

**This item is the archived peer-reviewed author-version of:**

Reply to the letter to the editor concerning : 'Changes in swallowing-related quality of life after endoscopic treatment for Zenkers Diverticulum Using SWAL-QOL Questionnaire'

**Reference:**

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The authors reply:

Ishaq et al. raise some interesting points regarding the results of the use the SWAL-QOL questionnaire for the assessment of swallowing-related quality of life after endoscopic treatment for Zenker's diverticulum (ZD) (ref CC).

First, the notice of the fact that SWAL-QOL does not address the symptom of regurgitation, should indeed be regarded as a limitation of its use for the evaluation of this particular symptom in ZD patients both at baseline and during follow-up after ZD treatment. Potentially, this shortcoming might lead to a validated modification of SWAL-QOL and/or other questionnaire towards a more ZD-oriented enquiry. In fact, this would envisage some modifications in terms of adding questions related to regurgitation. As this complaint, also in our study (ref CC), is a common symptom in ZD patients (48%) at presentation. In addition, as clearly pointed out by Ishaq et al., relapse of this specific complaint might usually suggests ZD recurrence (ref letter).

Second, we believe that the high rates of participant's non-engagement (37.5%) in our study is not really due to the relatively long time needed to fill out SWAL-QOL questionnaire, but rather due to the high age-related prevalence of ZD cohorts (mean age being .... years in the present trial) , and the unwillingness/difficulty to work with the computer.

Another important point of our present trial is that the main goal of the authors was to assess and estimate mean SWAL-QOL baseline values in ZD patients seeking treatment. In addition, we were able to report on changes in SWAL-QOL values after endoscopic ZD treatment over a short postoperative follow-up period of 3 weeks on average. Hier nog zeggen dat die follow-up te kort is om recidieven al te detecteren en dat dit onderwerp is van ongoing en future clinical trials.

This trial was not aiming for long term results nor for the detection of recurrences