Reviewer’s report

Title: Improvement of endocytoscopic findings after per oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) in esophageal achalasia; Does POEM reduce the risk of developing esophageal carcinoma?

Version: 4 Date: 25 December 2012

Reviewer: Tsutomu Nomura

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of POEM in patients with esophageal achalasia. The authors claim that POEM is an effective and less invasive treatment for achalasia and may reduce the risk of esophageal carcinogenesis.

For the benefit of the reader, however, several points need clarifying and certain statements, which are given below.

1) In discussion, page 10/33, line5-7#Inoue et al. reported that there was no recurrence after the POEM procedure in their 17 case series of achalasia[10].
#In their report (reference No 10), the mean follow-up period was 5 months. More long follow-up period should be needed to claim#there was no recurrence after the POEM procedure#.

2) In discussion, page 11/33, line20-21#Expression of the Ki-67 protein is associated with the clinical course of mucosal inflammation[25]#.
#In the report (reference No 25), I could not find the description. In abstract, they mentioned that the expression of the Ki-67 protein is associated with the clinical course of cancer (breast and prostate), but did not mention of correlation with mucosal inflammation.

3) In discussion, page 11/33, line21 #They suggested####
###They#are Dr. Leeuwenburgh? Dr. Scholzen?

4) The authors should discuss about the relationship between patients characteristic (type, dilation, duration of disease etc.) and the results of endocytoscopy, Ki67 and p53.

5) The authors should check the references.
#reference 12 #Dis Esophagus, 2011#
##Dis Esophagus,2012 Apr;25(3):235-41. doi #?
#reference 28#American journal of gastroenterology#
##Am J Gastroenterol##?
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.