

Manuscript ID:55361

Title: First branchial cleft cyst accompanied with external auditory canal atresia and middle ear malformation: A case report

World Journal of Clinical Cases

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Dr. Academic Editor

World Journal of Clinical Cases

Dear Editor,

We greatly appreciate the reviewers' valuable comments and suggestions. According to these comments, we have comprehensively revised our manuscript and would like to resubmit this improved version together with our point-by-point replies.

Thank you very much for your favorable consideration of our manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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Review#1:

1. OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

I how did they confirm that the patient had improved hearing after that?

After 19 years of worsening hearing, I wonder if they did an audiogram or some kind of hearing test as proof.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We added preoperative and postoperative hearing status of pure tone audiogram. Also, we *added words* '(Figure 3)' in *Line 27, Page 4 in the revised manuscript*.

2. INTRODUCTION

I would also recommend explaining the background and reasons for their surgical approach more than anything as I think that has value.

Response: Thank you for your comment. We added sentences to explain why we choose the surgical approach, and *added sentence* 'As the mass protruded into the area of atretic EAC and closely related to the vertical segment facial nerve and parotid gland, an effective treatment strategy including postauricular approach.' in *Line 9-12, Page 3, in the revised manuscript*.

Also, we had discussed the treatment strategy in *Line 13-16, Page 6, in the revised manuscript*.

Science Editor:

1. Original Pictures.

The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint

to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

Response: Thank you for your comment. We had listed the original images in the Powerpoint, which can be reprocessed further.

2. References

Response: We carefully check the reference “*First branchial cleft fistula associated with external auditory canal stenosis and middle ear cholesteatoma*”, the paper did not have a DOI number, therefore, we listed the article PMID number instead.

Moreover, we had changed the format of references as the WJCC required.

3. Other corrections

We also had corrected other errors in the manuscript, all the changes were highlighted by yellow color.