

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your time to review our manuscript and give comments. We have responded to each questions and comments in a chronological order of the questions. Please see below -

AUTHOR RESPONSES:

1. We removed the word largest from the title and throughout the text, as suggested.
2. Added specific IRB review information to the methods section.
3. We did not collect individual patient anticoagulant history for this project; however, it is our institutional protocol to stop all anticoagulants prior to the procedure and resume at 7-days post-HET.
4. Three months was selected to assess the immediate and short-term effect of the procedure to resolve presenting symptoms.
5. We are unsure what you are referring to as “question bias”; however, we followed a scripted questionnaire (e.g. questions were the same for each patient, administered in the same order and standardized across all participants). All questionnaires were administered by the same study staff (KB). This information was added to the methods section of the manuscript.
6. The majority of HET procedures were performed by our advanced endoscopy team, primarily by Dr. T. Kothari. The mean procedure time was less than 15 minutes. This information was added to the manuscript in the methods section.
7. Modified technique is performed with the same device. There is no new device involved. We used a pediatric biopsy forceps to entrap the tissue which makes it modified technique.
8. We are unsure what additional information you are referring to. Our study confirms the HET device is safe and effective in this population.
9. The Figures are all moveable and editable, including text, in the uploaded PPT File (label: PPT Slides for HET Submission Final 4.2.2021).
10. The Copyright License Agreement has been updated with the co-author signature for Krystle Bittner. We redacted the previous signature and added her updated signature to line 5.
11. This study does not need to be registered with clinicaltrials.gov, as it is not a randomized control trial.

Thank you,

Truptesh H. Kothari MD, MS, FACG, FASGE – Corresponding Author.