Reviewer's report

Title: Post intubation tracheal stenosis: report of 31 cases and review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 28 May 2008

Reviewer: M Yasuo

Reviewer's report:

General comments

The authors reported 31 cases of post-intubation tracheal stenosis (PITS; including post-intubation (PI) and post-tracheostomy (PT) tracheal stenosis) and described the differences and similarities between PI and PT stenosis. Although there are few new findings in this report, the accumulation of 31 cases is relatively high.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors finally concluded, “the difference between PI and PT stenosis should be considered”, therefore implying the necessity of differentiation should be included in the title. In other words, the words PI and PT stenosis should appear rather than PITS.

2. (P5, bottom) The authors should describe the O2 concentration not only in the laser procedure but also in APC and electrosurgical procedures.

3. (P7, last paragraph) High frequency of rigid bronchoscopy (RB) may be due to the use of laser equipment. As the authors know, laser procedures usually require RB, however APC or electrosurgical modalities are usually performed under flexible bronchoscope. The authors should mention these facts in the discussion and some references describing APC or electrosurgical modalities against PI and PT stenosis may be needed.

4. (P8, L4) The authors should describe the therapeutic policy of re-stenosis.

5. (P9, L1-2) How do the authors estimate the degree and severity of stenosis?

6. (P10, L22) How do the authors remove the granulation tissue?

7. (P6, L5) How do the authors recognize the damaged cartilage?

8. Table 3. The authors mentioned the APC was used for one of the treatment modalities of tracheal stenosis; however, APC was not described in Table 3.

Minor Essential Revisions

1.(P5, L5 from bottom) The names of the cities where the companies Pentax and
Olympus are located should be included.

2. (P6, bottom) Chicago, IL, USA

3. (P7, L6) The authors mentioned the most frequent co-morbidities, however, congestive heart failure did not appear in Table 1.

4. (P10, L10) The concept of BOOP is now described as COP for clinical disorder. In addition, IPF and COP (BOOP) should be spelled out.

5. (P10, L4 from bottom) …surgery! # …surgery.

6. (P11, L3 from bottom) The authors should include some references that report the rate of complications of the surgery.

7. Table 2. Days with ETT (11 pts) is incorrect. I feel it should include all 31 pts.

I can not evaluate quality of written English, because I am not an English native.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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