Response to editorial and reviewers comments:

1 Details of your submission

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Title: Molecular mechanisms implicated in SARS-CoV-2 liver tropism

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2 Peer-review report

Reviewer #1: This is a scoping review suggesting that liver involvement by the SARS-CoV-2 infection is associated with a high rate of morbidity and mortality. The article is well-written and relevant. It can be published; however, I have two minor issues that need to be addressed:

1. Please provide the search strategy for study selection.

Response: Literature searches and screening strategies were used to identify literature. This strategy consisted of a broad search of the online scientific database on the PubMed webpage using the most common synonyms to identify all potentially relevant studies. In subsequent steps, references were screened to exclude papers that were not pertinent, and the remaining references were sorted into categories for further evaluation. This point was clarified in the introduction section. Please see the text highlighted in yellow on page 4.

2. Please remove "figure 1" in your conclusion. Please reference the figures in the main text and not in the conclusion.

Response: We agree with the reviewer´s comment. The reference of the figure is now in the main text. Please see page 7.

Reviewer #2: The author emphasized the current pathways regarded as contributing to the gastrointestinal and hepatic ailments linked to COVID-19 infected patients due to an imbalanced interaction among the liver, systemic inflammation, disrupted coagulation, and the lung. Albeit, the author provides insight into COVID-19 related field, I still have some suggestions.

1, All figures are highly professional, and the authors should guide the readers to the meaning of the images appropriately; otherwise, it is likely to cause misunderstandings. Therefore, I suggest that the author consider revising the figure legends again.

Response: We thank the reviewer´s observation. As suggested by the reviewer, the figure legend was improved. Please, see page 21-22 in the revised version of the manuscript.

2, In Fig 1, the author discussed the mechanisms of pathological injury upon SARS-CoV-2 infection. It would be fascinating to discuss the correlation between cancer and coronaviruses, such as SARS, or MERS...etc. (PMID: 32416633, 32615317, 32345594, 35639708, 33918958).

Response: As suggested by the reviewer, a paragraph discussing SARS-CoV-2 infection and hepatocellular carcinoma was added in the revised version of the manuscript. Please, see page10-11 in the revised version of the manuscript.

3, There are few typo issues for the authors to pay attention. Please unify the writing of scientific terms. "Italic, capital" ? make it consistent throughout the whole manuscript. For example, Page4, ...and 31 out of 45 post-mortem liver tissues contained the SARS-CoV-2 "RNA geome[25]". Please correct "RNA geome" as "RNA genome".

Response: We thank the reviewer´s observation. As suggested by the reviewer, typos were fixed throughout the manuscript.

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor:

The manuscript has been peer-reviewed, and it' s ready for the first decision.
Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)
Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022. If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, "Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]". And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable.

Response: The figure is original. The ppt file was submitted in the revised version.

Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply a new tool, the Reference Citation Analysis (RCA). RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. In it, upon obtaining search results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for more information at: https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/.

Response: As indicated, we used RCA to update de manuscript references.