

Dear Dr./Prof. Ze-Mao Gong,

Thank you very much for your decision letter and advice on our manuscript (Manuscript #27682) entitled "Diabetes Mellitus may affect the Long-term Survival of Hepatitis B Virus-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients after Liver Transplantation". We also thank the reviewers for the constructive and positive comments and suggestions. Accordingly, we have revised the manuscript. All amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. In addition, point-by-point responses to the comments are listed below this letter.

This revised manuscript has been edited and proofread by *Medjaden* Bioscience Limited.

We hope that the revision is acceptable for the publication in your journal.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Zhongyang Shen

First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the reviewers for their constructive and positive comments.

Replies to Reviewer 1

Specific Comments

1. Authors should put in evidence the role of Metabolic Syndrome, discussing it at large, the mechanisms of which could be found in the literature or better following this article, i.e., Could metabolic syndrome lead to hepatocarcinoma via non-alcoholic fatty liver disease?

Response 1.1:

We appreciate the suggestion. As recommended, we have now discussed the role of metabolic syndrome, in the development of hepatocellular carcinoma by way of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. This text has been added to the Discussion of the revised manuscript (page 18, lines 19-30, page 19, lines 1-6).

2. In this study, the authors investigated the potential associations between pre-existing diabetes (DM) with hepatitis B virus (HBV)-induced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), HCC recurrence and long-term survival after LT in a large cohort. The authors concluded that liver transplantation (LT) HBV-related HCC patients with DM have decreased long-term overall survival, and poor LT outcomes. Prevention strategies for HCC patients with DM are recommended. Comments This is an interesting study. This manuscript is well-written. The results can support the conclusion. The reviewer has only one minor comment that there are several typing errors in this manuscript.

Response 1.2: We apologize for the spelling errors. These have now been corrected in the revised manuscript.