Consensus on digestive endoscopic tunnel technique

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The Digestive Endoscopic Tunnel Technique (DETT) is utilized to establish a “tunnel” of the digestive tract; thus, many diseases calling for surgical treatment previously can be treated by digestive endoscopic therapy, which is superior to surgical treatment with minimal invasion and faster post-operative recovery rate. Emergence of the DETT has boosted endoscopic treatment, as a milestone significantly expanding its range. The DETT based on such technique has gradually developed with plenty of improvements and has been carried out in numerous hospitals successively worldwide. At present, no consensus has been reached about the indications, contraindications, intraoperative endoscopic operation specifications and patient's perioperative treatment for this technique. The principle of DETT is quite simple and shown as follows: DETT divides the digestive tract wall into one to two layers (mucous and MP) and maintains the integrity of mucous or MP to isolate the digestive lumen and other body lacunas, thus avoiding the entry of gas and digestive fluids while guaranteeing the integrity of the anatomical structure during treatment. In recent years, the advanced evidence-based medical research achievements have sprung up constantly, promoting the rapid development of endoscopic tunnel technique. Hence, it is urgent to formulate a Consensus on Digestive Endoscopic Tunnel Technique, in which the level of evidence (adopted in evidence-based medicine) will be classified, with recommendation levels also listed.

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