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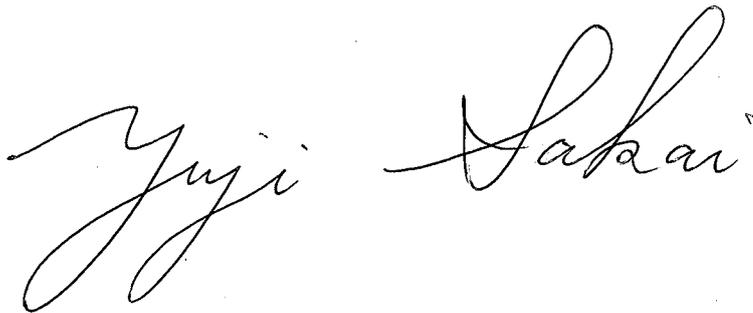
**Manuscript Type: Original Article**

*Prospective Study*

**New tapered metallic stent for unresectable malignant hilar bile duct obstruction**

**Institutional review board statement:** This study was conducted under approval of our ethical committee, and was registered as prospective clinical trial.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yuji Sakai". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.