

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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Title: Ligation-assisted endoscopic submucosal resection following unroofing technique for small esophageal subepithelial lesions originating from the muscularis propria

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

In this study the authors evaluate the efficacy and safety of ligation-assisted endoscopic submucosal resection (ESMR-L) following unroofing technique for management of esophageal subepithelial lesions originating from the muscularis propria (SEL-MPs) smaller than 20 mm. This technique, in some way, has been described previously. The results are encouraging, it is safe but it cannot ensure en bloc resection and may require further treatment in some cases. It is from a single center and an experienced endoscopist. It would be better to see long term results in a multi center study.

Response:

Thank you very much for your insightful comment. Inspired by endoscopic submucosal resection of gastric SEL-MPs with a detached ligation device (ESMR-L) after apical mucosal incision (AMI) reported in our center, we had developed a similar ESMR-L

following unroofing technique for esophageal SEL-MPs smaller than 20 mm. Our study demonstrates that ESMR-L has following advantages, such as simple operation, complete tumor removal, short operation time, less complications, cost effectiveness, etc. However, it was conducted at a single center with a small sample size. Therefore, multi-center prospective randomized controlled trials with larger sample sizes are necessary to assess the clinical feasibility and value of this technique.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

1. Yes 2. Yes 3. Yes 4. Yes 5. Yes 6. Yes 7. Yes 8. Yes 9. Yes 10. Yes 11. No, the majority of references are too outdated. the number of references are too few for the topic. 12. Yes 13. Yes 14. No. the research involves huma patients. so it requires ethical approval from appropriate institutional review bord.

Response:

11. Thank you very much for your insightful comment. We have re-searched and cited 4 latest literatures in recent years and added the most recent research results in related fields, which are highlighted with yellow color in the revised manuscript.

14. Thank you very much for your insightful comment. The Shenzhen People's Hospital

Institutional Review Board Approval Document was already uploaded on online.