Response to reviewers:

Thank you for the expert peer review of our work. We have rewritten the discussion slightly to try to improve the clarity of our paper. We believe that our study is probably the largest undertaken on this subject and suspect that the wide variation in results previously reported results from smaller studies increasing possibility of error, different patients populations with different disease processes and different investigation methodology (radiology, endoscopy, manometry). Hopefully we have reported this accurately in our discussion but if not, we would be very happy to amend further.

We did consider whether to investigate interaction of factors eg gender or age, with specific symptoms but as both were not significant we are informed that combining these variables will also be non-significant.

Several grammatical and spelling errors have been corrected.

The review by 00040631 appears to relate to a different paper (as per my email to you earlier). It refers to malignant ascites in colorectal cancer and a study by Chinese oncologists which does not appear pertinent to this study of dysphagic patients in a UK setting.

Thank you for reconsidering our revised paper for publication.

Kind regards

Iain Murray