



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
**Faculty of Health Sciences**  
**Human Research Ethics Committee**



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28 August 2020

The Editor,  
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Dear Sir,

**RE: Manuscript No 56390. (Human Research Ethics Committee {HREC} REF 120-2019)**

"Defining the advantages and exposing the limitations of endoscopic variceal ligation in controlling acute bleeding and achieving *complete* variceal eradication. A STROBE-guided analysis of 140 consecutive adult patients with bleeding esophageal varices"

The above study was linked to an HREC approved Registry ( REF R001-2014).

Hence the study was a secondary analysis of participants that have been consented to have their de-identified and anonymous clinical data included in the secure departmental study register.

Therefore, this study that analysed participant data from the approved registry; itself does not require informed consent from each participant.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Blockman'.

**PROFESSOR M BLOCKMAN**

**CHAIRPERSON, FHS HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**