Reviewer's report

Title: A randomized controlled trial of endoscopic steroid injection for prophylaxis of esophageal stenoses after extensive endoscopic submucosal dissection

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Reviewer: mate knabe

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In the present manuscript the authors analyze the prophylactic effect of local steroid injection, following extensive endoscopic submucosal dissection in the esophagus. The main objective was to investigate the development of esophageal stenosis with or without this prophylactic treatment. The study was performed as a randomized controlled trial on 32 patients. In summary the frequency of strictures was not significantly different between the two groups, but the number of dilatation sessions required was significantly less in the steroid group. Therefore, they concluded that prophylactic steroid treatment can reduce the severity of strictures after extensive ESD in the esophagus.

The present study is well written and the study design was suitable to answer the question, although the sample size was too small to answer some of the main objectives.

There are some major compulsory points I would like to mention.

1) Pech Oliver et al recently published in Gastroenterology a study with over 1000 patients which proved that endoscopic mucosal resection is a safe procedure with a very high rate of complete remission. Rates of esophageal stenosis are much lower after EMR than after extensive ESD. Moreover this, there was only one perforation in the whole study-population. The question is: why perform ESD with risk for consecutive esophageal stenosis and the need of dilatation, instead of using EMR? Please discuss these facts in your manuscript.

2) In table number 2 there are 3 carcinomas with deeper submucosal invasion (sm2). These patients have a relevant risk to develop lymphoid metastasis. Why wasn’t surgery performed? Please comment on this.

No minor comments

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