

Manuscript ID: 42932

Manuscript Title: HCl-enhanced radiofrequency ablation in the treatment of large hepatocellular carcinoma in the caudate lobe: A report of 3 cases

Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

We have thoroughly read all the precious comments from viewers and we are appreciated those constructive criticisms. We took all the comments into serious consideration and revised our manuscript accordingly. We have highlighted the important changes and hope the revised version would fulfill the requirements of the journal.

Thank you very much

Response to Reviewers:

Reviewer #1: (Code: 00058345)

Comment: How much quantity of HCl was infused? Where is the data supporting the use of HCl referenced?

Response: Thanks a lot to your meaningful comment. The total quantity of HCl infused is depending on the ablation duration since the infusion speed is keeping 0.2mL/min during the whole ablation process. Among all four sessions of HRFA, the ablation duration were 60min, 30min, 60min, 15min, respectively. Thus, the total volume of infused HCl was 12mL, 6mL, 12mL, 3mL (highlight in the revised abstract).

HCl performed in patient was supported by our previous ex vivo and in vivo experiments listed followed

1. Yao W, Gu Y, Wang J, Gao F, Liu W, Huang J. Safety evaluation of a potential ablation agent—hydrochloric acid in the rabbits' model. *Ann Palliative Med*. 2014;3:250-62 (in vivo)
2. Huang J, Morelli JN, Ai F, Zou R, Gu Y, Gao F, et al. Hydrochloric acid-enhanced radiofrequency ablation for treating a large hepatocellular carcinoma with spontaneous rupture: a case report. *Chin J Cancer*. 2017;36:1 (ex vivo)
3. Zhang T Q, Huang S M, Gu Y K, et al. Safety and effect on ablation size of hydrochloric acid-perfused radiofrequency ablation in animal livers[J]. *International Journal of Hyperthermia*, 2018: 1-9 (in vivo)

Reviewer #2: (Code: 03521962)

Comment: This manuscript is well written and is of clinical significance. However, I have the following comments. Title: HCL should be written in full. Abstract: • Authors should ensure that all abbreviations used in this manuscript are written in full and abbreviation in parenthesis, thereafter abbreviation can be used, e.g., HCl, TACE, CT/MRI, PET/CT, PECIST. • Proper words spacing Discussion: (i) Peng ZW et al should be written as Peng et al (ii) "... to achieved" should be corrected. References: Adequate

Response: We are very appreciated to your carefully academic altitude. All abbreviation had been added and highlighted in the revised manuscript and grammar problem had been corrected.

Reviewer #3: (Code: 00053888)

Comment: This is a case report of 3 cases of HCC occurring in the caudate lobe of the liver that were treated with initially TACE but when the disease recurred/progressed during follow up the tumours were treated with RFA enhanced with HCl. The position of these tumors was technically challenging but they were treated safely and with what appears to be good effect. This is an important paper because it demonstrates safety & tolerability of treated tumors in this position with RFA. I think that the only issue is that the manuscript is too long for a 3 case report paper. If it could be considerably condensed then it would be worthy of publication.

Response: We are grateful to your meaningful comment and have condensed the manuscript and many grammar problem had been corrected.