March 10, 2014

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript despite your busy schedule.

Title: The need for pancreatic stenting after sphincterotomy in patients with difficult cannulation

Authors: Kazunari Nakahara, Chiaki Okuse, Keigo Suetani, Yosuke Michikawa, Shinjiro Kobayashi, Takehito Otsubo, Fumio Itoh

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8919

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers
(Reviewer 1)
(1) ***Since all the patients in this cohort had difficult biliary cannulation, how was the decision made to place or not to place PD stent?***
→ It is difficult to solve the details for performing pancreatic stenting because of the property of retrospective study. Ultimately, the decision of with or without pancreatic stenting was left to the operator's discretion. However, since all the procedures were supervised by a single expert, pancreatic stenting may have been performed to the patients considered that the risk of pancreatitis is still higher.
(2) ***How many endoscopists were involved in this study and what were their respective experiences- numbers of ERCP/ year, etc.??***
→ All the procedures were supervised by a single expert, who performs approximately 500-600 ERCPs per year. Because our hospital is an educational institution, trainees performed approximately half of the procedures. However,

when deep cannulation of the bile duct was not achieved within 15 minutes, the expert took over the procedure. We have added this description to the materials and methods section.

(3) ***Were any trainee endoscopists involved in the procedure in this cohort?***

→ This answer is the same as question (2).

(4) ***Discussion- 1st paragraph- Please avoid using the word "etc.," and explain what you mean by other techniques.***

→ We deleted the word "etc.," in the discussion section.

(Reviewer 2)

(1) ***The manuscript should be revised according to guideline of World Journal of Gastroenterology***.

→ We have revised according to guideline of World Journal of Gastroenterology in the text of the revised manuscript.

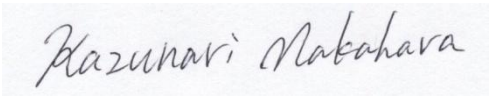
(2) ***The language should be polished to let readers understand the article easily.***

→ The manuscript has been edited and corrected by the English language editing company again.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for reviewing our manuscripts. We trust that the revised manuscripts suitable for publication.

Sincerely yours,



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