

Dear Reviewers:

Thank you for your comments on our manuscript “The effect of polyglycolic acid sheet plus esophageal stent placement on preventing esophageal stricture after endoscopic submucosal dissection in patients with early stage esophageal cancer: a randomized, controlled trial” with tracking ID. 35831. We have amended the relevant part in manuscript in accordance with your comments and highlighted them in red color. The comments were answered below item by item as well. And we have already invited a language editing company (American Journal Experts, www.aje.com) to polish our manuscript.

Reviewer Name: Anonymous

Review Date: 2017-09-21 17:12

Comments To Authors:

The study is very interesting and informative about the superiority in the efficacy and global results use of PGA covered stents in the treatment of esophageal strictures after ESD endoscopic treatment in patients with early esophageal carcinoma. The paper description of the technique and the interpretation of the results obtained is very clear and convincing.

Answer: Thank you for your comment.

Reviewer Name: Anonymous

Review Date: 2017-09-23 13:20

Comments To Authors:

This manuscript describes the effect of PGA sheet with metallic stent placement on preventing esophageal stricture after ESD for superficial esophageal cancer. Their studies provide an important contribution to the prevention method for esophageal stricture after ESD. However, some revisions of manuscript are needed before it can be accepted for publication. I would recommend it for acceptance after the points listed below are addressed.

Major 1) The time to remove the stent was different between the two groups, why is it so? The reasons should be stated.

Answer: Thank you for your comment. The reason for the different time to remove the stent between two groups is that PGA sheet is a biodegradable suture material and would be degraded after a period of time. According to the preliminary study with small sample size, we observed that when PGA plus stent placement was used to prevent post-ESD esophageal stricture in early-stage EC patients, PGA was degraded at about 3 or 4 weeks after ESD, thus, the previous clinical experiences suggested that removing PGA plus stent placement at 4 weeks might be a good choice in EC patients. Therefore, the time to remove the stent was different between PGA plus stent group and stent group.

In addition, we have added the description into Stent remove Part of MATERIALS AND METHODS Section as follows:" The reason why the time to remove the stent between two groups was different is that PGA is a biodegradable suture material, which would be degraded after a period of time. According to the preliminary study with small sample size, we found that when PGA plus stent placement was used to prevent post-ESD esophageal stricture in early-stage EC patients, PGA was degraded at about 3 or 4 weeks after ESD, thus, the previous clinical experiences suggested that removing PGA plus stent placement at 4 weeks might be a good choice in EC patients." Thanks again for your suggestion.

2) I think that the description of the research of transplantation of mesenchymal stem cell to PGA sheet is not need. Because, this research has no effect on the results of their main study. Therefore, p15, 2nd paragraph " In terms of novel(Figure 7A-F) should be removed,

Answer: Thank you for your comment. As your suggestion, we have removed the description of the research of transplantation of mesenchymal stem cell to PGA sheet. Thanks again for your suggestion.

Minor 1) p5, L8, "enbloc" should be corrected to "en bloc"

Answer: Thank you for your comment. We have amended it as you suggested and highlighted it in red color. Thanks again for your suggestion.