Reviewer's report

Title: Covered versus uncovered self-expandable metallic stents for palliation of malignant gastric outlet obstruction: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 2
Date: 23 June 2014

Reviewer: Chen Shuan Chung

Reviewer's report:

This study aimed to elucidate the differences in efficacy and safety between covered and uncovered self-expandable metallic stents for the management of malignant gastric outlet obstruction by meta-analysis method. Some questions should be answered by authors before consideration for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. In the “Complications and reintervention” part of the “Results”, uncovered stent was associated with lower rate of stent obstruction (page 8, line 12-13); however, in the “Sensitivity analysis” part of the “Results”, covered stent was associated with lower rate of stent obstruction (page 9, line 1-3). Could you make more explanations about this issue in the “discussion” part, or provide raw data for statistical analysis?

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. There was no analysis of demographic data in the enrolled population? Were the etiologies for malignant gastric outlet obstruction the same or heterogeneous in most of the studies?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.