

August 23, 2017

**Dear Ya-Juan Ma:**

We would like to thank you and the reviewers of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology* for taking the time to review our article (35424). We have made corrections and clarifications in the manuscript after considering the reviewers' comments. The changes are summarized below.

**Answers to the reviewers' comments:**

Reviewer #1:

**1. Abstract: "Moreover, judging from the high-penetrance of disease observed in this family, we could infer that a rare variant may be the cause PBC development." – Please correct this sentence.**

→ We have corrected this sentence after carefully considering the reviewer's comment.

(Page 2, Abstract) Moreover, judging from the high-penetrance of the disease observed in this family, we inferred that a pathogenic genetic variant might be the cause of PBC development.

**2. Discussion, third paragraph: "Previous GWAS studies" -> Previous GWA studies (or just: Previous GWAS).**

→ We have corrected this error with the phrasing "Previous GWA studies" in the Discussion section (page 6, third paragraph).

**2. Conflict-of-interest statement: "no conflict of interest to close" -> to disclose.**

→ We have corrected this typing error (page 2, "Conflict of interest statement: The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.").

Reviewer #2:

**1. Have the authors looked into specific possible genetic factors involved?**

→ We have not tested for the specific genetic factors. Currently, the genetic loci that have been associated with PBC are very heterogeneous and mostly involve common polymorphisms (Reshetnyak VI *et al.* World J Gastroenterol 2015; Cordell HJ *et al.* Nat Commun 2015; Hirschfield GM *et al.* Semin Liver Dis 2011; Gulamhusein AF *et al.* Semin Liver Dis 2015). Therefore, we would like to conduct whole-exome sequencing to identify the variants that these family members have common. This case report will also help other researchers to identify the genetic cause of PBC.

**2. The paper would benefit from more involved discussion as to how this case differs from other similar cases of genetic penetrance reported in the literature.**

→ We have added additional discussion about the difference of this case from other similar cases of high familial prevalence of PBC.

(Page 6) Although the previous literature also reports a high prevalence of PBC in siblings of patients (four or more cases in 6-10 siblings), [5,15,16] the unique and interesting feature in our case is that PBC was diagnosed in all four sisters but not in one half-sister with a different mother.

Reviewer #3:

**1. It is desirable to provide results on the effectiveness of ursodeoxycholic acid in these patients.**

→ We have added Figure 3 to present the biochemical responses of the patients to the treatment with UCDA.

**2. It is advisable to add references to work published in the journal WJG (World J Gastroenterol 2006;12(45):7250-7262; World J Gastroenterol 2015; 21(25): 7683-7708; and other).**

→ We have added the recommended references to the manuscript (references 2, 7, and 21).

**Answers to Editor's Comments:**

**1. Please provide language a certificate letter from a professional English language editing company (Classification of the manuscript language quality evaluation is B).**

**For manuscripts submitted by non-native speakers of English, please provide a language certificate from one of the professional English language editing companies mentioned in 'The Revision Policies of BPG for Article.'**

→ We have proofread and corrected all grammatical errors with the help of a professional English editor from the designated company.

**2. The title must be informative, specific, and brief (Title should be no more than 10~12 words/60 bytes. Please revise it). Words should be chosen carefully for retrieval purposes. All nonfunctional words should be deleted, such as 'the', 'studies on', 'observations of', and 'roles of', etc.**

→ We have revised the title as follows: "Evidence from a familial case suggests maternal inheritance of primary biliary cholangitis" (12 words).

**3. Please add postcode.**

→ We have added the postcodes to all of the authors' addresses.

**4. Please read the core tip then provide the audio core tip: Acceptable file formats: .mp3, .wav, or .aiff, Maximum file size: 10 MB. To achieve the best quality, don't allow to have the noise.**

→ We have submitted a file containing an audio version of the core tip to the F6Publishing system.

**5. Writing requirements for each subsection.**

→ We have added the writing requirements in COMMENTS section in the manuscript.

**-Thank you very much!-**