INTRODUCTION. In more than 75% of patients presenting with esophageal cancer the procedures performed are of type palliative and there is an ethical dilemma on the way to solve the major problem: the feeding. The objective of the present paper was to emphasize the significance of infiltrations with absolute alcohol to achieve the implantation of handmade esophageal prostheses using the traction method. METHODS. A linear and prospective study was performed in patients presenting with non-resectable esophageal cancer admitted between 1995 and 2009. A total of 112 patients were assessed with 65 of them treated using palliative methods. Fifty five esophageal prostheses were placed and in 10 of these cases it was necessary to tunnel the tumor with absolute alcohol infiltrations. RESULTS. The nasogastric tube was passed in 90% of patients needing infiltrations of absolute alcohol. One or two sessions were necessary but one of them needed three sessions of infiltrations without complications. CONCLUSIONS. The combination of absolute alcohol and prosthesis allows to eliminate the dysphagia in cases of advanced cancer and cardias. When there is a total stenosis, the absolute alcohol is an appropriate method to canalize the esophageal tumoral stenosis before placing the prosthesis. In most cases are enough 1 or 2 sessions of infiltrations.

Keywords
Esophageal cancer, canalization, infiltration, absolute alcohol.