

April 3, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: ESPS Manuscript NO2367-Review).

Title: Biodegradable stent for the treatment of a colonic stricture in Crohn's disease

Author: Catarina Rodrigues, Ana Oliveira, Liliana Santos, Eduardo Pires, João Deus

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2367

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

1. Format has been updated
2. The title was changed since the manuscript only involves one patient.
3. The authorship does not include any radiologist because the procedure was entirely performed by gastroenterologists assisted by a radiology technician.
4. Key-words were revised using MeSH terms.
5. The use of a slim colonoscope to pass through the stricture and take biopsies from the entire length of the stricture prior to stent insertion was specified.
6. The stent measurements were clarified.
7. The technical aspects related to the stenting procedure were described in more detail.
8. An image of the native stent and a figure of the abdominal x-ray at the time of stent degradation confirmation were added,
9. The discussion of SEMS was revised and uncovered stents were not considered.
10. Characteristics of biodegradable polydioxanone stents were better specified.
11. The fact that the currently available stents are only licensed for treatment of benign esophageal strictures and that their use in the colon is off-label was clearly stated; the need for local ethics committee approval and patient informed consent was emphasized.
12. The published data on the use of biodegradable polydioxanone stents in the treatment of intestinal strictures were better discussed including the experience in patients with refractory anastomotic colorectal strictures following resection for rectosigmoid carcinoma.
13. The fact that the delivery system for esophageal implantation can only be used for intestinal strictures up to the distal colon and that proximal stent placement requires a custom made device was stated.
14. References and typesetting were corrected. One reference has not been indexed (reference 26) and is submitted.
15. Our manuscript was edited by the English language editing company American Journal Experts. The Editorial Certificate is submitted.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Catarina Rodrigues'. The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name 'Catarina' and last name 'Rodrigues' clearly distinguishable.

Catarina Rodrigues, MD

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