

February 12, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 1654-review).

**Title:** Neuroendocrine Carcinoma of the Extrahepatic Bile Duct: Case Report and Literature Review

**Author:** Eizaburo Sasatomi, Michael A. Nalesnik, J. Wallis Marsh

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 1654

- 1) Format has been updated
- 2) The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestions of a reviewer. The following sentences were added at the end of the Introduction section. We believe that these sentences would help to clarify the core of the issues and the purpose of this article.

**“While the presence of concurrent nearby dysplasia was described in 2 previously reported cases of SCNEC [4, 16], neuroendocrine differentiation or metaplastic change has not been demonstrated in dysplastic epithelium. Therefore, we aimed to perform detailed immunophenotypic characterization of the dysplastic epithelium and demonstrated intestinal and neuroendocrine differentiation in the dysplastic epithelium. Another objective of this article is to provide a comprehensive literature review on NEC of the bile duct. Despite the paucity of cases, an attempt was made to compare the clinicopathologic characteristics and outcomes between SCNECs and LCNECs.”**

- 3) Core tip, which was missing in the original manuscript, was added after Key Words, as suggested.

**“Core tip: The authors report a case of LCNEC of the hilar bile duct. Concurrent dysplasia with intestinal and neuroendocrine differentiation was suggested to be a precursor in this case. NEC of the bile duct occurs more frequently in men (M:F ratio 1.9:1). The mid-portion of the common bile duct appears to be the commonest site of involvement. All three reported cases of LCNEC died within 12 months and the prognosis of NEC of the bile duct appears to be equally poor in both SCNEC and LCNEC. Multimodal treatment may improve outcome in this highly aggressive cancer.”**

- 4) References, which were initially listed according to an alphabetical order, were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eizaburo Sasatomi".

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