

September 30, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5074-review.doc).

Title: Four-year follow-up of endoscopic gastroplication for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics*

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Reviewer 02445653 – no suggestions were done.
2. Reviewer 00506058 – the suggestions of this reviewer were followed. The suggested studies were added as reference and discussed (see second and third paragraph of the Discussion section). We believe that our paper has gained in-depth value by this alteration suggested by this reviewer.
3. Reviewer 02445669 – no suggestions were done. Guidelines from the Editor were followed.
4. Reviewer 00006993 – no suggestions were done.
5. Reviewer 02445616

1) Not all patients crossed over to Endocinch; 10 patients (from 60) were not treated. This is explained in Materials & Methods (Study design) and shown in Figure 1 (Flow chart).

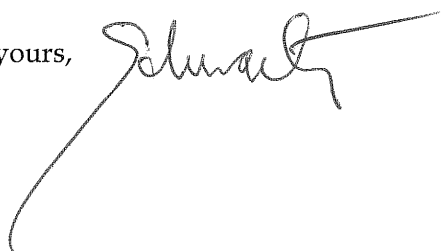
2) Table 1 provides information on the baseline values of patients. This is important, but only to indicate the severity of disease in our patient group. The severity of GERD is expressed by the heartburn and regurgitation symptom scores. These are calculated by multiplying severity x frequency of each symptom. To support the validation of this GERD Symptom Score a reference was added to the explanation of this score (Materials & Methods section, Questionnaires). Providing all details from Table 2 in Table 1 would render Table 1 becoming too large and unclear. Moreover, the same data would then be shown twice, as the information is also still needed in Table 2!

3) The reviewer remarks that some values shown in Tables 1 and 2 are inconsistent. This is apparently the case, but in fact explained by median (IQR) and mean (SD) values. See footnotes under the tables. Baseline characteristics are mainly shown as median values (IQR), since these (e.g., symptoms) are not normally distributed. In Table 2 interindividual values are normally distributed, hence shown as means (SD). Presentation is consistent with proper statistical analysis, as was explained in Statistical Analysis (Materials & Methods section).

6. A Summary (Core tip) was added
7. Figure 1 provided as Word-doc
8. Comments Section added
9. References added, rearranged and updated.
10. Some textual improvements were made.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

Sincerely yours,



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