

Special Issue on Third Space Therapeutic Endoscopy

CALL FOR PAPERS

In the last 20 years therapeutic digestive endoscopy has replaced surgery in the treatment of several diseases of the upper gastrointestinal tract. Endoscopic submucosal dissection was proven effective in the cure of preneoplastic and superficial neoplastic lesions, becoming the standard treatment for these lesions, in spite of surgery.

In recent years, the possibility of creating a tunnel in the submucosal space of the digestive tract has been shown to work in this so-called "third space". This technique can reach and cut the muscle layers of the esophagus and treat several motility disorders of the upper digestive tract, such as achalasia and spastic primary motility disorders of the esophagus, as well as removing submucosal lesions involving the deep muscle layers, such as GIST and leiomyomas, by performing a full thickness resection of the wall. The advantage of the tunneling technique is related to the ability to maintain safe and effective protection against the visceral tiers created by the above-mentioned procedures. More recently, third space endoscopy has further progressed toward the treatment of severe gastroparesis and Hirschsprung's disease, by cutting the pyloric and anal muscle sphincter layers, and Zenker's diverticulum.

Further evolution of the technique will allow entry into the peritoneal cavity and expand the indications for endoscopic therapy of other intra-abdominal diseases, becoming a true NOTES (natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery) procedure.

The special issue aims to provide a critical assessment and literature review of these recent procedures, including detailed endoscopic techniques, indications, complications, and related outcomes.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Submucosal tunneling endoscopic resection (STER) of submucosal tumors
- ▶ Submucosa tunneling mucosal dissection (ST-ESD)
- ▶ Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM)
- ▶ Gastric peroral pyloromyotomy (G-POEM)
- ▶ Submucosa tunneling septotomy for Zenker's and epiphrenic diverticula (D-POEM)
- ▶ Per-rectal endoscopic myotomy (PREM)
- ▶ Transrectal/transgastric endoscopic cholecystolithotomy

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <https://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/grp/tste/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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