Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2007

Reviewer: Greger Lindberg

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a systematic review of literature data on efficacy, complications, and costs of treatment alternatives in malignant gastric outlet obstruction. Stenting is a new technique that has been applied in many places without good evidence for its superiority to previous techniques including open or laparoscopic by-pass with gastrojejunostomy. The authors have used recommended techniques for the analysis of published data. There is a lack of randomized studies in this area and their conclusion is that there is insufficient data to give a firm recommendation regarding the choice between stenting and operative by-pass in the case of malignant gastric outlet obstruction.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
I have no major revisions to suggest.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
I have no minor essential revisions to suggest.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
I am a little surprised by the abbreviation GJJ for gastrojejunostomy. Wouldn’t GJS be more adequate? Not many centres, at least not in Europe, have large numbers of patients that would be suitable for a randomized study. I think this is a typical area in which a cooperative multinational study should be initiated. Perhaps the authors could provide some estimate on the expected annual number of adult patients per million inhabitants who would need this kind of treatment per year.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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