Gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy for refractory gastroparesis: a systematic review of early outcomes with pooled analysis

Marco Spadaccini, Roberta Maselli, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar, Andrea Anderloni, Silvia Carrara, Piera Alessia Galtieri, Milena Di Leo, Alessandro Fugazza, Gaia Pellegatta, Matteo Colombo, Rossella Palma, Cesare Hassan, Amrita Sethi, Mouen A. Khashab, Prateek Sharma, Alessandro Repici

PII: S0016-5107(19)32489-7

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gie.2019.11.039

Reference: YMGE 11857

To appear in: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

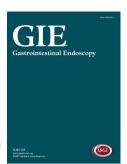
Received Date: 12 April 2019

Accepted Date: 19 November 2019

Please cite this article as: Spadaccini M, Maselli R, Chandrasekar VT, Anderloni A, Carrara S, Galtieri PA, Di Leo M, Fugazza A, Pellegatta G, Colombo M, Palma R, Hassan C, Sethi A, Khashab MA, Sharma P, Repici A, Gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy for refractory gastroparesis: a systematic review of early outcomes with pooled analysis, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* (2020), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gie.2019.11.039.

This is a PDF file of an article that has undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but it is not yet the definitive version of record. This version will undergo additional copyediting, typesetting and review before it is published in its final form, but we are providing this version to give early visibility of the article. Please note that, during the production process, errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Copyright © 2019 by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy



# Gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy for refractory gastroparesis: a systematic review of early outcomes with pooled analysis

#### **Authors**

Marco Spadaccini<sup>1</sup>\*, Roberta Maselli<sup>1</sup>\*, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar<sup>2,3</sup>, Andrea Anderloni<sup>1</sup>, Silvia Carrara<sup>1</sup>, Piera Alessia Galtieri<sup>1</sup>, Milena Di Leo<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Fugazza<sup>1</sup>, Gaia Pellegatta<sup>1</sup>, Matteo Colombo<sup>1</sup>, Rossella Palma<sup>1</sup>, Cesare Hassan<sup>4</sup>, Amrita Sethi<sup>5</sup>, Mouen A Khashab<sup>6</sup>, Prateek Sharma<sup>2,3</sup>, Alessandro Repici<sup>1</sup>

#### **Affiliations**

- 1. Humanitas Clinical and Research Center and Humanitas University, Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Division of Gastroenterology, Rozzano (MI), Italy
- 2. University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas, USA
- 3. Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- 4. Nuovo Regina Margherita Hospital, Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Rome, Italy.
- 5. New York-Presbyterian Medical Center/Columbia University Medical Center, New York, New York, United States.
- 6. Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Baltimore, MD, United-States.

#### **Corresponding author:**

Marco Spadaccini

Digestive Endoscopy Unit

Via Manzoni 56, 20089 Rozzano (Milano) – Italy

Telephone: +390282242595

Fax: +390282244590

e-mail: marco.spadaccini@humanitas.it

Key words: gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy, G-POEM, refractory gastroparesis

Marco Spadaccini: conception and design, analysis and interpretation of the data, drafting of the article.

Roberta Maselli: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

**Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar:** analysis and interpretation of the data, critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

<sup>\*</sup>these two authors equally contributed to this work.

**Andrea Anderloni:** critical revision of the article for important intellectual content. **Silvia Carrara:** critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Piera Alessia Galtieri: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Milena Di Leo: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

**Alessandro Fugazza:** critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Gaia Pellegatta: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Matteo Colombo: analysis and interpretation of the data, critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Rossella Palma: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Cesare Hassan: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

Amrita Sethi: critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

**Mouen A Khashab:** critical revision of the article for important intellectual content. **Prateek Sharma:** critical revision of the article for important intellectual content.

**Alessandro Repici:** critical revision of the article for important intellectual content; final approval of the article.

# Gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy for refractory gastroparesis: a systematic review of early outcomes with pooled analysis

#### **Authors**

Marco Spadaccini<sup>1</sup>\*, Roberta Maselli<sup>1</sup>\*, Viveksandeep Thoguluva Chandrasekar<sup>2,3</sup>, Andrea Anderloni<sup>1</sup>, Silvia Carrara<sup>1</sup>, Piera Alessia Galtieri<sup>1</sup>, Milena Di Leo<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Fugazza<sup>1</sup>, Gaia Pellegatta<sup>1</sup>, Matteo Colombo<sup>1</sup>, Rossella Palma<sup>1</sup>, Cesare Hassan<sup>4</sup>, Amrita Sethi<sup>5</sup>, Mouen A Khashab<sup>6</sup>, Prateek Sharma<sup>2,3</sup>, Alessandro Repici<sup>1</sup>

#### **Affiliations**

- 1. Humanitas Clinical and Research Center and Humanitas University, Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Division of Gastroenterology, Rozzano (MI), Italy
- 2. University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas, USA
- 3. Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- 4. Nuovo Regina Margherita Hospital, Digestive Endoscopy Unit, Rome, Italy.
- 5. New York-Presbyterian Medical Center/Columbia University Medical Center, New York, New York, United States.
- 6. Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Baltimore, MD, United-States.

#### **Corresponding author:**

Marco Spadaccini

Digestive Endoscopy Unit

Via Manzoni 56, 20089 Rozzano (Milano) – Italy

Telephone: +390282242595

Fax: +390282244590

e-mail: marco.spadaccini@humanitas.it

**Key words:** gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy, G-POEM, refractory gastroparesis

<sup>\*</sup>these two authors equally contributed to this work.

#### **ABSTRACT**

**Background and Aims:** Gastroparesis (GP) is a chronic debilitating condition. Prior pyloric-targeted procedures are either invasive or have questionable efficacy. Gastric peroral pyloromyotomy(G-POEM) has been proposed as a minimally invasive approach. We performed a pooled-analysis to evaluate the efficacy and safety of G-POEM for GP.

**Methods:** Electronic databases(Medline, Scopus, EMBASE) were searched up to January 2019. Studies including patients who underwent G-POEM for GP were eligible. Procedural, clinical and safety outcomes were assessed pooling data by means of a random- or fixed-effect model according to the degree of heterogeneity to obtain a proportion with a 95% confidence interval(CI).

**Results:** Ten studies were eligible for inclusion (292 patients), 2/10 being prospective. Seven studies were performed in the United States, 2 in France and 1 in China. The endoscopic pyloromyotomy was feasible in all the patients. Significant symptomatic improvement was achieved after 83.9% of the procedures (mean follow-up period:7.8±5.5 months). When comparing the mean values of pre- and postprocedural scintigraphic evolution, there was a significant decreasing of the residual percentage at 2 and 4 hours. The overall adverse events rate was 6.8%.

**Discussion** G-POEM appears as a promising approach for GP in terms of safety and efficacy outcomes in the short term.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Gastroparesis (GP) is a chronic debilitating condition defined as a functional disorder with objective delayed gastric emptying in the absence of a mechanical obstruction. Clinical presentation includes postprandial fullness and epigastric discomfort, bloating, nausea, retching and vomiting. Moreover, the clinical burden of GP has been shown to be compounded by reduced quality of life and impaired nutritional status [1], causing an increasing incidence of GP-related hospitalization [2].

Several conditions have been correlated to GP, with approximately 90% of patients having diabetic [3], idiopathic or postsurgical GP. Other etiologies include neurological/muscular disorders and

collagen vascular diseases.

Dietary modification and prokinetics, such as Metoclopramide, are the initial treatments. However, these modestly address clinical needs due to the poor tolerability profile [4,5]. Further, several patients are refractory to these strategies, and no validated alternatives are available.

Aiming to assess a pathophysiological mechanism to be specifically targeted, Mearin et al [6] had manometrically described episodes of unusually intense and prolonged pyloric contractions, named as "pylorospasm". This pyloric dysfunction has been recently correlated with GP symptoms by new and easier devices such as the endolumenal functional lumen imaging probe (EndoFLIP; Crospon Inc., Galway, Ireland) [7,8].

Therefore, interventional procedures on pyloric apparatus such us electrical stimulation, botulinum toxin intrapyloric injection, transpyloric stent placement and laparoscopic pyloromyotomy, have been proposed [9-11]. Unfortunately, none of them have confirmed yet their efficacy in well-designed prospective studies.

Gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy (G-POEM) is a minimally invasive endosurgical procedure recently introduced by Khashab et al [12]. G-POEM consists of creating a prepyloric submucosal tunnel extending to the pylorus, before dissecting circular and oblique muscle bundles, as per the endoscopic myotomy (POEM) previously described for treating achalasia [13].

Since its first report, several studies have followed. Thus, the aim of this article was to systematically review data on G-POEM and to pool the results of the different experiences, with a specific focus on efficacy and safety.

#### **METHODS**

The methods of our analysis and inclusion criteria were based on Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) recommendations [14]. Our systematic review protocol was registered with the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO, www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/) on February 2019 (registration number:

CRD42019123323).

The following methods are reported in Appendix 1: data sources and search strategy, the selection process, data extraction and the quality assessment.

#### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

For the purpose of this systematic review, we considered all clinical studies including patients with refractory gastroparesis treated using gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy since 2013 (ie, when G-POEM was first reported). Only studies reporting data on technical success were considered. Authors of studies were contacted for accurate information if the data provided in the articles were insufficient. Prospective and retrospective studies, published as full text, including at least 5 patients were considered. Studies only published as abstracts were not considered. Studies not published in the English language were excluded.

#### **Outcome assessment**

The primary outcome was the technical success rate. Secondary outcomes were the mean procedural time, the rate of clinical success, and the rate of adverse events such as intra- and postprocedural bleeding, perforation and stricture. Pre- and postprocedural Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index (GCSI) and gastric emptying scintigraphy (GES), if provided, were also assessed.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

For the purpose of statistical analyses, the measure of the effect of interest included pooled rates in form of percentages with number of events/success over the total number of patients (%) with 95% confidence limits. The I2 test was used to denote the heterogeneity and p-value of <0.05 was considered significant. The corresponding forest plots were constructed with pooled estimates of these outcomes and individual studies were weighted according to the size. Meta-regression analysis was used for relating outcome estimates to study characteristics. All meta-analytic computations, including the estimates with 95% confidence intervals for pooled rates as well as heterogeneity (measured as I2 statistics) were performed using statistical software Open Meta analyst (CEBM, Brown University, RI, USA). An I2-value of 0% to 30%, 30% to 60%, 60% to

75% and 75% to 100% were indicated as low, moderate, substantial, and considerable heterogeneity, respectively.

#### **RESULTS**

#### **Study and patient characteristics**

The literature search resulted in 439 articles (Figure 1). After preliminary screening of titles and abstracts, 17 articles were selected to be reviewed as full text. Of these, 10 articles, published between 2015 and 2019, matched the selection criteria and were included for quantitative syntheses. Seven studies were performed in the United States (227 patients), 2 in France (49 patients), and 1 study was from China (16 patients). All studies but 2 were single-center experiences. Eight studies had a retrospective design. Otherwise the studies by Rodriguez and Jacques were prospective. The average Newcastle Ottawa score was 5.5 (range 5-6). Studies characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

The 10 studies reported outcomes of 292 patients treated with G-POEM for refractory GP. Seventy-six out of 272 patients (27.9%) were males (provided by 9 studies) and the mean age was of 50.5 ± 6.0 years, ranging from 45.0 to 63.5 years (provided by 8 studies). In terms of etiology 76 out of 292 (26.7%) patients had a postsurgical GP, 78 of 292 (26.7%) patients had diabetes-associated GP, and 15 out of 292, 5.1% had other underlying conditions. The remained patients were classified as idiopathic (121/292, 41.5%).

All of the included patients had previously failed first line medical treatments with pro-kinetics. Nine studies (285 patients) reported any previous interventional approach: the most diffuse procedures were the botulinum toxin intrapyloric injection (28.1%) and gastric electrical stimulator (12.6%). Four and one patients underwent transpyloric stenting (1.4%) and dilation (0.3%), respectively. Laparoscopic pyloric surgery had been previously performed in 4 patients (1.4%). Preprocedural patients characteristic of each study are provided in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2.

#### **Procedural outcomes**

The endoscopic pyloromyotomy was feasible in all the 292 procedures, irrespective of the endoscopic approach. Most of the procedures were performed with a greater curvature approach (55.5%). Otherwise the lesser curvature was chosen for tunnelling in the 33.2% of cases. Finally, in 16 and 17 patients an anterior or posterior wall approach was preferred, respectively.

The mean myotomy length was  $2.7 \pm 0.7$  cm, ranging from 2.0 to 3.5 cm (reported by 6 studies). Either clipping (266/285 cases) or suturing (21/285) were the 2 closure strategies to have the gastric mucosotomy sealed. Two patients were reported to undergo both endosuturing and clip placement in the series by Kahaleh et al.

Overall, a mean procedure duration of  $62.4 \pm 27.0$  minutes (33.8-119.0) was reported by 8 studies. Procedural outcomes are summarized in Table 2 and a brief technical comment is provided in Appendix 2. Procedural characteristics of each study are provided in Supplementary Table 3

#### Clinical success

The mean follow up period was  $7.8 \pm 5.5$  months in the 10 studies. Significant symptomatic improvement (provided by 8 studies) was achieved after 83.9% (95% CI, 78.5 - 89.3;  $I^2 - 0\%$ ; p = 0.928) of the procedures (Figure 2). The result of meta-regression analysis showed no significant relationships between clinical success rate and patients characteristics such as gender, age, GP etiology, preprocedural GCSI score, and GES evaluation, and previous pylorus-directed treatment (Table 3).

Six studies reported the pre- and postprocedural Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index score: the mean preprocedural GCSI score was  $3.3 \pm 0.6$  and the mean postprocedural GCSI score dropped to  $1.61 \pm 0.61$  (p < 0.001).

When comparing the mean values of pre- and postprocedural scintigraphic evolution, there was a significant decreasing of the residual percentage at 2 and 4 hours:  $74.9 \pm 5.2$  % versus  $52.5 \pm 10.8$  % (p value: <0.001), and  $44.1 \pm 13.0$  % versus  $20.6 \pm 9.5$  % (p < 0.001), respectively. Pre- and postprocedural GCSI and scintigraphic evolution of each study are provided in Supplementary Table 4.

#### **Adverse events**

Based on the data reported by all the studies, 26 procedures resulted in adverse events, yielding an overall pooled rate of 6.8% (95% CI, 2.4 - 11.2;  $I^2 - 60.8\%$ ; p = 0.006) (Figure 3). Immediate and postprocedural bleedings occurred in the 1.9% (95% CI, -0.1 to 3.9;  $I^2 - 27.8\%$ ; p = 0.188) (Supplementary Figure 1) and 2.6% (95% CI, 0.8 - 4.5;  $I^2 - 0\%$ ; p = 0.969) (Supplementary Figure 2) of procedures, respectively. Gastric ulcers were reported in 5 cases, with a pooled rate of 2.3% (95% CI, 0.6 - 4.0;  $I^2 - 0\%$ ; p = 0.998) (Supplementary Figure 3). Moreover, perforations and peritoneal abscess were reported in 3 and 1 cases, respectively. Late events such as pyloric strictures were reported after 1% (95% CI, -0.1% to 2.2%;  $I^2 - 0\%$ ; p = 0.962) of cases (Supplementary Figure 4).

Finally, the mean duration of hospital stay was  $3.4 \pm 1.6$  days, ranging from 1.3 to 6.0.

Safety outcomes of each study are provided in Supplementary Table 5.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Gastroparesis remains a difficult clinical problem with few definitive, tolerable, and sustaining solutions. For refractory cases, pylorus-directed surgical options are too invasive, and endoscopic approaches seems to have conflicting results in term of both efficacy and safety. The technical feasibility and clinical success of esophageal POEM for achalasia has opened "third-space" doors for the treatment of other gastro intestinal motility disorders including gastroparesis, in which pylorospasm contributes to the underlying problem.

In our systematic review, the reported technical outcomes, clinical success, and adverse events were comprehensively evaluated. The efficacy data of G-POEM are relevant for the following reasons. A technical success rates of 100% coupled with a favourable safety profile, conclusively reassure on the technical feasibility of the procedure. This is not surprising given the procedural similarity with POEM. The esophageal procedure has already shown such high technical success rates [15],

although being slightly less feasible in patients undergone previous interventional treatment [16,17]. In our analysis, we could not categorize outcomes for G-POEM according to previous treatment, owing to limited available data, however considering the technical success rate recorded, prior treatment does not seem to result in inability to perform the procedure.

Secondly, although the definition of clinical success is still not standardized, G-POEM appears to be an effective options (83.9 %), with a significant improvement of both GCSI and scintigraphic studies. Our analysis supports the previous findings on pylorus-directed therapies, about improving nausea and vomiting, early satiety (both reported in GCSI score) and gastric emptying time at gastric scintigraphy [28, 29]. Currently, there are no reliable data to help in predicting which patients would benefit the most from G-POEM. In this setting GCSI score itself, aiming to capture symptoms related purely to pylorospasm, could be considered as an easy-to-use indicator of likelihood of responding to pyloromyotomy. Further, although not investigated in most of the included studies, objective parameters other than GES, such as pyloric manometry and impedance planimetry are being proposed as tools for outcomes prediction [30, 31]. Aiming to predict the patient benefit, we run a univariate metaregression investigating whether patient characteristics, GP etiology, preprocedural evaluation, and previous pylorus-directed treatment were related to G-POEM efficacy. No relations were founded; however, the limited sample size probably make our analysis underpowered to definitively rule out such relationships. Indeed, in our opinion only a better insight on the physiopathological mechanism of gastroparesis would permit a real breakthrough in better orienting within our therapeutic armamentarium.

Nevertheless, waiting for future evidences on these tools, considering the proposed mechanism that certain symptoms (ie, nausea/vomiting and early satiety) correlate with definite pathopysiological alteration (ie, pylorus dysfunction) [32-34], coupled with our data on GCSI score significantly improving after G-POEM, at the moment this symptomatic score could be considered a more feasible surrogate for preprocedural assessment in clinical practice.

However, it should be addressed that conclusions of our analysis are affected by several

shortcomings inherent to the included studies. First of all, being G-POEM a relatively new technique, long-term data on symptom relief are still lacking. Moreover, all the individual experiences but one [27], enrolled less than 50 patients, preventing any reliable estimate on G-POEM outcomes. Nevertheless, in our opinion a comprehensive sample size of almost 300 patients followed up for more than 6 months, permits us to reassure on the benefit of this technique.

Second of all, none of the included studies reported a head-to-head comparison with either surgical or endoscopic pylorus-directed therapies. The lack of interventional-designed studies keeps the overall level of evidence supporting G-POEM for GP still low. However, reassuring on the safety profile of G-POEM, our study may be informative for designing such comparative studies.

Conversely, one of the main strengths of our analysis is the only mild-to-moderate interstudy heterogeneity reported across the different outcomes, leading to robust estimates. Secondly, the precise overview on technical features (ie, site for tunnelling and myotomy, length of myotomy, closure strategy, procedural time, length of hospital stay) give to the reader the opportunity to become familiar even with the most practical aspects of this cutting edge technique.

In conclusion, G-POEM appears as a promising endoscopic technique with convincing data in terms of both subjective and objective efficacy outcomes in the short term, and a reassuring safety profile. While waiting to prove possible superiority to other pylorus-directed interventional approaches in large controlled trials, it may be suggested by expert endoscopists when dealing with refractory gastroparesis.

#### References

- 1. Parkman HP, Hasler WL, Fisher RS, American Gastroenterological A. American Gastroenterological Association technical review on the diagnosis and treatment of gastroparesis. Gastroenterology 2004; 127: 1592–622.
- 2. Wang YR, Fisher RS, Parkman HP. Gastroparesis-related hospitalizations in the United States: trends, characteristics, and outcomes, 1995-2004. Am. J. Gastroenterol. 2008; 103: 313–22.
- 3. Jones KL, Russo A, Stevens JE, Wishart JM, Berry MK, Horowitz M. Predictors of delayed gastric emptying in diabetes. Diabetes Care 2001; 24: 1264–9.
- 4. Oh JH, Pasricha PJ. Recent advances in the pathophysiology and treatment of gastroparesis. J Neurogastroenterol Motil. 2013; 19: 18–24.

- 5. Acosta A, Camilleri M. Prokinetics in gastroparesis. Gastroenterol. Clin. North Am. 2015; 44: 97–111.l.
- 6. Mearin F, Camilleri M, Malagelada JR. Pyloric dysfunction in diabetics with recurrent nausea and vomiting. Gastroenterology. 1986;90:1919–25.
- 7. Gourcerol G, Tissier F, Melchior C, Touchais JY, Huet E, Prevost G, et al. Impaired fasting pyloric compliance in gastroparesis and the therapeutic response to pyloric dilatation. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2015;41:360–7.
- 8. Malik Z, Sankineni A, Parkman HP. Assessing pyloric sphincter pathophysiology using EndoFLIP in patients with gastroparesis. Neurogastroenterol Motil. 2015;27:524–31.
- 9. Toro JP, Lytle NW, Patel AD et al. Efficacy of laparoscopic pyloroplasty for the treatment of gastroparesis. J. Am. Coll. Surg. 2014; 218: 652–60.
- 10. Clarke JO, Snape WJ Jr. Pyloric sphincter therapy: botulinum toxin, stents, and pyloromyotomy. Gastroenterol. Clin. North Am. 2015; 44: 127–36.
- 11. Sarosiek I, Davis B, Eichler E, McCallum RW. Surgical approaches to treatment of gastroparesis: gastric electrical stimulation, pyloroplasty, total gastrectomy and enteral feeding tubes. Gastroenterol. Clin. North Am. 2015; 44: 151–67.
- 12. Khashab MA, Stein E, Clarke JO et al. Gastric peroral endoscopic myotomy for refractory gastroparesis: first human endoscopic pyloromyotomy (with video). Gastrointest. Endosc. 2013; 78: 764–8.
- 13. Inoue H, Minami H, Kobayashi Y et al. Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) for esophageal achalasia. Endoscopy 2010; 42: 265-271
- 14. Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and metaanalysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elabora-tion and explanation. BMJ 2015;g7647:350
- 15. Barbieri LA, Hassan C, Rosati R, Romario UF, Correale L, Repici A. Systematic review and metaanalysis: Efficacy and safety of POEM for achalasia. United European Gastroenterol J. 2015;3:325–334.
- 16. Ngamruengphong S, Inoue H, Ujiki MB, et al. Efficacy and Safety of Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy for Treatment of Achalasia After Failed Heller Myotomy. Clin Gstroenterol Hepatol. 2017;15:1531-1537.
- 17. Tyberg A, Sharaiha RZ, Familiari P, et al. Peroral endoscopic myotomy as salvation technique post-Heller: International experience. Dig Endosc 2018; 30:52-56.
- 18. Shlomovitz, E., Pescarus, R., Cassera, M.A. et al. Early human experience with per-oral endoscopic pyloromyotomy (POP). Surg Endosc 2015; 29: 543.
- 19. Gonzalez, JM, Benezech, A, Vitton, V, Barthet, M. G-POEM with antro-pyloromyotomy for the treatment of refractory gastroparesis: mid-term follow-up and focus on outcome predictive factors. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2017; 46: 364–370.
- 20. Xue, H.B., Fan, H.Z., Meng, X.M. et al. Fluoroscopy-guided gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy (G-POEM): a more reliable and efficient method for treatment of refractory gastroparesis. Surg Endosc 2017; 31: 4617.
- 21. Kahaleh M, Gonzalez JM, Xu M, Andalib I et al. Gastric peroral endoscopic myotomy for the treatment of refractory gastroparesis: a multicenter international experience. Endoscopy 2018; 50(11): 1053-1058.
- 22. Malik, Z., Kataria, R., Modayil, R. et al. Gastric Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (GPOEM) for the Treatment of Refractory Gastroparesis: Early Experience. Dig Dis Sci 2018; 63: 2405.
- 23. Jiaxin Xu, Tianyin Chen, Shaimaa Elkholy, et al., Gastric Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (G-POEM) as a Treatment for Refractory Gastroparesis: Long-Term Outcomes. Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, vol. 2018, 10 pages, 2018.
- 24. Jacques J, Pagnon L, Hure F et al. Peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy is efficacious and safe for refractory gastroparesis: prospective trial with assessment of pyloric function. Endoscopy 2019; 51: 40 49.
- 25. Mekaroonkamol, Parit et al. Gastric Peroral Endoscopic Pyloromyotomy Reduces Symptoms, Increases Quality of Life, and Reduces Health Care Use For Patients With Gastroparesis. Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2019, Volume 17, Issue 1, 82 89.
- 26. Khashab, Mouen A. et al. Gastric per-oral endoscopic myotomy for refractory gastroparesis: results from the first multicenter study on endoscopic pyloromyotomy (with video). Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2017, Volume 85, Issue 1, 123 128.

- 27. John Rodriguez, Andrew Strong, Ivy Haskins, et al. Per-oral Pyloromyotomy (POP) for Medically Refractory Gastroparesis: Short Term Results From the First 100 Patients at a High Volume Center. Annals of Surgery 2018; 268:421-430.
- 28. Khashab MA, Besharati S, Ngamruengphong S, et al. Refractory gastroparesis can be successfully managed with endoscopic transpyloric stent placement and fixation (with video). Gastrointest Endosc 2015;82:1106–1109.
- 29. Friedenberg FK, Palit A, Parkman HP, et al. Botulinum toxin A for the treatment of delayed gastric emptying. Am J Gastroenterol 2008;103:416–423.
- 30. Malik Z, Sankineni A, Parkman H. Assessing pyloric sphincter pathophysiology using EndoFLIP in patients with gastroparesis. Neurogastroenterol Motil 2015;27:524–531.
- 31. Mekaroonkamol P, Li L, Cai Q. The role of pyloric manometry in gastric per-oral endoscopic pyloromyotomy (G-POEM): response to Jacques et al. Neurogastroenterol Motil 2017;29:1.
- 32. Abell TL, Camilleri M, Donohoe K, et al. Consensus recommendations for gastric emptying scintigraphy: a joint report of the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society and the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Am J Gastroenterol 2008; 103:753–763.
- 33. Gonlachanvit S, Maurer A, Fisher R, et al. Regional gastric emptying abnormalities in functional dyspepsia and gastrooesophageal reflux disease. Neurogastroenterol Motil 2006; 18:894–904. 24.
- 34. Maurer AH, Parkman HP. Update on gastrointestinal scintigraphy. Semin Nucl Med 2006;36:110–118.

Author	Publication	Year	Country	Design	Mono/multicenter	NOS	Patients (n)
J. Xu	Full text	2018	China	Retrospective	Mono	5	16
Z. Malik	Full text	2018	USA	Retrospective	Mono	5	13
E. Shlomovitz	Full text	2015	USA	Retrospective	Mono	5	7
J. Jacques	Full text	2019	France	Prospective	Mono	5	20
P. Mekaroonkamol	Full text	2019	USA	Retrospective	Mono	6	30
J.M. Gonzalez	Full text	2017	France	Retrospective	Mono	6	29
M. Kahaleh	Full text	2018	USA	Retrospective	Multicenter	6	33
M.A. Khashab	Full text	2017	USA	Retrospective	Multicenter	6	30
J.H. Rodriguez	Full text	2018	USA	Prospective	Mono	6	100
H.B. Xue	Full text	2017	USA	Retrospective	Mono	5	14

 Table 1: studies characteristics. NOS: Newcastle-Ottawa Scale

Procedural outcomes	Results
Technical success (%)	292/292 (100)
Endoscopic approach (%)	
Great curvature	• 162/292 (55,5)
Lesser curvature	• 97/292 (33,2)
Anterior wall	• 16/292 (5,5)
Posterior wall	• 17/292 (5,8)
Mean myotomy length (cm)	$2.7 \pm 0.7$
Closure strategy (%)	285/292 (97,6)
• Clipping	• 266/285 (93,3)
Suturing	• 21/285 (7,7)
Mean procedure duration (min)	$62,4 \pm 27,0$

Table 2: procedural outcomes. Two patients underwent both endo-suturing and clip placement.

Variable	Coefficient	lower limit of 2.5%	upper limit of 97.5%	P value
Mean Age	0,00	-0,08	0,08	0,947
Male (%)	-0,17	-2,49	2,14	0,884

Etiology: postsurgical GP (%)	-0,41	-2,12	1,30	0,637
Etiology: diabetic GP(%)	1,18	-2,02	4,38	0,470
Etiology: idiopatic GP(%)	-0,57	-3,01	1,87	0,646
Mean GCSI score	0,48	-0,68	1,65	0,415
GES (half emptying time)	0,00	-0,01	0,01	0,446
GES (retention at 2 hours)	0,04	-0,08	0,15	0,551
GES (retention at 4 hours)	-0,01	-0,04	0,03	0,784
Previous treatment: dilation (%)	-6,79	-22,11	8,52	0,384
Previous treatment: Botox (%)	-0,32	-1,72	1,09	0,660
Previous treatment: pyloric surgery (%)	-5,74	-17,45	5,97	0,336
Previous treatment: transpyloric stenting (%)	2,90	-5,64	11,44	0,505
Previous treatment: gastric stimulator (%)	-3,25	-8,16	1,667	0,195

Table 3: Metaregression analysis \* All continuous variables were mean-centered variables. GP: Grastoparesis; GCSI: Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index; GES: Gastric Emptying Scintigraphy.

#### **FIGURE Legends**

Figure 1: Flow chart of the study selection process.

**Figure 2:** Forest plot reporting the rates of clinical success. CI: confidence interval. RE: random effect.

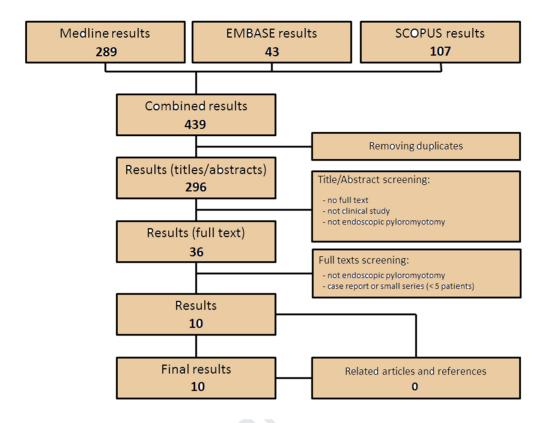
Figure 3: Forest plot reporting the rates of adverse events. CI: confidence interval. RE: random effect.

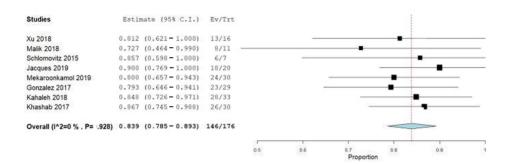
**Supplementary figure 1:** Forest plot reporting the rates of intraprocedural bleeding. CI: confidence interval. RE: random effect.

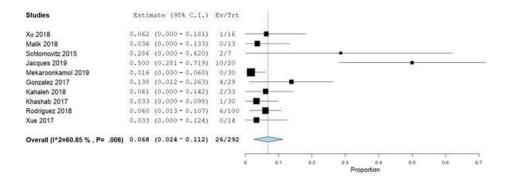
**Supplementary figure 2**: Forest plot reporting the rates of postprocedural bleeding. CI: confidence interval. RE: random effect.

**Supplementary figure 3:** Forest plot reporting the rates of ulcer formation. CI: confidence interval. RE: random effect.

**Supplementary figure 4:** Forest plot reporting the rates of stricture. CI: confidence interval. RE: random effect.







#### Appendix 1

#### Data sources and search strategy

A comprehensive electronic literature search was conducted in PubMed/MEDLINE, EMBASE and Scopus (up to January 20<sub>th</sub> 2019) to identify eligible studies that performed Gastric Peroral Endoscopic Pyloromyotomy (G-POEM) for Refractory Gastroparesis. PROSPERO was searched for ongoing or recently completed systematic reviews. Electronic searches were supplemented by manual searches of references of included studies and review articles. Literature search was performed and verified by two authors (MS; MC).

The search for studies of relevance was performed using the following text words and corresponding Medical Subject Heading/Entree terms when possible: "pyloromyotomy", "G-POEM". The Medline search strategy was: ("pyloromyotomy"[MeSH Terms] OR "pyloromyotomy"[All Fields] OR "g poem"[All Fields]) OR ("pyloromyotomy"[MeSH Terms] OR "pyloromyotomy"[All Fields]).

#### **Selection process**

Two review authors (MS; MC) independently screened the titles and abstracts yielded by the search against the inclusion criteria. Full reports were obtained for all titles that appeared to meet the inclusion criteria or where there was any uncertainty. Review author pairs then screened the full text and abstract reports and decided whether these met the inclusion criteria. Disagreements were resolved through discussion of all the authors. The reasons for excluding trials were recorded. Neither of the review authors was blinded to the journal titles or to the study authors or institutions. When there were multiple articles for a single study, we used the latest publication and supplemented it, if necessary, with data from the more complete version.

#### **Data extraction**

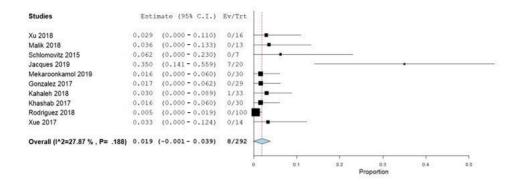
Using standardized forms, two reviewers (MS, MC) extracted data independently and in duplicate from each eligible study. Reviewers resolved disagreements by discussion, and the arbitrators (RM and AR) unresolved disagreements. The following data were extracted for each study: first author, year of publication, study design, number of centers, number of patients, age, gender, gastroparesis aetiology, previous interventional treatments, endoscopic approach (greater or lesser curvature) myotomy length, mean procedural time, technical success, clinical success, pre- and post-procedural assessment of gastroparesis cardinal symptom index (GCSI), pre- and post-procedural assessment of gastric emptying scintigraphy, mean hospital stay, adverse events such as intra-procedural bleed, post-procedural bleed, stricture and perforation. In order to retrieve all data with homegeneity among studies, we had requested the corresponding authors from studies for necessary information if not reported in the manuscript.

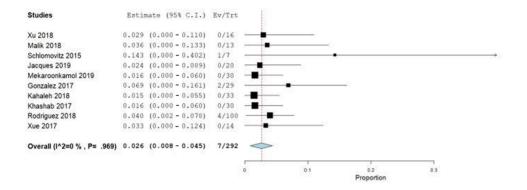
#### **Quality assessment**

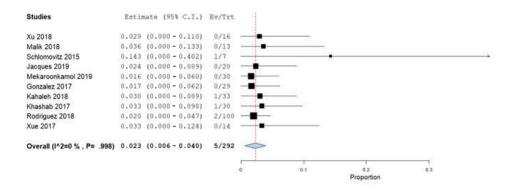
Quality was assessed by the modified Newcastle-Ottawa Scale for non-randomized studies, ranging from 0 (low-quality) to 5 (high-quality). Two reviewers (MS, MC) assessed quality measures for included studies and discrepancies were adjudicated by collegial discussion.

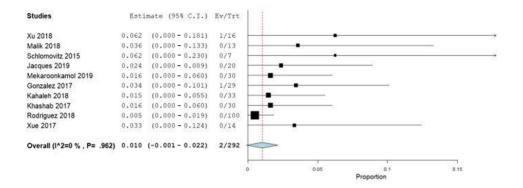
G-POEM uses the principles of submucosal endoscopy to identify and dissect the pyloric ring. Technical variations of G-POEM include different myotomy orientations, myotomy length, and mucosotomy closure tools. Most experts utilize a greater curvature approach as it permits easy entry into the tunnel and subsequent myotomy. Recently, a lesser curvature approach was described. One advantage of this latter approach is that it avoids the dependent area of the stomach and, thus, stomach contents do not interfere with visualization during the procedure. There are currently no comparative studies between both approaches. In terms of tunnel and myotomy length, most experts perform a short (3–4-cm) tunnel to(1) ensure straight and direct access to the pylorus and avoid tunneling away from the ring and (2) avoid a long antral myotomy which theoretically may worsen gastroparesis. The final step of mucosal closure can be harder in the stomach as compared with the esophagus because of the thick mucosa, frequent presence of mucosal edema, and decreased tissue elasticity in the stomach. Nevertheless, mucosal closure using endoclips is successful in the vast majority of cases. Closure using endoscopic suturing can be utilized if clip closure is not possible.

1. Rodriguez J, Strong AT, Haskins IN, et al. Per-oral Pyloromyotomy (POP) for Medically Refractory Gastroparesis: Short Term Results From the First 100 Patients at a High Volume Center. Ann Surg 2018;268:421-430.









				Aetiology				
Reference	Patients (n)	Mean Age (years)	M (n)	PS (n)	Diabetic (n)	Idiopatic (n)	Other (n)	
J. Xu, 2018	16	63.5	11	13	3	0	0	
Z. Malik, 2018	13	45.7	6	8	1	4	0	
E. Shlomovitz, 2015	7	51.0	0	2	0	5	0	
J. Jacques, 2019	20	NA	NA	1	10	4	5	
P. Mekaroonkamol, 2019	30	47.0	4	5	12	12	1	
J.M. Gonzalez, 2017	29	52.8	10	5	7	15	2	
M. Kahaleh, 2018	33	52.0	11	12	7	12	2	
M.A. Khashab, 2017	30	47.0	13	12	11	7	0	
J.H. Rodriguez, 2018	100	45.0	15	19	21	56	4	
H.B. Xue, 2017	14	NA	6	1	6	6	1	

**Supplementary Table 1**: *Preprocedural patients characteristics*. M: males; PS: postsurgical; NA: not available

			Previous treatment					
Reference	Patients (n)	Dilation (n)	EFT (n)	BT (n)	PS (n)	PEJ (n)	T-S (n)	G-S (n)
J. Xu, 2018	16	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Z. Malik, 2018	13	1	0	11	1	0	0	3
E. Shlomovitz, 2015	7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
J. Jacques, 2019	20	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
P. Mekaroonkamol, 2019	30	0	4	1	2	2	0	4
J.M. Gonzalez, 2017	29	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
M. Kahaleh, 2018	33	0	0	4	0	0	0	2
M.A. Khashab, 2017	30	0	0	12	0	1	4	0
J.H. Rodriguez, 2018	100	0	26	46	1	12	0	21
H.B. Xue, 2017	14	0	0	3	0	0	0	2

**Supplementary Table 2**: *Pre-procedural patients characteristics*. EFT: enteral feeding tube; BT: botulinum toxin; PS: pyloric surgery; PEJ: percutaneous endoscopic jejunostomy; T-S: transpyloric stent placement; G-S: gastric stimulator; NA: not available.

		Endoscopic approach			Closure incision					
Reference	Patients (n)	GC (n)	LC (n)	AW (n)	PW (n)	Myotomy length (cm)	M-C (n)	S-D (n)	Technical success (n)	Mean time (min)
J. Xu, 2018	16	16	0	0	0	NA	13	3	16	45
Z. Malik, 2018	13	13	0	0	0	3.5	0	13	13	119
E. Shlomovitz, 2015	7	0	0	7	0	2.0	NA	NA	7	N.A.
J. Jacques, 2019	20	20	0	0	0	NA	20	0	20	56
P. Mekaroonkamol, 2019	30	30	0	0	0	NA	30	0	30	48
J.M. Gonzalez, 2017	29	29	0	0	0	2.0	29	0	29	47
M. Kahaleh, 2018	33	31	2	0	0	3.3	32	3	33	77
M.A. Khashab, 2017	30	19	0	9	2	2.6	28	2	30	72
J.H. Rodriguez, 2018	100	4	95	0	1	NA	100	0	100	33
H.B. Xue, 2017	14	0	0	0	14	3.0	14	0	14	N.A.

**Supplementary Table 3**: *Procedural characteristics*. Myotomy length is reported asy mean (cm). GC: great curvature; LC: lesser curvature; AW: anterior wall; PW: posterior wall; M-C: metal clips; S-D: suturing device; NA: not available.

		Mea	Mean GCSI Mean GES pretreatment			Mean GES post-treatment			
Reference	Patients (n)	pre-GPOEM	post-GPOEM	H-E time (min)	Ret at 2h (%)	Ret at 4h (%)	H-E time (min)	Ret at 2h (%)	Ret at 4h (%)
J. Xu, 2018	16	N.A.	N.A.	183	69	N.A.	84	33	N.A.
Z. Malik, 2018	13	2,2	1,9	NA	78	49	NA	60	33
E. Shlomovitz, 2015	7	NA	NA	124	NA	21	58	NA	4
J. Jacques, 2019	20	3,5	1,8	345	82	58	100	56	15
P. Mekaroonkamol, 2019	30	3,5	1,8	N.A.	N.A.	63	N.A.	N.A.	22
J.M. Gonzalez, 2017	29	3,3	0,95	202	70	40	130	55	28
M. Kahaleh, 2018	33	3,3	0,8	222	76	45	143	58	30
M.A. Khashab, 2017	30	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	37	N.A.	N.A.	17
J.H. Rodriguez, 2018	100	3,8	2,4	N.A.	N.A.	40	N.A.	N.A.	16
H.B. Xue, 2017	14	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

**Supplementary Table 4**: *Pre- and postprocedural GCSI and scintigraphic evolution*. GCSI: Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index; GPOEM: gastric peroral endoscopic pyloromyotomy; H-E: half-emptying; Ret at 2h/4h: retention at 2 hours/4hours; N.A.: not available.

			Adverse events							
		Hospital	Immediate	Late bleeding						
Reference	Patients (n)	stay (days)	bleeding (n)	(n)	Ulcer (n)	Peritoneal abscess (n)	Str (n)	Prf (n)	Overall (n)	
J. Xu, 2018	16	6,0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Z. Malik, 2018	13	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
E. Shlomovitz, 2015	7	2,3	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	
J. Jacques, 2019	20	3,7	7	0	0	0	0	3	10	
P. Mekaroonkamol, 2019	30	2,4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
J.M. Gonzalez, 2017	29	NA	0	2	0	1	1	0	4	
M. Kahaleh, 2018	33	5,4	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	
M.A. Khashab, 2017	30	3,3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
J.H. Rodriguez, 2018	100	1,3	0	4	2	0	0	0	6	
H.B. Xue, 2017	14	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

**Supplementary Table 5**: Safety outcomes. Hospital stay: mean duration of hospital stay; Str: stricture; Prf: perforation; NA: not available.

#### **ACRONYMS**

**GP:** Gastroparesis

**G-POEM:** Gastric Peroral Endoscopic Pyloromyotomy

**POEM:** Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy

PRISMA: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

GCSI: Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptom Index

**GES:** Gastric Emptying Scintigraphy