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: 26 January 2009

Reviewer: Greger Lindberg

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have reviewed some of the literature on stenting of gastric outlet obstruction. The specific aim of their study was to find out if sufficient data were given on clinical effects of stenting and whether or not quality of life had been assessed. The review is well designed and the conclusions are probably valid. However, there are a few points that need some explanation to render this manuscript understandable to the reader.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors chose to include only studies with 15 or more subjects. What was the rationale for this choice? Please specify why 15 and not 10 or 5 or any other number of subjects was chosen as numerical limit for inclusion. For example, the choice of 15 excluded the only RCT on this subject.

Minor Essential Revisions

2. It is possible that the majority of readers are familiar with the Karnofsky performance scale, which measures physical impairment and not health related quality of life, but I think this should be explained to the reader. It is perhaps not necessary to cite the original paper, but at least the nature of this scale should be mentioned.

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.