

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for considering publication of our manuscript. The reviewers have made great comments on our manuscript. After discussion with all the co-authors, we revised this manuscript seriously and carefully according to reviewers' opinions, and highlight the changes to our manuscript by using the track changes mode in MS Word. The answers to reviewer are as follows:

Respond to Reviewer 03477299's comments:

Since all the ESTD procedures were performed by a single operator (W. G.) the authors are encouraged to explain more detailed the use of the different instruments during "learning curve" (i.e. initial 15 cases) and whether the use of the two instruments has been randomized.

Answer to the comment:

Thanks a lot for your comments. We also think it's necessary to address more detailed the use of the different instruments during "learning curve" (i.e. initial 15 cases). Therefore we revised the following contents in the first paragraph of the "Method" part in our manuscript. We replaced the sentence "After the operator performed 15 cases, the procedure time became stable and the complication rate was low." with "All the cases were operated by one experienced endoscopist (W. G.). After the operator performed 15 cases (10 cases were performed by hook knife and 5 cases by hybrid knife), the procedure time became stable and the complication rate was low."

Randomization is of great importance to a high-quality study. However, because our study was retrospective, the use of the two instruments has not been randomized. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that we are conducting the randomized control trial about the application of the two instruments in the ESTD procedure. It will be our great honor to share our data with you when the study is completed.

In addition to correct this manuscript according to the reviewers' advice, we also revised the language of our manuscript with language editing services. Hope our corrected manuscript can be published in your journal soon. That will be our great honor.

Thank you very much! Best wishes!

yours sincerely,
Xiaowei Tang