

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 33724

**Title:** Extrahepatic metastases of hepatocellular carcinoma to the paravertebral muscle; a case report and literature review.

**Reviewer's code:** 01560036

**Reviewer's country:** Russia

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2017-02-28

**Date reviewed:** 2017-02-28

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Nice case with modern treatment. Adequate conclusions. The case is well illustrated. Interesting for readers.

## RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Thank you very much for your comment. We appreciate your consideration for suitability for publications in World J Hepatology.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 33724

**Title:** Extrahepatic metastases of hepatocellular carcinoma to the paravertebral muscle; a case report and literature review.

**Reviewer's code:** 02860590

**Reviewer's country:** Brazil

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-14

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-22

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The clinical case is well described and the review of the literature is appropriate. The topic becomes relevant, since it raises the reflection on advancing therapies and diagnostic methods that improve the survival of patients, however not always accompanied by benefits in quality of life.

## RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Thank you very much for your comment. We appreciate your consideration for suitability for publications in World J Hepatology.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 33724

**Title:** Extrahepatic metastases of hepatocellular carcinoma to the paravertebral muscle; a case report and literature review.

**Reviewer's code:** 02860516

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-14

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-22

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper by Takahashi et al. addresses the topic of extrahepatic metastases of hepatocellular carcinoma to the paravertebral muscle, by reporting a case and the correspondent literature review. However, some points need to be reviewed by authors. Major comments Page 7 lines 5-8: Authors should comment on the fact that HCC was diagnosed lately (9.4 cm) since 3 years before was wrongly diagnosed as FNH. This is an important point in light of the extrahepatic malignant involvement. Page 7 line 14: Authors should comment on the management of HBV infection, since patient did not receive antiviral treatment before the diagnosis of HCC. Authors should comment on the treatment of Entecavir explaining why 1 mg of daily dose was adopted (i.e. Lamivudine experienced? Decompensated?). Page 8 lines 6,7: Authors should comment on the latest anti HCC treatments of Capecitabine and Dasatinib. Minor comment: Abstract session page 4 lines 3,4: The initial sentence “..Extrahepatic metastases (EHM) of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) recently have been paradoxically increasing due to an increase in the

survival of HCC patients..." has been repeated in the Discussion session page 8 lines 12,13 Authors should change the sentence in the Discussion session.

## RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Thank you very much for your comment. We had English correction (see proof).

- 1) Page 7 lines 5-8: Authors should comment on the fact that HCC was diagnosed lately (9.4 cm) since 3 years before was wrongly diagnosed as FNH. This is an important point in light of the extrahepatic malignant involvement. Page 7 line 14:  
=> The imaging showed more likely to be FNH (we added description as below at the case presentation. "A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan showed a hyper-intense and irregular T2 focus, which distorted the contours of the liver. The tumor demonstrated enhancement moderately on the initial phase post-Gadolinium images and washes out. The central area of increased signal does not enhance initially and fills in on delayed images. These imaging characteristics were most compatible with focal nodular hyperplasia"). However, because of his background risks (HBV) for HCC, he was supposed to be followed at the clinic every 3-6 months and check the tumor if he has signs of a cancer. However, because of incomplicance, he did not visit our clinic for three years. Finally, there was a delay for diagnosis and surgery. We added this description at the Case Presentation.
- 2) Authors should comment on the management of HBV infection, since patient did not receive antiviral treatment before the diagnosis of HCC.  
=> Because of incomplicance, he did not regularly visit clinic before diagnosis of HCC and we did not have a chance to start anti-viral treatment.
- 3) Authors should comment on the treatment of Entecavir explaining why 1 mg of daily dose was adopted (i.e. Lamivudine experienced? Decompensated?).  
=> With concern for high viral titer ( $12.7 \times 10^6$  copies/ml), he was started with 1mg. We added this description at the case presentation.
- 4) Authors should comment on the latest anti HCC treatments of Capecitabine and Dasatinib.  
=> We added description as follows at the discussion section. "Systemic cytotoxic chemotherapy agents, such as adriamycin, fluorouracil, cisplatin, etc. are considered as palliative treatment for advanced HCC with low response rates of less than 10%. Recently, there are some reports of efficacy of capecitabine as a second-line treatment after sorafenib. However, there studies are retrospective in nature or single-armed with lower levels of evidence. Further, other target agents such as regorafenib, c-Met inhibitor, and check point inhibitors are promising but still under investigations. Src family kinase inhibitor, dasatinib is reported to have effects on human HCC cell lines, however, the results on a recent clinical study showed no sufficient response rates on this medication."
- 5) Extrahepatic metastases (EHM) of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) recently have been paradoxically increasing due to an increase in the survival of HCC patients..." has been repeated in the Discussion session page 8 lines 12,13 Authors should change the sentence in the Discussion session.



## BAISHIDENG PUBLISHING GROUP INC

8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242

Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)

<http://www.wjgnet.com>

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=> We changed to start with "Despite significant advances in the treatment of HCC, the prognosis remains poor. Median survival times for patients with HCC who have EHM are 4.9-7.0 months. One, three, and five year survival rates are 21.7-31.0%, 7.0-7.1%, and 4.0%, respectively."

We answered all the reviewer's questions shown above. We appreciate your consideration for suitability for publications in World J Hepatology.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 33724

**Title:** Extrahepatic metastases of hepatocellular carcinoma to the paravertebral muscle; a case report and literature review.

**Reviewer's code:** 02539180

**Reviewer's country:** Romania

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-14

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-24

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a very interesting case report of rare extrahepatic metastasis of hepatocellular carcinoma described by Takahashi K et al. The paper is well written, covering also the literature review. Minor comments: 1) in the introduction the ref [1] appears 3 times in a row; being general information, maybe more/other articles should be cited. 2) At page 9, too many sentences start with X. et al described/reported that and it's a little bit annoying, please rephrase.

## RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Thank you very much for your comments. We had English correction (see proof). 1) We added several references 2) We changed sentences starting from the names, following recommendation from the review. We appreciate your consideration for suitability for publications in World J Hepatology.