

# Conflict-of-interest Statement

The funding source had no role in the design, implementation or analysis of this study. Dr. Ji-Yong Liu and Dr. Jin Liu own the patent for the detachable “pieced” stent (patent No. ZL201110323099.5). Dr. Cheng-Yong Qin and Dr. Liang Shang have no conflicts of interest or financial ties to disclose.

I confirm that the information reported above are accurate and that all authors have declared their potential conflict of interest.

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