

November 21, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript in Word format (file name: 13670-Review_EvH.doc).

Title: Clinical outcomes of self-expandable stent placement for benign esophageal diseases: a pooled analysis of the literature

Authors: Emo E van Halsema, Jeanin E van Hooft

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13670

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers and the editor, as well as the revision policies of BPG for Systematic Reviews:

1. The manuscript format has been updated.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

First of all, we kindly thank the reviewers for their efforts to improve the quality of our paper.

- **Reviewer no. 30598:**

- We completely agree that, because of the lacking control group, it is difficult to put the poor outcomes of stent placement for refractory strictures into perspective. Therefore, we have amended the conclusion as suggested by the reviewer.

- The reviewer raised the issue whether we should refer to the clinical success of other approaches. There are some RCTs on the outcomes of dilatation with additional corticosteroid injections or dilatation compared with electrocautery incision. However, the problem is that the patients in these trials had never been dilated before. They are therefore not comparable with the population presented in our paper of patients with refractory strictures. For this reason we decided not to refer to these results.

The literature is sparse regarding the outcome of other approaches for the

treatment of esophageal leaks, perforations and fistulae. This issue is further addressed in the discussion section with references to treatment results of other therapies.

- **Reviewer no. 2445033:**

- The primary endpoint definition of clinical success has been amended to clarify that multiple stent placements are allowed for the healing of esophageal leaks, perforations and fistulae, as suggested by the reviewer.
- References were adjusted according to the journal guidelines.

- **Reviewer no. 1114:**

- References were adjusted according to the journal guidelines.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

4. Images were removed from the manuscript file and uploaded as separate files.

Many thanks for considering our manuscript for publication in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of Jeanin van Hooft, MD, PhD

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