

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your letter dated April 8, 2020, and your attention to our manuscript (Title: Clinicopathological characteristics and surgical outcomes of sarcomatoid hepatocellular carcinoma. Manuscript ID: 55263). We are very honored to be informed of the "Revision Accepted" decision and to be invited to submit a revised manuscript to your journal. We thank both editors and reviewers for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions. We sincerely thank you for giving us the opportunity to further revise the manuscript.

We have revised the manuscript carefully according to the comments and suggestions of the editors and reviewers as well as the guidelines for manuscript revision and highlighted the revised part of the manuscript. We have also responded point by point to the comments, as listed below.

We would like to re-submit the revised manuscript, and we hope that it is acceptable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kindest regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Jun Liu, MD, PhD, Professor

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Shandong Provincial Hospital Affiliated to Shandong University

Response to Editors and Reviewers

First, we thank both the editors and reviewers for their constructive comments and suggestions, which were very valuable for improving the quality of our manuscript.

Response to Reviewer 1 (03723645)

Comment 1: First of all, congratulations for this exhaustive work, with a large series of patients. One of the most original is the comparative between sarcomatoid HCC and high grade HCC. There is a good discussion about the histogenesis of this entity. One of the interesting topics of this work is the difficulty for the correct diagnosis between these two entities.

Response: Thank you for your appreciation of our work.

Comment 2: I only have a suggestion for the authors that could be a part of the discussion, is that due to the difficulty of the correct diagnosis with the image, and with lower levels of AFP, this could be a problem in a patient who could be a potential recipient of liver transplant. This could generate a poorer prognosis in the patients with small lesions and low levels of AFP and liver cirrhosis.

Response: Thank you for your constructive suggestion. According to your suggestion, we have added the sentence “Moreover, both serologic and radiologic examinations could not help in distinguishing the sarcomatoid subtype from conventional HCC or other intrahepatic masses, and this might be problematic when selecting a potential recipient of liver transplantation because the sarcomatoid subtype usually predicts a poor prognosis” to the end of the second paragraph in the “**Discussion**” section.

Response to Reviewer 2 (02545537)

Comment: This is a very interesting and well-written paper which deals with a rare tumor entity of sarcomatoid HCC.

Response: Thank you for your appreciation of our work.