

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Title: Clonality analysis of neuroendocrine cells in gastric adenocarcinoma

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Dear Editor,

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewer:

1. Format has been updated.
2. We signed the Copyright assignment and scan it.
3. The abstract was improved.
4. Laser-capture microdissection, the method of DNA extraction and whole genome amplification were described step by step, so readers can understand them better.
5. The final paragraph highlighted the main conclusion, and provided some indication of the direction future research should take: By combining the results with microsatellite changes and p53 mutation, we suggest that, in 27 of 30 cases, NE and adenocarcinoma cells probably generated from the same stem cells. The multipotent stem cells differentiate to NE and adenocarcinoma cells, initiated by hormonal change, microenvironmental change, and genomic instability. NE cells act as parenchyma of carcinoma, and excrete hormones to promote carcinoma. The remaining three cases might have had different ancestral cells, and this needs further study.
6. The COMMENTS section was written.
7. The study was approved by Ethical Committee for Human Study in our institution.
8. I added some new relevant references e.g. Hirano Y, Hara T, Nozawa H, Oyama K, Ohta N, Omura K, Watanabe G, Niwa H. Combined choriocarcinoma, neuroendocrine cell carcinoma and tubular adenocarcinoma in the stomach World J Gastroenterol. 2008;14(20):3269 -3272. The typesetting was corrected and the references number was added up to 26.

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

Sincerely yours,

Ling-ling Wang