

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to revise our manuscript “Secondary sclerosing cholangitis (SCC) in COVID-19 A case report of post-COVID cholangiopathy in a young patient resulting in death”.

Please find enclosed our point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments. Hopefully, you will now find our fully revised manuscript suitable for publication in World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery.

Comments from the reviewer:

The reviewers kindly stated a good quality of a case report of secondary sclerosing cholangitis associated with COVID-19 infection and emphasized that our study provides important findings of this condition.

Further, they mentioned several concerns about manuscript and minor shortcomings shall be addressed before publication.

Minor shortcomings:

- 1. The reviewers were interested in the novelty of this case report since there are several reports describing the occurrence of secondary sclerosing cholangitis (SSC) after COVID-19 infection.**

Thank you for the comment. In the currently published case reports, imaging data tend to be limited, and SSC after COVID-19 infection are more frequently reported in older patients. Our case involves a young patient, and with the ongoing pandemic, we feel it is important to continue to show this new entity to raise awareness and encourage further research on this topic.

- 2. The reviewers stated that the abbreviations such as SC-CIP should be used after their spelling out.**

Thank you for the important comment. We added the abbreviation to the first mention in the introduction section for better understanding.

- 3. The reviewers suggested to change the description of Fig 2. in the manuscript (lines 136-149) since it contradicts the actual figures.**

Great comment, thank you very much. The description of Fig. 2 and some spelling errors have been corrected.

- 4. The reviewers asked for full differential diagnosis to make the diagnosis of exclusion since the secondary sclerosing cholangitis may be due to COVID-19 or simply because of superimposed sepsis and multiple interventional due to prolonged ICU stay.**

Thank you very much for your important comment and the highlighting of differential diagnosis. We included differential diagnosis and comments on how we came to our diagnosis.