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January 13, 2020

Jie Wang

Science Editor, Editorial Office

World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Prof. Wang,

Thank you very much for your letter dated January 12, 2020 regarding our inviting manuscript (Manuscript ID: 52902) entitled "Clinical utility of treatment method conversion during single-session endoscopic ultrasound-guided biliary drainage".

We greatly appreciate the editor and reviewers for their careful and thorough reviews of this manuscript and for their invaluable comments and constructive suggestions, which helped us to improve the quality of this manuscript. We revised the manuscript in accordance with each reviewer's suggestions. Point-by-point responses to these suggestions can be found on the following pages.

We thank the reviewers for their supportive and helpful comments and hope that the changes incorporated into the revised manuscript satisfactorily address the reviewers' concerns, and that our manuscript is now considered suitable for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology. We certify that this manuscript is original, has not been published previously, and is not under consideration by another journal.

Thank you for re-considering our manuscript.

Respectfully yours,

Kosuke Minaga,

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Response to peer reviewers' comments:

We took your suggestions into account during the revision of our manuscript. Please find point-by-point responses to your comments below. All changes that were made to the manuscript are in underlined.

Reviewer 00503924

Comments; Alternative approach after the initial EUS-BD is seldom discussed. So, the manuscript may contribute to the treatment strategy for EUS-BD. The manuscript is well written. The may disadvantage is the retrospective design with limited sample size! minor: what is the indication of EUS-antegrade approach in the treatment algorithm in Figure 1.

Reply; We appreciate this reviewer's helpful comments. As described in the "selection of initial drainage methods" section, EUS-RV or transmural stenting with EUS-CDS or EUS-HGS were used as the first-choice drainage method for EUS-BD in this study; thus, antegrade stenting was not performed as the initial drainage method. We have added the following sentence; Antegrade stenting was not chosen as the initial EUS-BD method. In addition, the legend of the Figure 1 has been modified as follows; Treatment algorithm for initial endoscopic ultrasound-guided biliary drainage in this study.

Reviewer 03529793

Comments; Dear authors, I read with interest your paper. The topic of the paper is interesting and timely for publication. Paper is well written. Technical aspects are explained precisely. Some limitations are clear. Mainly the retrospective nature of the study, and this is discussed.

Reply; We thank you for these supportive comments, which encourage us to continue further efforts.

We thank the reviewers for their helpful and invaluable comments, and for the careful attention they paid to our manuscript.