

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

ESPS manuscript NO: 28222

Title: Efficacy and safety of endoscopic papillary balloon dilation for the removal of bile duct stones: data from a “real-life” multicenter study on Dilation-Assisted Stone Extraction (DASE).

Answer to reviewers.

Reviewer’s code: 00183658

The article is aimed to report the data on Dilation-Assisted Stone Extraction use in clinical practice and its efficacy and safety through three Italian referral centers for biliopancreatic diseases treatment. The title is “Efficacy and safety of endoscopic papillary balloon dilation for the removal of bile duct stones: data from a “real-life” multicenter study on Dilation-Assisted Stone Extraction (DASE)”.

1. This study is a retrospective study.

We agree with the reviewer as stated in first row of the “Discussion” section: “Our retrospective study showed as...”

2. Several factors influence the outcomes of the study. Some limitations might be occurred.

We agree with the reviewer’s comment and we underlined this limitation in the “Discussion” section: “The main limit of the current study...”

3. Who were the endoscopists? Experienced or Trainee?

All the endoscopists were experienced and, as suggested, we clarified this aspect in the text (“Endoscopic technique” in the “Patients and Methods” section).

4. Generally, we know that anesthetic technique may influence the efficacy and safety of ERCP procedure.

We agree with the reviewer but no side effects related to the anesthetic technique were recorded (we modified the “Results” section according to the reviewer’s comment).

5. Please show anesthetic techniques and drugs used in this study.

We clarified this aspect as suggested (“Endoscopic technique” in the “Patients and Methods” section).

6. Please add more details of the limitations of the study.

Done as suggested (“Discussion” section).

7. The clinical application of the study is very important. Please recommend the readers “How to apply this knowledge for routine clinical practice?”.

Done as suggested (“Discussion” section).



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Reviewer's code: 00058511

It is an interesting, well written manuscript from three referral centres including 120 patients with nice outcome. It gives a novel information as well as technical details.

We thank the reviewer.

There are no comments to be answered.



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Reviewer's code: 02510721

This retrospective study reports the current experience of the some endoscopic units. The Dilation-Assisted stone extraction completes the endoscopic procedures for the treatment of CBD stones. This experience does not add significant new prospects to therapy of CBD stones, but stresses the importance of the mini -invasive/endoscopic approach.

We thank the reviewer.

There are no comments to be answered.