

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Re: Manuscript No 28790: Delayed gastric emptying following pancreaticoduodenectomy: incidence, risk factors, and healthcare utilization

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the coauthors, I am submitting our revised manuscript based on reviewer comments and editor revisions. This is manuscript No 28790: Delayed gastric emptying following pancreaticoduodenectomy: incidence, risk factors, and healthcare utilization.

I would like to thank the reviewers for their comments, which have allowed us to further polish our submission.

Please find our bulleted responses to the reviewers below. All authors have read and approved the manuscript. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS' COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This paper mentions about the risk factors of DGE, which were significantly associated with pancreatic fistula and abdominal abscess. But the main cause of DGE may exist, not in the field of physics, but in the field of a physiological event. DGE may be induced by the reduction of motilin, which is secreted from duodenum and one of the key hormones of the peristalsis of stomach. This fact has been already published by some papers. Prevention of pancreatic fistula and abdominal abscess will not be able to stop the occurrence of DGE

Response:

This paper shows that DGE occurs in the post-operative setting and that pancreatic fistula formation and intra-abdominal abscesses may be associated with DGE. While there are many physiologic factors that may contribute to delayed gastric emptying as well, this manuscript was not intended to explore these underlying pathophysiologic mechanisms. We thank the reviewer for the insightful comments but they are outside the scope of this manuscript.

Reviewer 2

The authors discuss delayed gastric emptying following pancreaticoduodenectomy in terms of incidence, risk factors and healthcare implications. Even though this issue has been addressed in literature before, the authors did a great job with pooling, analyzing and presenting data from their center. Their results suggest that postoperative pancreatic fistulas and intra-abdominal abscesses constitute independently associated with the development of DGE after pancreaticoduodenectomy thus confirming previous studies reaching similar conclusions. Overall, this paper is well-written and warrants publication.

Response:

Thank you for these positive comments.

Reviewer 3

Well written manuscript analyzing the delayed gastric emptying in pancreaticoduodenectomy. All the analyses are well explained and supported with facts. I have no recommendation

Response:

Thank you for these positive comments.

In addition, we would like to clarify an edit made by the editor to our manuscript. On page 1 and 2, "Michael E. DeBakey" is not an author but instead part of the name of our Department of Surgery.

Thank you once again for reviewing our manuscript, for providing positive feedback and further edits. We look forward to this manuscript being published in your journal shortly.

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