

July 15, 2014  
Dear Editor,

We have emailed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10867).

**Title: Small sphincterotomy combined with endoscopic papillary large balloon dilation versus sphincterotomy alone for the removal of bile duct stones**

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 10867

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer #1

(1) the Authors should clarify how were the patients selected for sphincterotomy (EST) or sphincterotomy combined with papillary large balloon much (EST + EPLBD).

Thanks for your suggestions. The patients treated by EST alone was from January 2009 to September 2011, and EST+EPLBD in September 2011 to December 2012

(2) whether EST alone was preferred for the largest stones ; and whether, in difficult cases, “regulated” EST+EPLBD was converted to extended EST.

Thanks for your suggestions. Patients with large stones was not especially assigned to EST alone, patients were assigned in different group just according to the time of treatment of disease. And even in difficult cases, patients was not converted to EST group, sometimes mechanical lithotripsy was used.

(3) EST+EPLBD and EST should be compared in a controlled trial?

Thanks for your suggestions. Our study was retrospective, and the decision to perform EST alone or EPLBD with limited EST was made on an individual basis at the time of each examination. So large randomized prospective case-controlled studies might be needed to

confirm the efficacy and safety of EPLBD plus limited EST.

Reviewer #2

(1) The characteristics of the two groups are not well described. The abstract does not state how the patients were selected for sphincterotomy (EST) or sphincterotomy combined with papillary large balloon much (EST + EPLBD). The rate of bleeding and recurrence of CBD stone were significantly lower in the group A than that of in the group B, if those effects were independent of the characteristics of the patients such as age, sex, severity of baseline disease and presence of other comorbidities. Furthermore, the text should be reviewed due to grammatical error.

Thanks for your suggestions. We can not detail all of these in the abstract because of limitation. Characteristics of the two groups are described in RESULTS and Table 1. Grouping was made on an individual basis at the time of each examination, patients treated by EST alone was from January 2009 to September 2011, and EST+EPLBD from September 2011 to December 2012. The rate of bleeding and recurrence of CBD stone were significantly lower in the group A than that of in the group B, the effects were independent of the characteristics of the patients. The text has been reviewed and Editorial certificate by American Journal Expert have obtained.

(2) The authors present a very positive view of EST + EPLBD. To be balanced, it would be helpful to show both sides.

Thanks for your suggestions. We added some other studies with different results to show both sides in Introduction..

(3) Can you clarify how were the patients selected for sphincterotomy (EST) or sphincterotomy combined with papillary large balloon much (EST + EPLBD)?

Thanks for your suggestions. Grouping was made on an individual basis at the time of each examination, patients treated by EST alone was from January 2009 to September 2011, and EST+EPLBD from September 2011 to December 2012.

(4) data describe medians would be better than means.

Thanks for your suggestions. We change it.

(5)The information that is presented in tables does not need to be repeated in the text.

Thanks for your suggestions. We change it.

(6) The authors have to describe the study's limitations.

Thanks for your suggestions. We added this part in the manuscript.

(7) grammatical errors/constructions should be evaluated along the whole article.

Thanks for your suggestions. The text has been reviewed and Editorial certificate by American Journal Experst have obtained.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Editorial certificate by American Journal Experst have obtained.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely yours,

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