Re: Surg Endosc (2009) 23:1142–1145, DOI:10.1007/s00464-009-0382-x (published online 5 March 2009). Erica P. Podolsky, Steven J. Rottman, Paul G. Curcillo II. Single Port Access (SPATM) gastrostomy tube in patients unable to receive percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy placement

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To the editors:

The method described by the authors, although using a single port access (SPATM) entry, really requires two punctures: one to insert the device and the second one to insert the gastrostomy tube itself. In these days of credit crunching, the authors fail to demonstrate any advantage and add an unjustifiable, extra cost over conventional laparoscopy.

We have previously described a true single-puncture method for the same indications using a single puncture of the abdominal cavity with conventional laparoscopy [1]. Should one wish to use a two-puncture method as described here, we use a simpler and cheaper way [2, 3].

The authors have made a simple procedure complicated and costly.

Disclosures

Dr. Ng has no financial ties or conflicts of interest to disclose.

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