

Damian Garcia-Olmo, MD, PhD  
Stephen C Strom, PhD  
Andrzej S Tarnawski, DSc, MD, PhD  
Editors-in-Chief  
*World Journal of Gastroenterology*

29 October 2016

Dear Professors Garcia-Olmo, Strom, and Tarnawski,

We would like to thank the editors and reviewers for their helpful comments regarding our manuscript. We are grateful for the opportunity to revise the manuscript and to respond to the reviewers' comments.

We hope that our manuscript is now acceptable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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## **Responses to the Comments of Reviewer #1:**

1) Congratulations, great work. However, up to mine opinion, your study would be more valuable if you would have compared not only BMI, but also the real nutritional status of your EE patients with the occurrence of complications in them.

### ***Response:***

*As suggested by this reviewer, not only body mass index but also true nutritional status is considered important. However, we could not evaluate nutritional parameters because these data were not collected during the study period. Therefore, we consider this point one of the limitations of our study and have added the following sentences to the Discussion section: “Third, not only body mass index but also upper arm anthropometry and grip strength are important in the assessment of general nutritional status [35]. Because we only evaluated general nutritional status with body mass index, further study is necessary to clarify this matter.” (page 15, lines 2–5)*

## **Responses to the Comments of Reviewer #2:**

1) Very interesting topic and some of the data provided appear indicative of EE etiologies. To improve the strength of this paper, a more comprehensive review of the international literature (i.e. grey papers) may provide more compelling data to include in your review process. Further a meta-analysis would have added further credence to your findings.

### ***Response:***

*We have added a citation for a comprehensive review of the international literature (Grey MR. N Engl J Med 1996; 334: 600-1) to the manuscript. We have also added citations for the following five meta-analyses that support our findings:*

*Singh S, et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2013; 11: 1399-412*

*Cai N, et al. World J Gastroenterol 2012; 18: 2545-53*

*Corley DA, et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2006; 101: 2619-228*

*Menon S, et al. Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2011; 23: 133-8*

*Martín-Merino E, et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2010; 31: 1132-40*