Reviewer's report

Title: Endoscopic Inside stent placement is suitable as a bridging treatment for preoperative biliary tract cancer

Version: 3 Date: 23 July 2014

Reviewer: Jong Ho Moon

Reviewer's report:

1. First sentence of the Introduction describes general concept of endoscopic biliary drainage. I recommend that the need and usefulness of the endoscopic preoperative biliary drainage would be described. Please, describe in aspect of preoperative drainage.

2. Although this study is retrospective design, clarify the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Please describe the indications of preoperative chemotherapy or chemoradiotherapy (stage or resectability?).

3. Please, describe indication or conditions for ENBD or multiple stenting.

4. How you can decide the diameter and length of the stent in both groups? Please, describe about it in method section.

5. What is the length of the nylon thread to aid removal of stent?

6. Please, define the stent occlusion, stent migration and acute cholangitis for the evaluation. I recommend describing definitions about evaluation points.

7. The purpose of inside placement of the stent is to prevent duodenobiliary reflux through the stent. However, sphincterotomy may allow the reflux. Please, add data of sphincterotomy in both groups. And, if sphincterotomy was performed, describe the length (major or minor) of the sphincterotomy.

8. First two sentences of the Result were overlapped with contents in the Patients.

9. Please, provide figures of cases. I recommend that you add figures of two cases of hilar stricture and distal biliary stricture.

10. There are several articles about “inside” placement of self-expandable metallic stent. Please, discuss about comparisons of inside stent with metallic stents for the “inside” placement for the preoperative biliary drainage, especially for the non-hilar strictures.

Gastrointest Endosc. 2012 May;75(5):1080-5.

Feasibility of placing a modified fully covered self-expandable metal stent above the papilla to minimize stent-induced bile duct injury in patients with refractory benign biliary strictures (with videos).
Moon JH, Choi HJ, Koo HC, Han SH, Lee TH, Cho YD, Park SH, Kim SJ.

**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:**

There are no competing interests.