey score has been promoted by several authors [1–3]. Although the incidence of patients with a Boey score of three is low, it seems to be a factor

that cannot be completely ignored. Of course, with ongoing research about the influence of pneumoperitoneum on hemodynamics, this advice might be proved untrue in the future.

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