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Point-by-Point Response to Reviewer Comments

We appreciate the thoughtful comments from the reviewers and editors. According to the suggestions, we have thoroughly revised our manuscript and its final version is enclosed. Point-by-point responses to the comments are listed below.

Reviewer: 00074724

Thank you for asking me to review this Manuscript. The authors have reported their experience in using cold snare polypectomy for treating small non-pedunculated polyps. I could not see any reason for rejecting this report. We used to learn from each other and our role in the Journal is to make colleagues' experience available to the others. But my request is that the English Language needs to be revised

Response: Thank you for the thoughtful comment. According to the recommendation, we revised English Language.

Reviewer: 00186882

I think that this manuscript is accepted to this journal.

Response: I really appreciate the comment.

Reviewer: 00031150

This is an important manuscript. However, it is a small retrospective study (a pilot study) with only 61 patients. There are major concerns as to the discussion: p10: the authors maintain that the material is the largest study in Japan so far, however, there exists a larger Japanese study (Horiuchi A et al. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2015; epub ahead of print) with a similar size of patients (76). A serious study on complications must include a lot more patients, as these complications have a low incidence.

Response: I really appreciate the suggestion. Actually, it was the largest when I wrote this manuscript, now we have a new Japanese study reported by Horiuchi et al. So, we revised the following sentence and cited the new article (Page 10, line 4).

“The present study represents the largest patient material on CSP in any Japanese institution to date” to “The present study represents one of the largest patient material on CSP in any Japanese institution to date”

Reviewer: 00028512

Authors attempted to clarify the feasibility of cold snare polypectomy (CSP) in Japan. However, I suspect that this study shows the results of CSP performed under a specific situation at the introduction of the technique, not standard situation. That is, these results

were based on CSP, which was performed by nine endoscopists with no prior experience in cold snare polypectomy. If they had experienced at least 20-30 CSPs, different results might have been obtained. Therefore, the specific situation should be stressed in this paper. If not so, I worry about the data that tumor involvement in the lateral margin could not be histologically assessed in 70 (40%) lesions may be misunderstood.

Response: Thank you for your thoughtful. Actually, our results were conducted in specific situation, but CSP is still not so popular in Asian countries and such information performed by non-experienced endoscopists for CSP is informative for a beginner in CSP, because they will encounter similar situation in their clinical practice. So, we added following sentences in Discussion (Page12, line 15);

And finally, while CSPs in this study were performed by nine endoscopists with no prior experience in CSP, different results might have been obtained if they had experienced at least 20-30 CSPs. Especially, the results of HM X in 70 (40%) lesions should be carefully assessed.