

Informed consent statement

Informed consents of all study participants were exempted by the Institutional Review Board of Taichung Veterans General Hospital due to minimal risk.

Corresponding author:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chi-Sen Chang", is written over a horizontal line.

Chi-Sen Chang, MD, PhD

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine,
Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taichung, 40705 Taiwan.

E-mail: changcs@vghtc.gov.tw

Tel: +886-4-23592525 ext. 2001

Fax: +886-4-23741331