

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66210

Title: Dysphagia, reflux and related sequelae due to altered physiology in scleroderma

Reviewer's code: 05446638

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Belarus

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-24 19:06

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-26 18:11

Review time: 1 Day and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I would like to thank the authors for bringing up an important topic. The article is well structured, written in clear and understandable language. It can be highly recommended due to actuality of the problem among children, the interesting presentation of the article.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66210

Title: Dysphagia, reflux and related sequelae due to altered physiology in scleroderma

Reviewer's code: 04025443

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Senior Researcher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-23 02:39

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-28 11:25

Review time: 5 Days and 8 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The reviewed manuscript is indeed a well-written structured review on the upper GI manifestations in patients with Systemic sclerosis (SS). Still, there are minor inconsistencies that may require attention of the authors. First, the title of the paper assumes the influence of the disease on dysphagia. However, some of the conditions (like gastroesophageal reflux and oesophageal candidosis) are not accompanied by dysphagia, usually. Moreover, the influence of SS on types of disturbances revealed with pharyngeal and oesophageal motility diagnostic procedures (like high-resolution manometry) is mentioned just in a few words. As the paper rather clinically oriented, and involves the description of wider spectrum of the conditions than just dysphagia (which is good, actually), I would suggest to make changes in the title to make it correspond with the text. Please, consider to provide the readers with the definition of dysphagia, as it may somewhat differ case by case. There are more than one scoring systems to assess the presence and severity of dysphagia. One, mentioned in the table 1 is difficult for practical use as it requires assessment of passage through lower oesophageal sphincter. Moreover, the reference [14], provided along with the description of the diagnostic tests on the page 6 is not fully relevant, as it describes not the diagnostic performance of the scale, but the results of botulinum toxin injections in patients with dysphagia. Please, consider revision. Could you please provide the pathophysiology of dysphagia in patients with Barrett oesophagus? I can imagine, that it may be present in some cases, however, it is really rare. Although oesophageal candidosis may naturally be present in patients with SS who receive immunosuppression, it seems to be not directly related to the the disease. To avoid text reduction, I would suggest to re-organize the text and add a heading with the sequelae of SS treatment (or secondary manifestations) and described candidiasis and drug-induced oesophagitis in this section. Please, pay attention that [66] is not relevant

here, as it describes Candida infection in patients with achalasia. Please, consider to add pharyngeal manometry to the diagnostic procedures described in the table 2.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66210

Title: Dysphagia, reflux and related sequelae due to altered physiology in scleroderma

Reviewer's code: 05909097

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-24 07:25

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-01 11:08

Review time: 8 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This paper is written to provide functional and anatomical understanding of dysphagia in SSc patients. The review is very interesting to me, but I have several comments. 1. Figure 1 is not mentioned in the text. 2. Table 2 is mentioned before Table 1 in main text. Please devise the Table number. 3. About Table 1 score, this score is only associated in lower esophageal obstruction especially in achalasia disease. In SSc patients, LES is almost dilated. So, If there are any scoring system of esophageal dysphagia, please consider to adapt other. 4. Please add the reference to lines 1-2 of section PHYSIOLOGY OF SWALLOWING, and lines 14-15 of section Esophageal Dysmotility. Esophageal dysmotility is not commonly known cause of dysphagia because any papers had not proven it. 5. If you have any references or hypothesis why the esophagus is affected first in GI involvement, please mention or add it in CAUSES OF ESOPHAGEAL DYSPHAGIA IN SSc PATIENTS section. 6. This review is very important to assess the dysphagia in SSc patients TO MANAGEMENT the symptoms or complications. There were few suggestions about treatment or management in esophageal dysmotility and GERD sections. So I suggest to describe it briefly.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66210

Title: Dysphagia, reflux and related sequelae due to altered physiology in scleroderma

Reviewer's code: 01557050

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-23 11:34

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-06 21:20

Review time: 14 Days and 9 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1) General comments Dr. Kadakuntla and Dr. Tadras, et al. reviewed 'Altered Physiology in Scleroderma Patients Leading to Dysphasia'. This article is well presented. The reviewer has some comments. 1. In CAUSES OF PHARYNGEAL DYSPHAGIA IN SSc PATIENTS, Cricopharyngeal Muscle Disorder, please show manometry findings of swallowing in SSc patients with pharyngeal dysphagia.