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Dear Editor

On behalf of my colleagues, I would be grateful for your consideration of this Original Manuscript entitled "**Virtual reality simulation as a tool to monitor surgical performance indicators: VIRESI observational study**" for publication in *Acta Médica Portuguesa*.

In our study, we have investigated the use of virtual reality simulation as a complementary tool to traditional laparoscopic surgical training in the operating room. We were able to document that the virtual reality simulator LAP Mentor® is able to identify changes in surgical performance indicators. We believe that these findings would be of interest to your readership in that they raise the possibility of using virtual reality training simulation to assess the surgical performance of Portuguese surgeons. In addition, this is the first study about virtual reality laparoscopic surgical training in Portugal.

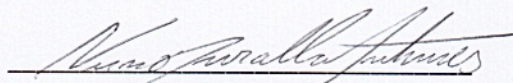
The final version of this manuscript has been read and approved by all authors. N Muralha had the original research idea; N Muralha, M Oliveira and J Costa-Maia designed the study and created the study protocol; N Muralha, M Oliveira and J Costa-Maia recruited the participants and collected the data; N Muralha, M Oliveira, J Costa-Maia and A Ferreira contributed to the data analysis and interpretation; N Muralha, M Oliveira, J Costa-Maia and A Ferreira drafted the manuscript, and all of the authors revised it and intellectually contributed.

I confirm that this manuscript is an original contribution and all the statements presented as facts are resulting from authors' research, who are responsible for them. The authors have no conflict of interest to declare. All of the authors agree with submission to *Acta Médica Portuguesa*. The manuscript is not currently submitted or under review in any other journal, and it has not been published in whole or in part in any other journal. When submitting this paper for publication, the authors transfer to *Acta Médica Portuguesa* the rights and copyrights of the article.

We followed the *Acta Médica Portuguesa* author guidelines for Original Manuscripts. Accordingly, our manuscript includes 2,425 words, 3 figures and 2 tables, and 30 references.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


(Nuno Muralha, MD)