

Reply to: a letter to the editors: Re: minimally invasive oesophagectomy: current status and future direction

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Received: 29 October 2011 / Accepted: 8 December 2011 / Published online: 5 April 2012
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We thank Maas et al. for their letter regarding our review article [1] of minimally invasive oesophagectomy for cancer published in *Surgical Endoscopy*. We also thank them for agreeing with the content of our paper, which is very encouraging.

The omission of Scheepers et al.'s paper [2] is regrettable, the inclusion of which would have been useful for readers.

We are looking forward to the results of the TIME trial [3], which will provide useful information regarding the differences when performing oesophagectomy via open

transthoracic versus minimally invasive transthoracic approach. I think this trial is long overdue.

Disclosures Dr M. A. Memon, Dr N. Butler, Dr S. Collins and Mrs B. Memon have no conflicts of interest or financial ties to disclose.

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