

Dear professors,

Thank you very much for your constructive suggestions, which improved our manuscript significantly.

We have made the related revisions according to your suggestions as follows:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Rejection

Specific Comments to Authors: The article is well designed and written. However, the number of patients included in the study is very small. This prospective study is not suitable to publish as an original article before reaching a larger of patients. It can be published as case series.

Answer: We have changed the article type to case report according to your instructions.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The study introduces cholangioscopy-assisted extraction through a novel papillary support for small-calibre and sediment-like common bile duct - It's a well designed study but the sample size is too small for standardizing results (7 patients) - I think the study is very interesting in special setting - For example radiation injury makes the standard ERCP technique unsuitable for selected patients, such as pregnant women and children - To overcome these problems, it's possible to introduce cholangioscopy-assisted extraction through this device for small-calibre CBD stones, reducing radiation injury and avoiding EST - The results are innovative but the procedures will be more expensive and according my point of view suitable in "super-selected" cases.

Answer: First, we have changed the article type to case report given that the sample size was relatively small. Moreover, we have made a the statement “Patients, especially pregnant women and those who cannot stop taking anti-coagulation/anti-platelet agents, could benefit from this technique because of the visualized operation and absence of EST” in the Conclusion section.