

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

Manuscript NO: 76223

Title: TRACHEOESOPHAGEAL FISTULAS: AN EPIDEMIC IN THE SARS COV2 PANDEMIC: CASE REPORT

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05776522

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Attending Doctor, Doctor, Staff Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Colombia

Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-10

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-09 18:30

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-17 22:25

Review time: 8 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Acquired Tracheoesophageal Fistula (TEF) is indeed a rare illness with not so much data available on it so far. There is a need for more data, and bigger studies on it for better assessment of treatment outcomes and improvement of treatment modalities. I congratulate the authors for compiling such data on these 12 patients which would add to the existing literature for intubation induced TEF. The manuscript, however, is in need for major improvements. First, great deal of language polishing is required in order to make it more scientific. Second, in the discussion part authors have mentioned the overall incidence of acquired TEF. It would be great if they can mention the rates of TEF in their patient population (example, what percentage of patients were intubated, and how many of them developed TEF) to better assess any increment in rates that authors have claimed. Third, there is need for inclusion of more data from literature.

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Reviewer's code: 04381984

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MBChB, MRCP

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Colombia

Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-10

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-18 07:15

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-18 07:24

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

- Abstract conclusion: "The incidence of TEF has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, we consider endoscopic treatment as an option." I think we cannot draw a conclusion that the incidence has increased as there is no comparator. What one may say is that this is a complication that should not be overlooked or something that we should have a high clinical suspicion for.

- One hundred percent change to all.

- Need some grammatical touch up

- For the images, suggest choosing several representative and presenting them as larger images for easier appreciation. Treatment images also the same comment

- Are there fluoroscopy views/contrast studies to complement the endoscopic findings?