

Reviewer 1 v.1

Comments to the author:

The authors sought to explore the efficacy of airway stenting for TGAF patients and find related factors with healing of fistula. TGAF is really rare and challenging for most surgeons. Dr Wang et al analyzed potential factors coupled with healing of fistula based on a larger patient data. This study has great clinical value and has clinical hints for surgeons in this field, especially stent type consideration. Overall, this is a well done study. However, there are some questions before further consideration.

1. Authors described two types of prognosis, but they only demonstrated "healing" in the manuscript. So, it is imperative to provide figures demonstrating "complete sealing".
2. In the section of methods, authors did not choose silicon stents when trachea was larger than 20 mm. Why authors only chose metallic stents, not silicon ones.
3. In the section of methods, the iodinated-water contrast swallow test was performed between the 5th and 7th post-treatment day. Why authors selected this time-point, not an earlier one.
4. "J-shaped stents" should be replaced by "L-shaped stents" or "hinged covered metallic stents"
5. Page 4 ,Line 33, "feeding gastrostomy" should be replaced by "nasogastric feeding tube"
6. Page 7 ,Line 27, "the oral contrast under X-ray" should be replaced "Upper gastrointestinal radiography"
7. In the section of methods, the selection criteria for the length and diameter of the stent should be described
8. In the section of discussion, you should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of airway stenting under endoscopy and fluoroscopy.