

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

We are very grateful to receive your letter on our manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 54102), entitled "The role of fibrin sealant for esophageal anastomosis: A phase II study". Thank you very much for your comments and advice on our manuscript, which are valuable for revising and improving the article. We have considered every comment carefully, and made cautious revision accordingly. Based on your comments and request, we have made extensive modification on the original manuscript. Here, we attach revised manuscript in the formats of MS word with revisions highlighted. A point-to-point response to the reviewers' comments is also summarized and provided below. If you have any other questions about this paper, please contact us without hesitation.

Response to the reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: Reviewer's code: 02461297

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

McKeown esophagectomy is one of the most commonly used procedures for the potential advantages of adequate resection and extensive lymphadenectomy it provides. Compared with intrathoracic anastomosis after esophagectomy, the cervical anastomosis is associated with a higher risk of postoperative complications, especially of anastomotic leakage. A variety of anastomotic methods have been developed to prevent anastomotic leakage after esophagectomy, including the application of fibrin sealant on anastomosis. The fibrin sealant could strengthen the anastomosis and promote anastomotic healing by enabling polymerization and forming tight approximation of the anastomosis. However, the use of fibrin sealant as anastomotic sealant in esophageal surgery have been inconsistent. In this study, Lin *et al* enrolled patients undergoing McKeown surgery for esophageal/esophagogastric junction cancer, and evaluated the efficacy and

safety of the application of porcine fibrin sealant in the prevention of anastomotic leakage. The study is well designed and the results are very interesting. The supplementary tables and figures are important, I suggest to include them in the main text, not as supplementary material. A minor language revision is required. Well done study.

Response:

Thank you for your valuable suggestions. Firstly, according to your comment, Supplementary Figure 1 showing the details of anastomotic technique with intraoperative application of fibrin sealant on the cervical esophagogastric anastomosis after esophageal resection has been added into the main text in revised manuscript, and all figures are presented in the order that they appear in the main text accordingly. As for Supplementary Figure 2, Table 1 and Table 2, we believe that they would be more suitable to be provided in Supplementary Material due to the insufficient space in the print article. Additionally, the key information of postoperative complications has already been summarized in Table 3. Secondly, we confirm that the manuscript has been read and edited carefully by several native English-speaking co-authors, including Robert J Cerfolio, Hiran C Fernando and Alessandro Brunelli. In order to further improve the language quality of our manuscript, we used the extensive language editing service provided by American Journal Experts to completely re-edit the paper for proper English language usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and overall style. Thereby, polishing and correction of language mistakes were performed throughout the manuscript. All changes have been highlighted in the attached revised version of the manuscript.

Reviewer #2: Reviewer's code: 02543557

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

This is an excellent clinical trials study about the fibrin sealant in esophageal anastomosis. The results are good, and well discussed. References are

updated. Figures are helpful. Thank you.

Response:

Thanks for your positive comments on our manuscript. According to your advice, we have re-edited the manuscript using the extensive language editing service provided by American Journal Experts for language polishing, and carefully corrected any errors in English language usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and overall style. All changes have been highlighted in the attached revised version of the manuscript.

Reviewer #3: Reviewer's code: 02461304

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

Interesting study of efficacy and safety of fibrin sealant for prevention of anastomotic leakage in esophageal cancer patients. The study is well organized. The study is acceptable. Thank you.

Response:

Thank you very much for your nice comments and valuable suggestion. According to your suggestion, we have revised the manuscript using the extensive language editing service provided by American Journal Experts for language polishing, and carefully corrected any errors in English language usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and overall style. All changes have been highlighted in the attached revised manuscript.

Special thanks to you for your instructive comments and suggestions.

We have tried our best to improve the manuscript and made according revisions in the manuscript. We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Yours sincerely,

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