

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERS OF THE JURY	i
EXTERIOR MEMBERS	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
RESUME EN FRANCAIS	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
1. BACKGROUND	1
1.1. Hirschsprung’s disease: a historical review	1
1.2. Development of the large intestine	5
1.3. Pathophysiology.....	18
1.4. Epidemiology.....	25
1.5. Genetics.....	26
1.6. Clinical manifestations.....	27
1.7. Diagnostic modalities.....	30
1.8. Treatment	45
1.9. Postoperative outcome	49
1.10. Vietnam settings in the management of Hirschsprung’s disease	52
2. SCOPES OF THE THESIS	54
2.1. Rationale for conducting the studies realized in this thesis	54
2.2. Study objectives	56
3. OUTCOMES ARISING FROM THE THESIS	57
3.1. Diagnostic value of rectal suction biopsy with calretinin immunohistochemistry in the	

diagnosis of Hirschsprung's disease	57
3.2. Interest of rectal suction biopsy with calretinin immunohistochemistry in patients suspected of residual aganglionosis after pull-through operation for Hirschsprung's disease	69
3.3. Long-term outcomes and quality of life in patients after Soave pull-through operation for Hirschsprung's disease: an observational retrospective study	76
3.4. Interest of anorectal manometry during long-term follow-up of patients operated on for Hirschsprung's disease.....	91
4. DISCUSSION.....	102
4.1. Key findings and contribution to the literature	102
4.2. What changes were driven by these research in Vietnam?	104
4.3. Strength and limitations	105
4.4. Recommendations.....	106
REFERENCES.....	108
APPENDICES.....	122
Appendix 1. Scientific curriculum vitae	122
Appendix 2. Questionnaires for prospective studies.....	126
Appendix 3. Protocol for high resolution anorectal manometry.....	128
Appendix 4. Protocol for rectal suction biopsy	131
Appendix 5. Protocol of pull-through operation.....	132
Appendix 6. Convocation letter for cases in Belgium	133
Appendix 7. Convocation letter for controls in Belgium.....	135
Appendix 8. Medical report for cases in Belgium	136
Appendix 9. Questionnaires for cases in Belgium.....	137
Appendix 10. Questionnaires for controls in Belgium	139