CURRENT AVAILABILITY ISSUES OF REUSABLE THERAPEUTIC GASTROSCOPES

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BACKGROUND

Therapeutic gastroscope availability is a prevalent issue that can result in delays and disruptions to critical care in endoscopy suites, operating rooms, and intensive care units. If left unresolved, potentially lifesaving care for emergent cases may go untreated. Over the past decade, single-use endoscopes have shown promise in reducing procedural delays and disruption, given they forgo time-consuming reprocessing and the need to be sent out for repairs. The purpose of this study was to better understand the frequency and common causes of delays due to lack of therapeutic gastroscope availability and the potential impact of single-use therapeutic gastroscopes.

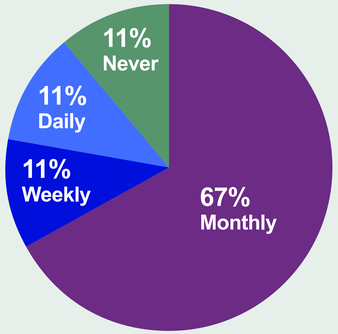
RESULTS

- **89%** (n=9) of survey respondents said that they experience delays due to therapeutic gastroscope availability.
- Of the physicians that cited delays due to availability issues:
  - 11% experienced delays daily
  - 11% experienced delays weekly
  - **67% experienced delays monthly**
  - 11% never experienced delay
- **Scope reprocessing was the most common reason for delays (77.77%).**
- **80% of physicians surveyed** believe that a single-use therapeutic gastroscope would enable them to treat patients more efficiently due to increased availability.

Table 1. Reason for therapeutic gastroscope delay

Reason for delay	Percent	Response Frequency (n=9)
Scope being reprocessed	77.77%	7
Scope out for repair	44.44%	4
Scope damaged/broken	11.11%	1
Scope being used by another provider	11.11%	1

Figure 2. Frequency of delays



METHODS

- 10 physicians at 5 large university hospitals in the United States completed 32 procedures requiring a therapeutic gastroscope.
- Following the completion of all cases, each participant completed a survey that included questions on endoscope-related delays and availability.
- Ambu aScope Gastro Large was used in each procedure
- Data was collected from April to June 2024.

DISCUSSION

- Given the frequency of delays with reusable therapeutic gastroscopes, a novel single-use gastroscope may allow physicians to treat patients more efficiently.
- Since single-use therapeutic gastroscopes are not subject to reprocessing or repairs, physicians may be able to capitalize on the increased availability and treat more patients.
- Other reasons for delays may exist since physicians may be unaware of the underlying causes for endoscope unavailability.

CONCLUSION

Nearly 90% of the physicians surveyed have experienced delays due to lack of therapeutic gastroscope availability, with 22% stating it occurs more than monthly. Single-use therapeutic gastroscopes avoid reprocessing, repairs, use in other departments, and damage since they are only used once. Utilization of single-use therapeutic gastroscopes may help healthcare facilities see a decrease in availability-related delays and disruptions. **Finally, 80% of the respondents agreed that single-use therapeutic gastroscopes would help them treat patients more efficiently, indicating that their impact goes beyond increasing availability and access.**