

Answer to Reviewers

Specific Comments to Authors: *In a Letter to Editor, the authors confirmed the previously published results of Elshaarawy et al. on the advantages of PALBI assessment in predicting repeated bleeding after bandaging in acute varicose bleeding. Their study is limited to its retrospective design, a small number of patients, and the inclusion of patients from a single institution. In addition, the authors evaluated for re-bleeding within 2 weeks following the procedure. However, according to the last British guidelines, variceal rebleeding was defined as the occurrence of a single episode of clinically significant rebleeding from portal hypertensive sources from day 5. In a study by Elshaarawy et al. there were also shortcomings pointed out by reviewers. Therefore, future prospective studies are needed to further validate the PALBI score and its value in predicting long-term prognosis. I strongly recommend that the authors add Journal Titles in REFERENCES.*

Answer: We appreciate the reviewer for the comments and feedback. The limitations pointed out such as retrospective design, small number of patients and single institution are all true for our study and the quoted study by El Elshaarawy. This is now reflected in the manuscript. The difference in definition of re-bleeding is also pointed out in the manuscript as mentioned by the reviewer. The authors agree that future prospective studies are needed to validate and compose better models to predict re-bleeding to be useful in the clinical setting. Our study and the study by Elshaarawy et al are important steps along the way. As per the strong recommendation from the reviewer, journal titles have now been added to references.