

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1: As reported on line 64, the authors described several different endoscopic treatments before stent positioning. Considering the young age of the patients, did the authors discuss with them about therapeutic options, such as surgical intervention? Did the patients refuse it? Why? Are the patients evaluated unfit for surgery? How many attempts of bronchoscopic dilatations did the authors perform before stent positioning? How much time after did the restenosis occur? These data should be reported.

Reply 1: Before silicone stent placement, we all communicated with the patient about the treatment options for subglottic airway stenosis, including surgery, tracheostomy, endoscopic-guided stent placement, and pharmacologic treatment. Case 1, Case 3 and Case 4 refused surgery, Case 2 could not tolerate it because of heart and brain disease. The time for restenosis occur was variable in each patient, ranging from a short period of about 17 days to a long period of about 30-40 days.

Changes in the text: We have added detailed information about each case. The above questions were elaborated and explained. Please see page 2 line70 to line 72, page 4 line93 to line 96, page 4 line105 to line 109 and page 5 line116 to line 117.

Comment 2: Line 81. Follow-up period should be reported. Does the author consider to remove the stent after one year, as reported by many authors? Stent positioning is normally a temporary item aimed at defending the airway calibre as long as the fibro-cicatricial process comes to a head. After multiple interventions followed by restenosis, did the authors propose or discuss with the patients about the possibility of surgical intervention? I suggest to describe each patients, case by case, reporting the clinical conditions, the features of each stenosis, the number of broncoscopic attempts before stent positioning, the follow-up time.

Reply 2: We increased the follow-up time in each case. As of the completion of our article, Case 1 had been followed up for 10 months. If the condition stabilizes, we plan to gradually remove the stents. However, the specific time for stent removal may vary depending on the patient's specific situation. For cases where there are no obvious complications during the follow-up process, we prefer to place the stent for a longer time to remove it, which may reduce the possibility of airway restenosis.

Changes in the text: Please see page 3 line81, page 4 line97, page 4 line110 to line 111, page 5 line122 and page 7 line179 to line 181.

Comment 3: Line 86. Figure legend are reported in the wrong paragraph.

Reply 3: deleted.

Changes in the text: deleted.

Comment 4: Line 87. "In the past, the main treatment for subglottic airway stenosis was surgery". I think this is not correct.

Reply 4: Reworded.

Changes in the text: Please see page 5 line128 to line133.

Comment 5: Line 88 89 “rich vascular and neurological situation”. It is not clear. What does the author mean?

Reply 5: The subglottic airway is structurally complex and difficult to manage.

Changes in the text: Please see page 5 line128 to line133.

Comment 6: Line 94 “resistance to tracheostomy and extracorporeal side branches” What does the author mean?

Reply 6: The patients refused the T-tube because of the need for a tracheostomy and leaving a side branch outside the body.

Changes in the text: Please see page 5 line136.

Comment 7: Line 135 the authors have to underling the limits of the study:

Firstly, this is a case series report. Secondly, what is the follow-up period? Did the authors want to remove the stent after 1 year? These arguments should be discussed.

Reply 7: The rewording of the text reflects the limitations of this study and elaborates on stent removal times.

Changes in the text: Please see from page 6 line136 to page 7 line181.

Reviewer B

Comment 8: On row 89 authors state thattransbronchosopic intervention is the main tretment for this kind of stenosis. A quite bold statement and needs to justified better or rephrased.

Reply 8: We have rephrased.

Changes in the text: Please see page 5 line129 to line134.
