

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 13, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14477-review.doc).

Title: Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM)

Author: Vivek Kumbhari, Mouen A. Khashab

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14477

Comments from the Authors:

The manuscript was requested to be written as a "Review" however there are some statements from the Editorial Office to suggest it is a "Mini Review". We wish this manuscript to be published as a "Review"

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the four reviewers:

02510223: We have added more detail about the preoperative evaluation of patients. On page 6 we have now added : "Computed tomography (CT) is not mandatory, however, some experts find it useful as it provides information on the anatomic features of adjacent structures as well as identifying congenital anomalies or ectopic varices. In addition, CT scan can be an adjunct to contrast esophagram in establishing the presence of a sigmoid-type esophagus."

02549261: We have added figures on the main complications. Figure 13 (inadvertent mucosotomy) and Figure 14 (bleeding within the tunnel).

02840060: We have corrected the spelling mistakes and slightly shortened the length of the article.

02729987:

1. We have now included the introduction and background in the same section
2. "forgeut" has been changed to "foregut"
3. The need for a post procedure CT scan have been commented on and referenced in page 14: "Routine thoracic CT scan is not warranted because of the high rate of minor and clinically irrelevant findings⁴⁶."
4. The article has been amended to portray a more balanced experience between personal experience and scientific basis. Where possible, we have removed comments referencing ourselves. This has not been done entirely as POEM is an evolving procedure and some statements are unable to be referenced and our personal experience has been described.
5. "niave" have been changed to "naive"

6. We have added the section below to outline the current role of POEM in achalasia on page 19:

"POEM IN THE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM FOR ACHALASIA

For decades, pneumatic balloon dilation and Heller myotomy were the primary methods for the palliation of symptoms of achalasia. POEM appears to have potential advantages over these techniques. POEM appears to be associated with decreased need for retreatment and a lower rate of perforation than pneumatic balloon dilation although no comparative studies exist. There are several uncontrolled studies comparing POEM to Heller myotomy which reveal that they have similar short term efficacy and safety^{47, 63-65}. Aside from POEM, insertion of self-expandable metallic stents across the EGJ has been studied as an alternative management strategy. Although early reports show promise in terms of symptom palliation, stent migration and intolerance appear to be an issue⁶⁶⁻⁶⁸.

At this stage, there are no gastrointestinal or surgical society guidelines that have incorporated POEM into their treatment algorithm for achalasia. The American College of Gastroenterology clinical guideline on the management of achalasia cautioned against the use of POEM until the results from further clinical studies are available⁶⁹. Similarly, Vela et al. in his expert review, comments that POEM should only be performed in the context of clinical trials and that more data is needed before it can be incorporated into the treatment algorithm for achalasia patients⁷⁰. As POEM disseminates worldwide, it is inevitable that it will establish its place in management algorithms of the future."

7. Despite several attempts we have been unable to change the format of the references to the WGJE format. We request that the editorial office is able to assist with this and format the references accordingly.

2 References were unable to be corrected. We sincerely request that we are able to obtain assistance from the editorial office to format the references.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

Sincerely yours,



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