Reviewer’s report

Title: Endoscopic treatment of malignant gastric outlet obstruction with stents: A systematic evaluation of the reported variables for clinical outcome

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2009

Reviewer: Iruru Maetani

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Minor Essential Revisions
1. In the Methods section, the authors mention that the third evaluation parameter of this study is “information on stent patency and survival”. However, in the Results section, although explanation of stent patency and migration is provided, there is no mention of its survival.

2. In the Methods section, the authors say, “When studies included identical patients, the most recent study was included.” Although Ref#26 (2001-2004) and Ref#41 (2001-2005) presumably included identical patients, both articles were included as prospective studies. This needs to be confirmed.

3. Did your study include stent placement for esophagojejunostomy after total gastrectomy (i.e. Ref#40)? If so, you should exclude these references from this study, since stricture of esophagojejunostomy is not gastric outlet obstruction.

4. In the Results section, the authors mention that the numbers of prospective studies are 10 with endoscopic/fluoroscopic method and 11 with fluoroscopic method, totaling 21. According to Table 2, however, the number of prospective study is 20. Please confirm the number of references.

5. The title of this paper is “endoscopic treatment….” However, this paper includes some studies by radiologists making no use of endoscopy, and so the title should be revised.

Discretionary Revisions
1. It seems favorable to display brief listing of all studies included in this study.

2. In the end of Discussion, the authors mention, “and it is ……………in all subjects treated.” This was confirmed in a previous investigation (Maetani I, et al. Hepato-Gastroenterology 2008;55:298-302). It is preferable to quote the reference for this sentence.

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 interests.