

Dear Dr. Jin-Lei Wang,

find attached the answers to your kind observations on our manuscript:

“Microvasculature of the esophagus and gastrointestinal junction: lesson learned from submucosal endoscopy”

Best Regards,

Roberta Maselli and the co-authors

Reviewer **02549348**:

This manuscript is an interesting review on the anatomical patterns of esophageal vascularization as it is and as its appearance is confirmed by modern endoscopic technologies and techniques. Nevertheless, before final acceptance for publication Authors should revise their manuscript according to the following comment:

- there is no in-depth analysis of the anatomical changes of esophageal mucosal vascularization in early esophageal cancer and this lack is limiting the strength of the manuscript and the usefulness to world journal of gastroenterology readers

Ans: The manuscript focuses on normal esophageal anatomy; this is the reason why the changes in early esophageal cancer are only summarized in the section “Esophageal vasculature: endoscopic appearance”.

Reviewer **00160226**:

The authors performed a review on the microvasculature of the esophagus and GEJ. However, I have a number of major queries to the authors.

Major

- 1) The authors presented this paper as a review, however the section on findings of the SM endoscopy appeared to be original data without any references. Can the authors clarify?
- 2) If the interpretation of SM endoscopy is from the authors experience, then this should be quantified and clarified appropriately. Eg are different types of vasculature found in all patients?

Ans: Thank you for your comments.

The section “Esophageal vasculature: endoscopic appearance” is a truly review of SM endoscopic findings. The section “Esophageal vasculature on Histology” is an original histological image to show what previously reviewed.

Our direct experience on SM endoscopy definitively confirmed what already known and published. References have been added (yellow underlined).

3) How could the interpretation in SM endoscopy help the endoscopist in performing STER or POEM?

Ans: Understanding microvasculature of the esophagus is fundamental in performing SM advanced endoscopy to named encountered vessels and decide when and how to coagulate them. During POEM it is very useful to understand whether the tunnel is proceeding in the right way (deep and near the muscle side) or it is too superficial, where mucosal vessels are visible.

Minor

1) Where is the abstract?

Ans: done, the abstract has been added.

2) The paper needs grammar editing

Ans: done. (yellow underlined)

3) The sections on advanced diagnostic endoscopy: NBIIm OGD and endocytoscopy is a bit out of the scope of the paper. Consider removing from the manuscript

Ans: this section has been previously added by the suggestion of other reviewers. The aim was to name all commercialized method to evaluate esophageal microvasculature. In particular we think that is particular important to mentioned NBIIm because of the NBIIm images present in the manuscript. We are ready to remove the sections if needed.