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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 33350 – Revised manuscript

Manuscript Type: CASE REPORT

**Endoscopic occlusion with silicone spigots for the closure of refractory
esophago-bronchiole fistula after esophagectomy**

**Masaya Uesato, Tsuguaki Kono, Yasunori Akutsu, Kentarou Murakami,
Akiko Kagaya, Yorihiro Muto, Akira Nakano, Mizuho Aikawa, Tomohide
Tamachi, Hiroyuki Amagai, Takahiro Arasawa, Yasuhide Muto, Hisahiro
Matsubara**

Correspondence to: Masaya Uesato, MD,

Department of Frontier Surgery, Chiba University Graduate School of Medicine,
1-8-1 Inohana, Chuo-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba 260-8670, Japan.

uesato@faculty.chiba-u.jp

Telephone: +81-43-226-2110

Fax: +81-43-226-2113

1 What did this study explore?

A: This study explored whether an endobronchial Watanabe spigot (EWS) through the esophagus is usefulness to close a refractory esophago-bronchiole fistula (EBF) after esophagectomy or not.

2 How did the authors perform all experiments?

A: Under fluoroscopic guidance, a guidewire was inserted into the EBF through an ultrathin endoscope. After the endoscope was removed, a 5-mm EWS was penetrated through its long axis using the guidewire. After inserting a snaretube to the endoscope channel, the guidewire was retrogradely passed to the endoscope through the tube. Under fluoroscopic and endoscopic guidance, the EWS was wedged into the EBF. Another 7-mm EWS was additionally inserted in a similar manner.

3 How did the authors process all experimental data?

A: All authors confirmed all examination data and judged that they were no mistakes.

4 How did the authors deal with the pre-study hypothesis?

A: This study is a case report. Therefore, the hypothesis that the EWS through the esophagus could close the EBF was the goal of treatment.

5 What are the novel findings of this study?

A: A new and unique technique using a guidewire-assisted EWS through the esophagus proved useful for closing a refractory EBF after esophagectomy.

Masaya Uesato, 
