Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors and management strategy for ulcer hemorrhage following gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection in patients on antithrombotic therapy

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Reviewer: Osamu Goto

Reviewer's report:

This is a retrospective study regarding influential factors in patients taking antithrombotic agents (A group) on bleeding after gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD). Although the purpose of this study would be important, it seems that the composition of this manuscript may make readers confused and the results are overestimated. The followings should be taken into consideration.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. This study seems to be mainly aimed not to compare post-ESD bleeding rate between the A group and the non-antithrombotic (NA) group, but to elucidate the causal factors on post-ESD bleeding in the A group by comparing the bleeding patients to the non-bleeding patients. Accordingly, Table 2 and 3 would be more relevant than Table 1. To avoid the confusion, the authors should focus on the main purpose, and clearly describe the main aim in the Background section and the main outcome measure in the Methods section.

2. The abbreviated terms, “the A group” and “the NA group” are unnecessary. If the authors create groups in this study, the patients having antithrombotic agents should be divided into 2 groups, Bleeding group and Non-bleeding group.

3. The study design should be clearly stated. If my interpretation is right, this should be a retrospective case-control study with consecutive data.

4. In the multivariate analysis, PPI with gastroprotective agent was not a statistically-significant influential factor on post-ESD bleeding in the antithrombotic users (p = 0.054). Therefore, the authors cannot conclude that it is useful to prevent post-ESD bleeding.

5. Similarly, duration of ESD was a statistically-significant influential factor in the analysis. The authors should mention it at least in the Discussion section.

6. Gastroprotective agent varies. The authors did not mention the details of gastroprotective agents which had been administered to the patients. It is overestimated to insist on its efficacy only by this study.

7. I wonder why post-ESD bleeding within Day 2 was not taken into consideration in the analysis. The authors should make a comment of that reason.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The number of references is inaccurate.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.