Reviewer's report

Title: Stent versus gastrojejunostomy for the palliation of gastric outlet obstruction: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2007

Reviewer: alessandro A repici

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript from the Rotterdam group is an excellent and systematic review of the two different treatment modalities for palliation of gastric outlet obstruction. This manuscript covers an area in continuous updating for which there are no established guidelines and clinical approaches can vary depending on whom is taking care of the patient. So it is worthwhile this careful and objective evaluation of available data on literature. I appreciated the excellent analysis of the single outcomes and the objective discussion in which the weak points of the endoscopic approach (complication rate as high as surgical treatment, lack of long-term efficacy, etc) are correctly ruled out. Despite the fact that just a limited number of true randomized studies have been published, this review may allow to draw significant conclusions on what is the most appropriate approach for the different stages of disease leading to the gastric outlet obstruction.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
no major revision are needed

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
no minor revision are needed

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
It could be useful, if possible, to compare the results of patients treated with uncovered versus covered stent. May the use of a covered stent afford a more prolonged benefit on luminal patency? This issue has been already proven for the esophageal cancer and it would be nice if the authors could mention this possibility in the discussion, even as potential improvement for the future. Moreover it would interesting to compare the outcomes of the two different approach basing on the cause of duodenal obstruction. Does the obstruction from a pancreatic cancer behaviour differently than an obstruction from a primary duodenal adenocarcinoma? How this can impact the outcome of the two different treatments?

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 interest