

March 24, 2016

Dr. Yuan Qi

Science Editor, Editorial Office,
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Re: Manuscript Revision-24906

Dear Dr. Qi,

We are pleased to submit our revised manuscript entitled “Efficacy of peroral endoscopic myotomy versus other achalasia treatments in improving esophageal function” to be considered for publication in your esteemed journal. We have made all the changes suggested by your editorial office and the two reviewers. All the changes made are highlighted in the revised manuscript. We have included Audio Core Tip and all other required files with the revised manuscript.

We sincerely thank the reviewers for their comments and their help in improving our paper. Below are the point by point responses to the two reviewers’ comments.

Reviewer #33377:

The authors compare the efficacy of POEMS, laparoscopy, pneumatic dilation in the treatment of achalasia. The population is sufficiently large and as they mention in their limitations there is not enough clinical data to judge response but they use 2 outcomes that have corroborated with clinical response: manometry with integrated relaxation pressure >10 mm Hg and time barium emptying. Although there was statistical improvement in these 2 parameters with all treatment modalities as measured numerically, a comparison of the absolute number of patients that achieved these outcomes with each treatment modality may strengthen the study results.

Response:

-We now have included and highlighted in the results, absolute number of patients who achieved at least 50% reduction in barium column height at 5 minutes on TBE at 2 months follow-up in all three treatment groups.

- We now also included and highlighted in the results, absolute number of patients who achieved LES-IRP less than 10mm Hg on HREM at 2 months follow-up in all the three treatment groups.

Reviewer #38617:

In this study, the authors retrospectively compared the effectiveness of POEM with LHM and pneumatic dilation in improving esophageal function in achalasia. They assessed the physiological function of lower esophagus by timed barium esophagram and high resolution manometry. Their results revealed that all three treatment modalities are effective in improving esophageal function in a short term follow-up and there was no difference in efficacy, and POEM seems to be a treatment to perform for even those who have some risks for LHM, such as the elderly, those with abdominal surgical scars and those with prior failed LHM. This paper is well written overall. Since there is few study in this issue to date, this paper is valuable for publication. Comments (1) Title does not reflect the contents enough. For exam, “Efficacy of POEM compared with other treatments in improving esophageal function in achalasia”. (2) In Methods of Abstract, following sentences are not necessary and should be deleted; “Our patients underwent TBE and HREM ----- SAS version 9.4 (Cary, NC) was used and $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.”

Response:

-We have changed the title as suggested to “Efficacy of peroral endoscopic myotomy versus other achalasia treatments in improving esophageal function” to reflect the core content of the study.

- We have deleted the sentences as suggested from the methods section of the abstract.

Other Queries: All queries in the comment boxes Q1-4 have been addressed and are included and highlighted in revised manuscript.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to submit the revised manuscript and we look forward to acceptance of the manuscript for publication in your esteemed journal.

Sincerely,

Madhusudhan R. Sanaka, MD, FACG, FASGE

Dept. of Gastroenterology,

Cleveland Clinic,

9500 Euclid Avenue,

Cleveland, OH 44195. USA.

Email: sanakam@ccf.org

Phone: +001-216-444-3423; Fax: +001-216-444-6284