

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 63890

Title: Benign vs malignant pancreatic lesions: Molecular insights to an ongoing debate

Reviewer's code: 02440467

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Academic Research, Adjunct Professor, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-05

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-07 12:58

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-10 23:08

Review time: 3 Days and 10 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I want to congratulate the authors for this review on a difficult topic. The authors have done an admirable work summarizing the relevant literature about the challenging task in differentiating benign mass forming pancreatic lesions, sometimes presenting as chronic pancreatitis from pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). A rationale algorithm with a microscopic, immunohistochemical and molecular workup is finally outlined and to help clinicians for a definitive diagnosis and therapy. I want to remark a few critical points and suggest something which can be usefully added in this review:

1. Autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP): the Authors have correctly stated that the clinical presentation of AIP and PDAC can be strikingly similar and the finding of a normal pancreas on imaging does not preclude AIP which require in most cases further histologic investigation. In my opinion, the Authors should briefly add to conclusions in the paragraph of AIP that the diagnostic approach of AIP is complex and requires a combination of clinical, laboratory, radiological examinations and typical pathological findings when available. Most clinicians consider the so-called HISORt criteria which combine multiple information from Histology, Imaging, Serology, Other organ involvement, and Response to therapy.
2. Figure 8. "An algorithm outlining the steps for the work up of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) vs chronic pancreatitis (CP)". I would probably specify in the legend before work up "microscopic, immunohistochemical and molecular work up".
3. I would suggest the Authors add a comprehensive table that summarize all the main specific features of benign form of chronic pancreatitis and the different types of PDAC with their essential characteristics and features (microscopic, immunohistochemical and molecular).

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 63890

Title: Benign vs malignant pancreatic lesions: Molecular insights to an ongoing debate

Reviewer's code: 05123031

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-05

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-06 22:18

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-12 13:40

Review time: 5 Days and 15 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript Number: 63890 Title: Benign Versus Malignant Pancreatic Lesions: Molecular Insights to an Ongoing Debate The authors describe the microscopic, immunohistochemical and molecular features that can help distinguish pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) and benign mass-forming entities, including chronic pancreatitis (CP), autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP), and paraduodenal pancreatitis (PDP). The authors describe the histological characteristics of three benign diseases similar to pancreatic cancer. In order to make it easier for readers to understand the histological characteristics of these three benign pancreatic diseases and to distinguish them from those of pancreatic cancer, the author should summarize and list them in the same table. Chronic pancreatitis is also an important risk factor for pancreatic cancer, so the similarities and differences between the two diseases at the time of clinical diagnosis should be described in more detail. When clinically diagnosed, autoimmune pancreatitis can easily be misdiagnosed as pancreatic cancer, thus leading to unnecessary surgery on the patient. The authors should elaborate on autoimmune pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer, especially the clinical features that are prone to misdiagnosis. In addition, this review lacks the prospect of conclusion. The author should summarize the content of this paper and provide some important guidance and suggestions for future readers. Overall, I think this is an interesting study that has important implications for the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and other clinically similar benign pancreatic diseases. The manuscript can be accepted and published in World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery after major revision.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 63890

Title: Benign vs malignant pancreatic lesions: Molecular insights to an ongoing debate

Reviewer's code: 05643692

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Chief Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-05

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-08 01:23

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-17 06:31

Review time: 9 Days and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting minireview that aims to describe the microscopic, immunohistochemical and molecular features that can help distinguish PDAC and benign mass-forming entities, especially CP, according to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) classification of digestive system tumors. However, the author reviewed a few subtypes of non-conventional PDAC that may further confound the diagnosis with their differing morphologies. It's very promising that the molecular markers of PDCA would be favored to distinguish CP.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 63890

Title: Benign vs malignant pancreatic lesions: Molecular insights to an ongoing debate

Reviewer's code: 05562510

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FACS, MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-05

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-06 13:19

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-21 06:13

Review time: 14 Days and 16 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is well-written and very informative for the readers.