Reviewer's report

**Title:** Plastic or metal stents for benign biliary strictures: a systematic review

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 18 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Michel Kahaleh

**Reviewer's report:**

MAJOR

1-We appreciate the efforts in removing the CSEMS patients.

2-However I am concerned about the inability to provide sessions numbers in each group and the inclusion of IH stricture or stricture of unclear locations. Please remove all patients with IH and unclear locations strictures and restrict the analysis to extrahepatic biliary strictures.

Also acknowledge in the discussion that metal stents provide less sessions than plastic stents which might offset the cost in favor of the plastic stent group and change your conclusion accordingly

3-Change the current tables by providing one table summarizing metal stents and one table summarizing plastic stents

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have receive funding support from Boston Scientific,COnmed, Olympus, Cook and ALveolus