

Dear editor, reviewer:

First of all, thank you for your review of my article, I am very pleased with your recognition of my work and valuable advice. Now I will answer and explain the questions posed by each reviewer .

Reviewer 1: 1、 Why did only twelve patients underwent pathological examination before surgery instead of all patients?

Answer: Because biopsy is difficult and risky, other patients refuse biopsy, so only twelve patients underwent pathological examination before surgery.

2、 The results of Table 2 and 3 can be described in more detail in the RESULTS section of the manuscript.

Answer: I have revised it according to this suggestion.

Reviewer III:

There were 67 subjects in the article, which I think is a little low for a clinical study, and the question I would like to ask is how did the author calculate the sample size?

Answer: we use Power Analysis and Sample Size(PASS) software to calculate sample size. Based on previous reports, the median survival time after traditional biliary stent implantation is 3–8 mo. We assumed median survival time of 3 mo in the control group and 8 mo in the combined group. The  $\alpha$  value was 0.05 (unilateral test), the power was 0.9, and we needed 30 cases in each group for the sample size.