

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 78739

**Title:** Elevated procalcitonin levels in the absence of infection in procalcitonin-secreting hepatocellular carcinoma: A case of report

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02936529

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FRCS (Hon), MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Surgical Oncologist

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Brazil

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-12

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-12 19:27

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-17 11:16

**Review time:** 4 Days and 15 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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 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

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors describe a case of patient with HCC (confirmed on pathology and immunohistochemical analyses) with high serum levels of procalcitonin on preoperative work up. This is a valuable manuscript because of the rarity of the case, however the authors would provide the preoperative imaging (MRI) and the surgical specimen images. The preoperative imaging series and the macroscopic images of the tumors, perhaps images of the operative field would enrich the case report. The discussion is concise and clear.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05771605

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Saudi Arabia

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-12

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-20 03:56

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-20 04:50

**Review time:** 1 Hour

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
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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting case report, however, the cause of sudden fever in the patient has not been evaluated thoroughly. Furthermore, it is important to know if antibiotics were administered pre or post surgery because an undiagnosed infective source may have responded to antibiotics with a subsequent decrease in serum PCT. These points need to be addressed.