Reply from the Authors

Sir,

We still strongly feel that previous laparotomy should be considered a contraindication for percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG). Even if the PEG site is located by adequate transillumination and finger indentation it can still be fallacious in a thin patient. Previous laparotomies can cause interposition of small intestine between the anterior wall of stomach and the anterior abdominal wall. This may result in enterogastric fistula if the PEG catheter goes through the intestine. Also, in such a situation, the stomach may not get apposed to abdominal wall at the site of PEG resulting into peritubal leak and peritonitis. We therefore avoid PEG in a patient who has undergone laparotomy previously.

PEGs have been performed by others in patients of head injuries and cerebrovascular accidents. We perform PEG in patients of head injury at least one week after admission. It is not performed in acutely injured patients. A patient who has lost swallowing reflex and needs nasogastric tube feed for more than a week is subjected to PEG. In our institution, patients who are deeply unconscious have tracheostomy done within 48 hours after admission for maintenance of their airway as a policy. Hence maintenance of airway while PEG is being performed is not a problem.

We have not encountered deterioration in consciousness or fatal cerebellar herniation following PEG in any of our patients.

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References

ISG News

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34th Annual Conference

As already announced, the 34th Annual Conference of the Society will be held at Goa on October 14-17, 1993. Dr C P Kapoor (Professor and Head, Department of Medicine, Goa Medical College, Panaji, Goa) is the Organizing Secretary and he has already sent the circulars giving necessary information to the members. Some important information about this conference is given below.

a) Dates: Continuing Medical Education will be held on October 14 and the main conference on October 15-17. We expect several distinguished guest speakers from India and abroad. We are planning to have several state of the art lectures, symposia and panel discussion in the CME program. Similarly, in the main conference, besides free scientific papers there will be other features like guest lectures, ‘Recent Concepts in Gastroenterology’ and ‘Controversies in Gastroenterology’. Dr C P Kapoor and other members of the organizing committee are working very hard to make this conference a big success.

b) Plenary Session. As decided in the General Body meeting last year, papers for the plenary session would be selected by the scientific committee from all the abstracts received by ISG for the annual conference. The award which used to be given earlier for the best paper is being discontinued from 1993.

c) Young Investigator Award Session. A new session - ‘Young Investigator Award Session’ is being introduced from this year’s annual conference. Six papers selected by the scientific committee from full papers submitted by young investigators will be presented in this session. An Award will be given for the best paper.

d) Members may kindly note that delegate fee, request for accommodation or journey reservation, etc should be sent to the Organizing Secretary (Prof CP Kapoor) and not to the Honorary Secretary.

e) Members who are planning to attend the conference are requested to send the registration fee and information about the accommodation required by them.
to Prof. Kapoor at the earliest so that the required accommodation can be booked well in time.

**Governing Body Meeting**

The Governing Body will meet on the afternoon of October 14, 1993. The exact time, venue and agenda for this meeting will be communicated to the members soon.

**General Body Meeting**

The General Body Meeting will be held on November 15, 1993 at 6:00 pm. Kindly see the enclosed minutes of the 1992 General Body meeting (Annexure).

**Mid Term Meetings (1993-94)**

Applications are invited from members for two mid-term meetings during the year 1993-94. The application should include a brief outline of the proposed scientific program, course faculty and the number of persons expected to attend the meeting. Of the applications received, two centers will be selected and will receive a financial aid of Rs. 5000 each from the ISG Secretariat.

**Non-payment of membership dues**

Some of the 'Ordinary members' have not been paying their dues regularly. Dr. M. P. Sharma, Treasurer, ISG has already written to these members to clear the arrears. All such members are required to send the necessary dues to the treasurer (Dr. M. P. Sharma, Additional Professor, Department of Gastroenterology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi) without any further delay in order to avoid termination of their membership.

Looking forward to seeing you in Goa.

S. L. Bacroor
Honorary Secretary

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**ANNEXURE**

**Minutes of the General Body Meeting (1993) of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology**

The meeting of the General Body was held on the November 6, 1992 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. P. Gupta. President of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology. 36 members were present.

1. Minutes of the General Body meeting held at Trivandrum on October 7, 1992 were approved.

2. The Secretary informed the members about the actions taken on the minutes of the last year meeting.

3. The Secretary's report as approved by the Governing Body was presented and accepted.

4. An audited statement of accounts for the year 1991-92 and the budget for the year 1992-93 were presented and approved.

5. Mrs. Mehrotra and Mehrotra were reappointed as auditors.

6. Following items discussed in the Governing Body meeting were presented to the General Body:

a) **Venue for Mid Annual Conference.** Proposals had been received from 4 places (Goa, Hyderabad, Varanasi and Bombay). The General Body decided to hold the meeting in 1993 at Goa and in 1994 at Varanasi. Dr. C. P. Kapoor, Professor of Medicine, Medical College Goa will be the organizing secretary for 1993 meeting.

b) **Election Results.**

   President: Dr. D. K. Bhargava (1992-93) (elected unanimously)

   Vice President: Dr. D. N. Guha Mazumder (1992-93) (elected unanimously)

   Governing Council Members (1992-95):

   Dr. I. K. Agarwal
   Dr. I. L. N. Dalal

c) **New Members.** Applications for membership of various eligible candidates were approved.

d) **Mid term meetings.** Honorary Secretary requested the members to send applications to hold mid-term meetings of the ISG. ISG will give grant of Rs. 5000 each to two centers to hold these meetings.

7. **Plenary Session.** In order to improve the quality of papers for presentation at the Plenary Session, it was decided that the Scientific Committee of ISG will select six best papers from all the abstracts received by the ISG Secretariat for presentation in the Plenary Session. The award which is to be given earlier for the best paper is being discontinued from 1993.

8. **Young Investigator Award Session.** After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to introduce a new session 'Young Investigator Award Session' from 1993 annual conference. The guidelines for this session are as follows:

   i) A total of six best papers selected by the Scientific Committee of ISG will be presented in this session. The decision of the Scientific Committee about the selection of these papers would be final.

   ii) Authors will submit five copies of full paper along with 5 separate copies of the abstract to the Honorary Secretary, ISG.

   iii) The paper should be based on work done in India.

   iv) The presenting author should be less than 40 years of age on the first day of the annual conference.

   v) The paper should not have been published or presented earlier in any national or international meeting.

   vi) An award will be given to the best paper presented as assessed by a panel of judges. Senior India which used to sponsor the award for the Plenary Session is to be approached for sponsoring the award for this session.