December 21, 2019

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Editors-in-Chief
*World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Dear Editors:

I wish to submit an original article for publication in *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, titled "Newly Developed Self-Expandable Niti-S MD Colonic Metal Stent for Malignant Colonic Obstruction." The article has been invited by the journal (Number ID: 03727239). The paper was coauthored by Yuki Miyasako, Sauid Ishaq, Kanae Tao, Hirona Konishi, Ryoichi Miura, Yuki Sumida, Kazutaka Kuroki, Yuzuru Tamaru, Ryusaku Kusunoki, Atsushi Yamaguchi, Hirotaka Kouno, and Hiroshi Kohno.

We developed a new self-expandable metallic stents (SEMS), the Niti-S MD colonic stent (with diameter of 22 mm), that can be deployed using a 9-Fr delivery system. Although this 22-mm Niti-S MD stent has stronger radial force than the conventional 18-mm Niti-S D type, it maintains a low axial force that allows keeping the shape of the stent when deployed. With the development of this new stent type, this observational study aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the newly developed "Niti-S MD type" colonic stent and to retrospectively compare it with conventional colonic stents.

We believe that our study makes a significant contribution to the literature. In our study, endoscopic colorectal stenting was relatively safe and had a low incidence of complications, but the rate of stent-related perforation was significantly higher with the WallFlex stent than with the Niti-S D type stent. The newly designed Niti-S MD type stent, with a 22 mm diameter, mounted to a 9-Fr delivery system not only allows increased radial force while maintaining the stent structure and low axial force but also permits delivery through highly flexible-tipped smaller-caliber colonoscope with a working channel of 3.2 mm. In this study, the technical and clinical success rate of the Niti-S MD type was 100%, and its perforation rate was 0%.

Further, as your journal publishes quality research to showcase and promote distinguished research in the field of gastrointestinal surgery, to help advance development of this field, we believe that this paper will be of interest to the readership of your journal. Our preliminary data suggest that the new "Niti-S MD type" stent with increased radial force while maintaining low axial force is feasible and safe with lower perforation rate.

The biostatistical analysis was done by me (Dr. Kuwai). Hence, we do not have a biostatistics review certificate. We hope this is acceptable. This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere in part or in entirety and is not under consideration by another journal. All study participants provided informed consent. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board Ethics Committees of the National Hospital Organization Kure Medical Center and Chugoku Cancer Center. We have read and understood your journal's policies, and we believe that neither the manuscript nor the study violates any of these. All authors have contributed to and agreed on the content of the manuscript. There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
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