

Response to reviewer comments:

The authors performed a meta-analysis for the safety and efficacy between endoscopic submucosal dissection and transanal endoscopic surgery for rectal tumors. It has been a long time since both techniques were developed, their characteristics are well understood, and, likely, many practitioners have already used them correctly. Therefore, there may have been no difference in comparing the two techniques in this study. However, these results are helpful for planning future treatment strategies, and the value of this paper is high. If there is one disappointing point, it is that there is a difference in the method of anesthesia between the two procedures. I would like you to add this point to the discussion.

Response: Thank you for your insightful comment regarding the difference in anesthesia methods between ESD and TES. We acknowledge the importance of this aspect and have added a detailed discussion on the types of anesthesia used in each procedure, along with their implications for patient comfort, recovery, and overall procedural experience. This addition enriches our analysis by offering a more comprehensive comparison of these two surgical techniques, ensuring that clinicians and patients are well-informed about all aspects of these procedures. We believe this enhancement addresses your concern and strengthens the overall quality of our meta-analysis