

Dear Editor,

Thank you for carefully reviewing our manuscript previously titled “Dynamic monitoring of serum liver function indexes in patients with coronavirus disease 2019” for possible publication in the *World Journal of Clinical Cases*. We are grateful to you and your reviewers for their constructive critique. We have revised the manuscript, highlighting our revisions in red, and have attached point-by-point responses detailing how we have revised the manuscript in response to the reviewers' comments below.

Thank you for your consideration and further review of our manuscript. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or recommendations.

Yours Sincerely,

Zejun Pan

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## **Reviewer Comments:**

### **Response to Reviewer #1:**

#### **Comment 1:**

Since all hepatocyte enzymes and bile ductular enzymes were not changed, it is much easier to speculate that the decreasing albumin concentrations are not due to a decreasing synthetic function of hepatocytes but rather systemic effects. The authors touch on this in the end of the discussion by raising the possibility of increased consumption and malnutrition which I find unlikely in a 1 week setting. On the contrary. It is pretty much established that the virus induces systemic endotheliitis. Most likely, this involves also the liver and is exemplified by the short peaking of TBIL at day 3. The most likely explanation of the albumin decrease in the absence of other hepatocyte indices is albumin leakage into the interstitial tissues with edema, a finding which the authors raise themselves due to the CT findings in the table. This should be discussed and papers with histopathological analysis cited.

#### **Response 1:**

Thank you for your professional advice. We have discussed and cited the related papers in the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph of discussion.

#### **Comment 2:**

I would like to see dot blots of the albumin concentrations for all 12 patients and the controls for all 4 days. It is not enough in such a small study to show a table with mean and SD.

#### **Response 2:**

We have added Figure1 to shown the liver indexes by dot blots.

**Comment 3:**

Table 1 has repetitive information which can be put in the text. All of the patients were infected in "clustering case" except patient 10, and all patients were cured. These two columns should be removed.

**Response 3:**

We have remove the redundant columns in table1, and changed text in "Characteristics of the patients" of result.

**Comment 4:**

Table 2-3 should be combined and all means for patients and controls listed for all 4 days of measurement supporting the dot blot figure.

**Response 4:**

We have merged Table 2-3 and make it to be table2. All the liver indexes were shown by dot blots in Figure1.

**Reviewer #2:**

**Comment :**

Thanks for submitting this work, however, the total number of included patients is very small (12 patients). Many publications are currently available for the same topic. Kullar et al conducted a review that included 13 studies that assessed liver affection in patients infected with COVID-19 (N=3046).

**Response:**

Thank you for your patient review. Although the included patients is very small, it is all the COVID-19 patients in our hospital. Since the COVID-19 is controlled timely in China, the COVID-19 patients in Shantou City is limited.

### **Science editor' Comments :**

#### **Comment 1:**

The total number of included patients is very small (12 patients). Tables 2 and 3 should be combined and all means for patients and controls listed for all 4 days of measurement supporting the dot blot figure. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered.

#### **Response 1:**

We answer the questions raised by the reviewers as stated above.

#### **Comment 2:**

I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

#### **Response 2:**

The approval document has been uploaded now.

#### **Comment 3:**

I found the authors did not write the “article highlight” section. Please write the. 6  
Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

#### **Response 3:**

We wrote the “article highlights” section at the end of the main text.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for carefully reviewing our manuscript previously titled “Dynamic monitoring of serum liver function indexes in patients with coronavirus disease 2019” for possible publication in the *World Journal of Clinical Cases*. We have answer the reviewer’s comment below, and make no change with the manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration and further review of our manuscript. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or recommendations.

Yours Sincerely,

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**Reviewer Comments:****Response to Reviewer :****Comment :**

The main concerns are the very small number of the presented cases.

**Response:**

Thank you for your patient review. Although the included patients is very small, it is all the COVID-19 patients in our hospital. Since the COVID-19 is controlled timely in China, the COVID-19 patients in Shantou City is limited. Although the number of included patients is small, the detailed research information can be reused by other comprehensive analysis such as the meta analysis.