Reviewer's report

**Title:** Ligation-Assisted Endoscopic Enucleation for the diagnosis and resection of Small Gastrointestinal Tumors Originating from the Muscularis Propria

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 26 March 2013

**Reviewer:** Arjun Koch

**Reviewer's report:**

I congratulate the authors with a well done study to demonstrate what appears to be a relatively safe technique to enucleate small SMT's.

There are some remarks from my side that I believe will improve the manuscript:

**Major compulsory revisions:**

1. The small SMT's less than 2 cm have a very low potential for malignant transformation. Therefore often a surveillance policy is offered to patients. What is their standard surveillance protocol their hospital?

2. I agree that the burden of a small SMT can be taken away by enucleating it and also the need for further endoscopic follow-up. Why this yearly endoscopic follow-up? This erases the advantage of resection and ending surveillance. Were the lesions not resected completely? There is no mentioning of completeness of resection by histopathological assessment.

3. Can the authors elaborate on why they choose to close the wound with clips and adhesive sprays? For sure the use of adhesive spray is a quite unorthodox approach and in my opinion completely unnecessary.

4. They have performed 43 procedures in 2 years time. Was there a learning curve? Did procedure times diminish over time?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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