Author's response to reviews

Title: Implantation of a colorectal stent as a therapeutic approach in the treatment of esophageal leakage - a case report

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews:

Cover Letter

Re: MS: 1029819518121335 version 2
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Reply to the reviewers

As proposed by the reviewers, the manuscript has been shortened substantially. Furthermore, a detailed description of the operative procedures including the location of the anastomosis after the first and second operation was given. The time course of interventions, e.g. operations and endoscopic procedures, was added to the revised manuscript. Finally, the style of written English has been improved by a native speaker.

Due to changes of the entire manuscript, the number of references has been changed accordingly.

Point-by-point response (numbered according to the reviewers comments):

Reviewer 1 (Peter Malfertheiner, Klaus Monkemuller):
Specific points:

1. Reduction of the introduction and discussion by 15-20%
As recommended by this reviewer, the entire manuscript was shortened consistently.

Reviewer 2 (Johannes Zacherl):
Specific points:

1. Abstract background: mortality of anastomotic leaks
We agree in general with the reviewer, although data on the mortality of anastomotic leaks are varying consistently in the literature. Nevertheless, the statement that "anastomotic leaks are associated with a mortality of 60%" was removed from the abstract.

2. Abstract case presentation:
The misleading sentence "the patient aspirates fluid because the stent was too small..." was removed from the abstract.

3. Description of the first and second operation and location of the anastomosis after the operations
The criticism is well taken. In the revised version of the manuscript a more detailed description of the first and second operation as well the location of the anastomosis was given in the case presentation (see page 4 and 5 of the revised manuscript).

4. Time course of interventions:
A clear description of the time course of first and second operation, stent implantations, starting of oral food intake and discharge of the patient has been added to the case presentation (see page 4 and 5 of the revised manuscript).
5. Fibrin glue application as the standard treatment of anastomotic leaks
The statement that "application of fibrin glue is the standard treatment for at least small anastomotic leaks" has been removed from the text.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. "Esophageal remnant" instead of "rest"
The term "esophageal rest" has been replaced by "esophageal remnant".

2. Diameter of the large polyflex stent
We fully agree with the reviewer. Information on the diameter of the self-expanding polyflex stent has been corrected.

We sincerely thank the reviewers for their very positive comments and suggestions and hope that the changes made will meet their criticism and render the manuscript acceptable for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.