

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your letter of "Decision on Manuscript 71095, Case Report" and for the referee's comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Double tracheal stents reduce side effects of progression of malignant tracheoesophageal fistula treated with immunotherapy: A case report". We have carefully evaluated the reviewers' critical comments and thoughtful suggestions, responded to these suggestions point-by-point, and revised the manuscript accordingly. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With all my best regards!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Li

Point-by-point responses to the reviewers' comments:

Many thanks to your review. I have read your comments very carefully. Your suggestion are of great value, and according to your suggestions, we have revised the manuscript point by point

Reviewer #1:

1 Comment:

Please review the manuscript for type errors. For instance: "Although the fistula progressed rapidly after immunotherapy, it was still be covered completely" I presume that there is a mistake in the sentence at the point "it was still be covered".

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. We revise the sentence to that, "Although the

fistula progressed rapidly after immunotherapy, the enlarged fistula was still be covered completely". In addition, We have made modifications according to the requirements of the magazine and the recommended professional language institutions, and uploaded the editorial certificate to the submission system. It is in page 10, line 12-13:

2 Comment:

Authors state "After palliative treatment for infection and hemostasis". Please include the drugs and dosages.

Answer: Thank you for your review and suggestion. We add the drugs and dosages in the manuscript. The modifications were as follows, "After palliative treatment for infection(Piperacillin Sodium and Sulbactam Sodium for Injection, 3.75g, intravenous drip, q8h) and hemostasis(Haemocoagulase, 1u, intravenous injection, q12h)".

Reviewer #2:

1 Comment:

The manuscript must be carefully proof-read for grammar and spelling issues.

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. We have made modifications according to the requirements of the magazine and the recommended professional language institutions, and uploaded the editorial certificate to the submission system. Thank you very much!

2 Comment:

It is recommended that authors put figures together in multiple figure panels.

Answer: Thank you for your review. The figures are presented topically as 4 that fit with the content of the paper. We hope we accurately understood the concern and apologize if we have misunderstood and, if so, would the professor elaborate by providing more details on the change to be made to strengthen the paper's presentation of the image files and make it more impactful for future readers. Thank you very much!

3 Comment:

The manuscript does not adequately describe the background and present status of the study.

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. In the discussion section, we add a part of the contents, which describe the background and present status of the study. The contents are as follows:

Immediate management of MTEF involves nasogastric tube placement or gastrostomy, to minimize regurgitation. However, this palliative treatment does not improve the

patient's quality of life, due its preclusion of oral eating. Radical resection of the MTEF has been reported but with minimal survival advantage[6] because of the advanced stage of the cancer and the consequent and ongoing nutritional depletion.

Mesenchymal stem cell transplantation therapy for MTEF is most useful for smaller bronchopleural and distal fistulas, but the further research is required to gain an accurate understanding of the treatment's efficacy and safety profiles[7].

Insertion of a tracheal or esophageal stent, to cover the fistula, is also effective, as was the case with our patient.

[6]Davydov M, Stilidi I, Bokhyan V. Arzykulov: surgical treatment of esophageal carcinoma complicated by fistulas. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2001;20:405-8.[PMID: 11463565 DOI: 10.1016/s1010-7940(01)00796-5]

[7]Huang P, Gao XL, Zhong ZC, Chen WF, Wang YC, Li J. Bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem-cell in treatment of bronchopleural fistula. Zhonghua Jie He He Hu Xi Za Zhi. 2019 Feb 12;42(2):137-140. [PMID: 30704189.Chinese. doi: 10.3760/cma.j.issn.1001-0939.2019. 02.013]

4 Comment:

If there are potential disadvantages to using these stents, the authors should describe them.

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. we add a part of the contents, which describe potential disadvantages to using these stents. The contents are as follows:

Although, it is important to note that the expanded stent may readily erode and enlarge the size of the fistula[5].

[5] Shamji F M , Inculet R. Management of Malignant Tracheoesophageal Fistula[J]. Thoracic surgery clinics, 2018 (28) :393-402.[PMID: 30054077 DOI: 10.1016/j.thorsurg.2018.04.007]

5 Comment:

The authors must provide the requirements of ethics.

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. We had signed the informed consent form with the patient. I will upload the form. Thank you very much!