

World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Drs. Lian-Sheng Ma, Ya-Juan Ma, Ruo-Yu Ma and Jin-Zhou Tang

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript (Manuscript ID: 54410).

Title: Ectopic hepatocellular carcinoma mimicking a retroperitoneal tumor: case report and literature review

We have revised our manuscript according to the reviewer's valuable suggestions. We provide point-by-point responses to the reviewer's comments in this letter.

We are deeply grateful for your constructive comments on our manuscript, and we hope that you will find it worthy of publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,
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Responses to reviewers:

Reviewer #1: There Are some errors in the paper:e.g.report a case and reviews of the ; as an HCC arising from hepatic parenchyma located in an extrahepatic organ or tissue [1] ; and a review the literature concerning EHCC

Thank you for your constructive comment.

According to your comments, we checked the reference paper again and corrected it.

Reviewer #2: The ectopic HCC is a very difficult catch in surgical pathology and the case report here is very interesting. I agree that Arg-1 is a very sensitive and specific marker, but the lack of any staining for Hep-Par1 and Glypican may raise difficulties to pathologists and gastroenterologists to accept it. Moreover, this patient is 81 years old and a multi-step carcinogenesis discussion with a paragraph on liver embryogenesis seems a little awkward. I consider this manuscript a very important pathology report, but the authors need to add some molecular analysis. Without it, it is extremely difficult to be a topic that will be cited in the future.

Thank you for your valuable comment.

According to your comment, we have added the details of additional immunohistochemical staining, p53 and β -catenin, of the resected tumor specimen. (**Revised Figure 6, Revised Table. 2**).

Reviewer #3: 1. The author described the diagnosis and treatment of the case which was the first ever reported case of ectopic hepatocellular carcinoma (EHCC) on the dorsal side of the pancreatic head. It is of great clinical significance. 2. By analyzing the basic characteristics of the case, as well as the relevant laboratory and image examinations, the team determined the diagnosis and treatment. Also the author provided the pathological and follow-up results. The logical thinking is clear. 3. The author searched "ectopic hepatocellular carcinoma" in PubMed, and expressed the related content in the form of literature review with important reference value.

4. However, the case report lacks the content of physical examination.

Thank you for your constructive comment. According to your comment, we have added the details of physical examination (**Page 6, line 6-9**).

● The "supplementary Table 1" is not attached to the manuscript

I am so sorry. I forgot to attach it. I have attached "supplementary Table1" to the manuscript. (**supplementary Table1**)

● The paper "economic therapeutic carcinoma arising from the peritoneum" which was published in 2019 did not showed in this article.

Thank you for your kind comment.

According to your comments, we have added the paper "Diego et al. 2019, Ectopic hepatocellular carcinoma arising from the peritoneum." (**Page 12, line 15-18**).

● Further discussion on treatment and specific marker is recommended and then the conclusion will be more convincing. 5. In consideration of the above, further modification is recommended.

Thank you for your constructive comment.

According to your comments, we have added the details of additional immunohistochemical staining, p53 and β -catenin, of the resected tumor specimen (**Revised Figure 6, Revised Table. 2**).

Moreover, by using our literature review, we have analyzed the overall survival and recurrence-free survival of patients who underwent surgery, and to further examine those who did not undergo surgery. (**Page 10, line 6-24**).

We appreciate your constructive comments for our manuscripts.

Finally, we would like to add a coauthor "Toshihiko Yusa". He did additional immunohistochemical staining, p53 and β -catenin. Therefore, we added him as

3rd coauthor. We attached the additional "BPG Copyright License Agreement".