

Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection: Experience in Portugal

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Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the paper by Costa et al. [1] entitled “Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection for the Treatment of Superficial Epithelial Gastric Neoplasia in a Portuguese Centre”.

Costa et al. reported their experience of 114 ESDs in gastric neoplastic lesions, with very good results. This is a very significant single-operator casuistic. In fact, at the time of the initial submission of the paper (November 2017), that was “the second largest Portuguese case series report published,” as stated in the manuscript.

In his Editorial [2] published in the same issue, Baldaque-Silva made a description of the ESD panorama in Portugal, citing other published Portuguese ESD series [3, 4].

Besides those series cited by Costa et al. and Baldaque-Silva, Santos-Antunes et al. [5] published at the beginning of 2018 the initial experience of 301 ESDs performed between 2011 and May 2017 at the Gastroenterology De-

partment of the Centro Hospitalar S. João, where we will probably achieve the 500th procedure during the current year.

In Portugal, we have overall published more than 600 ESDs in different centers, which represents the largest series in a single Western country. The outcome reported in all of these series is very good, in fact approaching in some cases the Eastern outcome. As Baldaque-Silva stated [2], the good results found in gastric ESD will lead to the implementation of esophageal and colorectal ESD. We absolutely agree, as this is already implemented in our hospital, where we had performed 118 colorectal and 10 esophageal ESDs since 2015. This is particularly true for the rectum, where we always perform ESD in large lesions in order to avoid a piecemeal resection in this topography.

As he also stated [2], the future is bright. It would certainly be brighter if the different institutions make an additional effort to work together, for example, in multicentric prospective studies. Since the beginning of the ESD practice in Portugal, we have now probably already surpassed 1,000 ESDs in all Portuguese centers. We all should be proud of this landmark and of the quality of endoscopy that is practiced in Portugal, and we must be recognized as a reference country regarding the ESD practice in Europe.

Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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