

Riyadh, June 26th 2015

Dear Editor,

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to present our work in your journal. We would also like to thank the reviewers for their insightful thoughts and we will address their concerns.

Sincerely,

Majid A Almadi

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17885

Columns: SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Title: Probe Based Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy of the Pancreatobiliary System

Authors: Majid A Almadi, Helmut Neumann

Response to the reviewers comments

Reviewer 00225277:

Since many years ago, immediate endoscopic optical histology without samples in accessible tissue surfaces is a new tool providing important advances in lesion recognition. Endoscopic ultrasonography has been of great help in the pre-surgical assessment of invasive tumors associated with endoscopic surface observation. Nevertheless, endoscopy has problems in assessing the nature of the lesions without direct observation of the lesion surface, such as pancreatobiliary strictures. These lesions are easily found with the different imaging techniques available (ERCP, Cholangio-MR, EUS, CT-Scan). Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy is used in assessing histological structure without samples in endoscopy using specially designed scopes but can also be used as thin probes which are able to reach and assess tissue structure in ducts, cysts and accessible tumors. The present paper is a extensive and complete, up-to-date review of the literature available since 2001; nevertheless most the papers were published from 2007 to 2015. This review describes some important aspects of Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy image evaluation, including specificity, sensitivity and positive predictive values, and also the learning curves

in image interpretation which all are important for introducing a new device in clinical practice. The paper is long but well built and includes one part devoted to technical aspects, another on image interpretation and a third on its application in different localizations. The paper would be more readable if these three aspects were highlighted as different sections.

Response

We thank the reviewer for his comments and we do agree that although the article might be lengthy but does it also attempts to cover the applications of CLE in the pancreatobiliary system in a complete manner.

We added a heading of "Technical aspects" in the appropriate section.

As for image interpretation there is already a heading of "Interpretation of the findings of CLE" which we believe should suffice.

We also added a heading of "Application in different organs and diseases" in the appropriate section.

Reviewer 03262105:

English corrections like decrees: decreases must be done. This is a well designed systematic review

Response

We thank the reviewer for his complement and we apologies for the error in spelling that he has noted. We have amended the pointed mistake.



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