

Dear Editor,

## **Research progress on the role of argon plasma coagulation in the treatment of esophageal varices**

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

### **Specific Comments to Authors**

1) As a review article, the current description (page 7) regarding the adverse events in EVL+APC therapy is quite simple. I would like to recommend the authors to provide some more detailed descriptions regarding the results shown in the table 2.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments. We have added the description as “The incidence of difficulty swallowing seems higher in EVL combined with APC treatment in most studies as shown in **Table 2**. Esophageal stenosis occurred in only one patient reported by Nakamura et al.<sup>12</sup>. The eradication course of EVL combined with APC treatment showed an increasing trend compared with EVL alone due to addition of APC<sup>12,23,24</sup>.”

2) The gender of patients should be included in the table 1. In addition, I would like to recommend to include the etiologies of the patients’ cohort in the table1, as EV-related clinical features are different among the etiologies (e.g, alcoholic cirrhosis has a high risk at developing EV).

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments. We have added the gender information in table 1. The etiologies were shown in “**Pathogenic factors**” of table 1.

3) This paper does not a ‘Meta-analysis’ paper.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments. The manuscript type was changed from “Meta-Analysis” to “minireview”.

### **Editorial Office’s comments**

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a minireview of the argon plasma coagulation in esophageal varices. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The current paper reviewed the clinical usefulness of argon plasma coagulation for the therapy esophageal variceal ligation, mainly focusing on the sequential therapy. The reviewer would like to recommend the authors to provide some more detailed descriptions regarding the results shown in the Table 2. The gender of patients should be included in the Table 1. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; and (3) Format: There are 2 tables. A total of 62 references are cited, without references published in the last 3 years. The authors need to update references. There are no self-citations.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments. We have added the detailed descriptions regarding the results shown in the Table 2. The gender of patients has been included in the Table 1. We have updated our references.

2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A. A language editing certificate issued by SCIEDIT was provided.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments. We have provided the language editing certification.

3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the CrossCheck detection and Bing search.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments.

4 Supplementary comments: This is an unsolicited manuscript. The study is without financial support. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments.

5 Issues raised: (1) I found no “Author contribution” section. Please provide the author contributions; (2) I found the authors did not add the PMID and DOI in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout; (3) the author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author’s name, with no spaces; and (4) I have changed the manuscript type “Meta-Analysis” to “minireview”.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments. We have provided the author contributions. The form of references was modified.

6 Re-Review: Required.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments.

7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comments.

We have tried our best to revise and improve the manuscript and made great changes in the manuscript according to the Reviewers’ good comments. We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers’ warm work earnestly, and hope that the corrections will meet with approval. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,