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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Iatrogenic perforation and endoscopic closure: It's time to replace surgery?

#### KEYWORDS

Endoscopic perforation;  
OTSC;  
OVESCO

Dear Sir,

Iatrogenic perforations occurring during endoscopic procedures are, in most of the hospitals and private clinics, surgically managed, especially in low-volume centers [1,2]. Most cases of iatrogenic perforation occur during therapeutic endoscopic procedures, particularly in the context of endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) and endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD). Moreover, gastrointestinal (GI) perforation can occur also during diagnostic endoscopy [3–5], with a rate of 0.01–0.6%, while during therapeutic endoscopy is described from 0.6% to 5.5%. Nowadays, different studies were published about the use of the over-the-scope clip (OTSC®, Ovesco Endoscopy, Tübingen, Germany) for the closure of the GI defect, showing an overall clinical success of the 85% [6]. A recent case report showed as delayed GI perforation may be endoscopically treated up to 4 days after perforation without sequelae, at least in selected cases [7]. Also in relatively large perforations (3 cm) a clinical success rate of 89% for endoscopic perforation closure with OTSC was reported [8]. Recently, a classification of GI defects was established by Mangiavillano et al. on the basis of the perforation's shape [9]. In this classification two types of perforation were described, the type-1, or round shape, and the type-2, or oval shape. Authors' suggest the use of the "Twin-Grasper®", (Ovesco Endoscopy plus aspiration in type-1 perforation and only aspiration in type-2). In our opinion, considering the high rates of technical and clinical success in sealing perforations of the gastrointestinal tract, OTSC placement should be performed to manage perforations occurring during diagnostic or therapeutic endoscopy, even in small endoscopic centers provided that the endoscopists' training is adequate,

considering also the shorter hospital stay, if compared to surgery. Is it also important to remember as a technical failure in OTSC placement does not preclude a subsequent surgical intervention.

#### Supported

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#### Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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