

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to revise our manuscript, and we also appreciate editor and reviewers very much for their positive and constructive Comments and suggestions on our manuscript entitled “Giant cellular leiomyoma in the broad ligament of the uterus: a case report”. All of these Comments are extremely helpful for revising and improving our paper as well as guiding our research in the right direction. We have studied Comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The revised portions of the paper are highlighted in red. Attached please find the revised version, which we would like to submit for your kind consideration. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best regards.

Jiao Yan

The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s Comments are as flowing:

Responds to the reviewer’s Comments:

Reviewer #1:

Thank you for your help about the revision of this manuscript. We will respond or amend each of them accordingly.

1.Response to comment: Why gynecological findings or PET-CT were not performed?

**Response:** Thank you for your insightful comments. Yes, gynaecological findings should be described regardless of sexual activity level or menopausal status. But as far as the clinical situation in China is concerned, pelvic examinations for asexual women are usually performed through the anus rather than the vagina due to tensions between doctors and patients as well as cultural background. In addition, for economic reasons, the patient did not adopt the recommendation to perform a systematic PET-CT examination. Indeed, we strongly recommend preoperative whole-body PET-CT to assess whether this is a malignant disease with metastasis.

2.Response to comment: Why gynecological findings or PET-CT is important in the differential diagnostics of masses in the female reproductive system?

**Response:** Thank you for your professional review. Gynecological examination is the most intuitive way to touch the size and nature of a female pelvic mass. We frequently find malignant tumors in the female reproductive system in the form of hard masses that are difficult to advance and poorly circumscribed when benign masses move well. Whole-body PET-CT can assess the degree of

benign and malignant disease based on the metabolic status of the mass itself, and can also predict whether the mass is associated with metastasis based on abnormal signals in other systems. As pointed out in the commentary, this addresses the difficult problem of distinguishing benign and malignant tumors from the internal reproductive system. Combined with gynecological examination and PET-CT, it helps to distinguish benign and malignant masses from the internal reproductive system.

3. Response to comment: A great deal of language polishing needs to be performed before this case is eligible for publication.

**Response:** Thank you for your approval of the experimental work of this manuscript. We have requested a professional translation office to revise and polish the paper.

Thank you for agreeing with our work. Our responsibility is to make every effort to achieve the high standard precision and scientific value of the paper. We believe that your approval will increase our enthusiasm for scientific and clinical research.

Reviewer #2:

We would like to thank you for the valuable comments. We conduct a comprehensive review of the contents of this manuscript and correct the errors in it.

1. Response to comment: There are minor medical English errors. Please, **re-check it**.

**Response:** We gratefully acknowledge your comments and careful review. We carefully revised the manuscript. We have requested a professional translation office to revise and polish the paper.

2. Response to comment: This sentence “Her notable imagological examination was computerized tomography imaging revealed” to be changed to “Her notable imagological examination was computerized tomography imaging that revealed”.

**Response:** Thank you for your insightful comments. I was so sorry about that you misunderstood what I meant because of my unclear expression. Thus, We changed "Her notable imagological examination was computerized tomography imaging revealed" to "Abdominal computed tomography imaging"

3. Response to comment: Background appears without references. Please, add references and also increase it with more references about structure of leiomyomas.

**Response:** Thank you again for your careful review and responsible attitude. We cite relevant

references in Background and elaborate on this reported case in the discussion section of the manuscript in conjunction with the current study, while adding references to leiomyoma structures.

4. Response to comment: This “masses, the patient has no history of smoking or drinking alcohol.” may be separated into two sentences to be “masses. The patient has no history of smoking or drinking alcohol.”.

**Response:** Thank you for your nice Comments. We changed it to "Patient has no history of smoking or drinking".

5. Response to comment: Please, add pathological features of your case following this sentence “The samples were sent for histopathological examination (Fig. 4).”.

**Response:** We gratefully acknowledge your comments and careful review. We have carefully revised this. (line 78-81)

The samples were sent for histopathological examination, and the results included that the uterine masses were composed of proliferating smooth muscle cells and arranged in a braided shape; the cell morphology was slightly changed and no abnormality was observed (Figure 4).

6. Response to comment: This sentence “Alba et al [1] obtained a review that early hormone exposure may lead to disease onset or progression through persistent epigenetic changes and the prevalence of hormone-dependent smooth muscle is estimated at approximately 70% [1]”, Please, delete the first reference number [1].

**Response:** Thanks for your Comments. It was revised in text.

7. Response to comment: Please, add notes on contents of broad ligament that could be origin for such changes encountered within the ligament.

**Response:** We appreciate your professional review. Following the reviewer 's suggestion, we added something about ligaments. (line 96-100)

The broad ligament contains embryonic remnants formed by mesonephric (wolffian) ducts. Notably, wolffian ducts give rise to the genital ducts in males, but contract to generate embryonic remnants. These remnants including epithelial and paracellular cells, may spread and form abnormal cysts, or produce some myofibers that can lead to leiomyomas within the broad ligament [9].

8. Response to comment: Please, add well-clarified Legends to Figures with adding symbols for photographs.

**Response:** We appreciate your professional review. We modified the resolution and size of the

picture to provide clearer information.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript.

We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval. Once again thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Jiao Yan