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Editor-in-Chief

World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

We wish to submit our manuscript titled *Endoscopic Balloon Dilation for management of stricturing Crohn's disease in children* for consideration by the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

We confirm that the work is original and has not been published nor is it under consideration elsewhere. This article was sent to your journal by Baideshing publishing office. Initial peer review of paper highlighted several issues which have been addressed.

In manuscript titled " Endoscopic Balloon Dilation for management of stricturing Crohn's disease in children." authors retrospectively evaluated efficacy and safety of endoscopic balloon dilation (EBD) in a hospital based series of pediatric patients with Crohn's disease (CD). The manuscript is concise, well written and focused on a rather unexplored topic in IBD treatment. The main limitations are small sample and single hospital based series, however presented results are indeed promising with an excellent efficacy and safety of EBD in pediatric group of CD patients. Therefore, bearing in mind that incidence of strictures in pediatric CD patients is low, this manuscript does deserve attention of a wider audience and it is my recommendation to accept it for publication. I would just suggest couple of endoscopic images during the procedure to better describe the technique if authors can provide them.

This includes the request for endoscopic images which have been added to the paper as a Figure 2.

It is our pleasure to submit our paper highlighting our experience over last 7 years with endoscopic management of Crohn's related strictures in children. We think this paper will be very helpful and informative to your readership.

Fibrosing Crohn's disease has been reported in 10-17% of children at presentation. It leads to surgery in 20-50% of cases within ten years of diagnosis. Endoscopic Balloon Dilation (EBD) as treatment for fibrosing Crohn's disease in adults and children was first reported by us in 2008. Since then EBD has been shown to be a safe and effective alternative to surgery in adults, but evidence is poor regarding its safety and efficacy in children.

In this paper, we evaluated the outcomes of children with new diagnosis of fibrosing Crohn's disease (CD) who underwent endoscopic balloon dilation (EBD) versus surgery as a treatment. We found EBD to be 88% effective in managing fibrosing disease in adequately selected patients. We strongly feel that the results can be easily translatable to most practices worldwide and your journal is an ideal vehicle to disseminate our findings.

We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at jose.quiros@mssm.edu.

We hope you will find our submission to your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Quiros', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Antonio Quiros MD

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