

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



March 16, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16990-edited(download).doc).

Title: A newly designed detachable “pieced” stent for the treatment of benign esophageal strictures:
results in an animal model

Author: Jin Liu, Liang Shang, Ji-Yong Liu, Cheng-Yong Qin

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16990

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

1 Format has been updated

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

Abstract:

(1) Response to comment: “The stent was removed after 4 weeks” This information is repeated below.

Response: The sentence “The stent was removed after 4 weeks” was deleted and a part of METHOD paragraph was changed (see Response 2 below).

(2) Response to comment: “The flow of the abstract would improve if the authors described first the development of the stricture model and then stent placement”

Response: We have re-written this part according to the Reviewer’s suggestion.

(3) Response to comment: Please revise the conclusive paragraph to something like: “In this experimental protocol of benign esophageal strictures the novel “pieced” stent demonstrated superior removal rate with similar migration rate compared to a conventional stent”, or similar

Response: The conclusive paragraph was revised as the reviewer’s comment as followed. “In this experimental protocol of benign esophageal strictures, the novel “pieced” stent demonstrated superior removal rate with similar migration rate compared to a conventional stent.”

Introduction:

(1) Response to comment: Please also comment on biodegradable stents either in the introduction or in the discussion section. (Saito Y, et al. Usefulness of biodegradable stents constructed of poly-L-lactic acid monofilaments in patients with benign esophageal stenosis. 2007. World J Gastroenterol. Stivaros SM, et al. Woven polydioxanone biodegradable stents: a new treatment option for benign and malignant oesophageal strictures. 2010 Eur Radiol.)

Response:

Comments on biodegradable stent were added in introduction with the two references as followed. "Recent studies have introduced a biodegradable (BD) stent composed of polydioxanone which can be degraded by hydrolysis of ester bonds. BD stents are suitable for those patients who do not want or cannot tolerate the subsequent stent removal procedures."

Comments on biodegradable stent were described in the second paragraph of discussion section as followed. "To overcome problems associated with retrieval of the implanted stent BD stent was introduced, deeming later stent removal procedures unnecessary. However, in cases where patients do not tolerate BD stent or stent migration occurs after BD stent implantation, stent removal is unavoidable."

Materials and Methods:

Response to comment: As the authors state that they investigated safety as well as removal, it is necessary to define a clear safety outcome (eg. Stent-related complications during insertion/removal) and compare it between the two groups.

Response: the paragraph was added at the end of methods section as followed. "The extraction rate, ease of extraction, migration, stent-related complications, and survival were evaluated. An outcome was defined as safe if the stent was either implanted or extracted safely with no or minor bleeding. Stent-related complications that were considered severe were hemorrhaging, tissue tearing, perforation, aspiration, fistula, and death."

(1) Response to comment: although the authors report that the stents investigated were fully covered, this is not evident in the images provided.

Response: The image of the stent was provided in Figure 2.

(2) There were 34 rabbits involved in this study initially and the success rate of the stricture development is 88%. We added this mention in animals section and Baseline characteristics section).

Results:

(1) The results have been changed accordingly.

(2) The sentence "All stents were patented at the end of the follow-up period." At the end of Baseline characteristics section.

Discussion:

(1) The comment of Niti-S double-layered Convered Nitinol Stent was added in the second paragraph of discussion section.

(2) It is possible to manufacture such stents for human use. We are planning to further investigate this stent in clinical trials. We also added this mention at the end of the Discussion section.

(3) The limitations paragraph was added at the end of the Discussion section.

Tables:

(1) Safety outcome or complications were added in Table 1.

Figures:

- (1) The image of the study stent was added in Figure 2.
- (2) The numbers in fig 3 were used to mark the diameter of stricture and the maximal diameter of the proximal normal esophagus during esophagography examination. We found another picture with no number in this revision.

3 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the Editor.

(1) The title has changed to be no less more than 12 words: "A newly designed "pieced" stent in the rabbit benign esophageal strictures model".

(2) The statement of Ethics approval, Animal care and use statement, Institutional animal care and use committee, Biostatistics, Conflict-of-interest and Data sharing were added in the manuscript. Related PDF format were added as attachment.

(3) In abstract, AIM format has been changed and its words were no more than 20.

(4) In abstract, RESULTS has been changed. The experimental results included data, effects and outcomes. P values and relevant data were presented.

(5) Core tip was mentioned in the manuscript. Audio Core Tip was made and attaches.

(6) The reference numbers were superscriptly reformatted with square brackets.

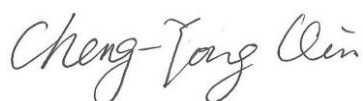
(7) COMMENTS were mentioned in manuscript.

(8) PMID and DOI were added in each references.

4 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



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