

## Cover Letter

Dear Editor and Reviewer,

Authors first appreciate the great effort and comments from the editor and reviewers. The manuscript (71182) was made minor revision according to each comment from the reviewers. The following steps outlined below were completed at re-submission.

Please check the responses to each point. All the revisions were tracked in the revised manuscript and were also pointed in the reply to the reviewers' comments in this letter.

Thank you so much. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Ming Yang, PhD

University of Missouri-Columbia

**Reviewer #1:**

**Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)**

**Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)**

**Conclusion: Minor revision**

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Manuscript length and the topic are relevant. Proper literature review was performed. Authors' views and hypothesis on possible causes and further development of acute care setting for covid patients could be briefly discussed further. Conclusive section lack proper conclusions on the discussed topic and should be further expanded.

**Response:** The authors appreciated the great comments from the reviewer. Further discussion about the hospital stay during the pandemic time and the role of surgeons on COVID-19 infection was added in the revised manuscript.

Another study showed that the length of hospital stay increased for trauma patients with COVID-19 infection[8]. In conclusion, infection of COVID-19 for patients with trauma or other surgical procedure can increase the risk of morbidity and mortality. A good management procedure and pre-operative COVID-19 testing for patients waiting for surgery care could provide favorable outcomes. With their expertise and experience, surgeons can aid the hospital to provide proper procedures to prevent the potential co-infection of COVID-19 for patients with non-surgical and surgical treatments.

**Reviewer #2:**

**Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)**

**Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)**

**Conclusion: Accept (General priority)**

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Pandemic impacts acute care surgery for diseases and it may

*keep changing during different stages of pandemic COVID-19. This letter was novel and provided some new advances about the diseases during pandemic.*

**Response:** The authors appreciated the reviewer's great effort and suggestion. The authors agree with the reviewer's comments. The letter was made a minor change. All the changes were tracked.

*Reviewer #3:*

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The letter was succinct and was relevant to the topic of interest in the era of pandemic COVID-19.

**Response:** The authors appreciated the reviewer's great effort and suggestion. The letter was made a minor change. All the changes were tracked.

#### **4 LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REVISED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BY AUTHORS WHO ARE NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH**

*As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).*

***Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.***

*Once this step is completed, the manuscript will be quickly accepted and published online. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.*

**Response:** The English grammar was checked by a native English speaker in academic study.

#### **5 ABBREVIATIONS**

*In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly.*

*The basic rules on abbreviations are provided here:*

**(1) Title:** Abbreviations are not permitted. Please spell out any abbreviation in the title.

**(2) Running title:** Abbreviations are permitted. Also, please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words.

**(3) Abstract:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Abstract. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori).

**(4) Key Words:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key Words.

**(5) Core Tip:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

**(6) Main Text:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

**(7) Article Highlights:** Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Article Highlights. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

**(8) Figures:** Abbreviations are not allowed in the Figure title. For the Figure Legend text, abbreviations are allowed but must be defined upon first appearance in the text. Example 1: A: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) biopsy sample; B: HCC-adjacent tissue sample. For any abbreviation that appears in the Figure itself but is not included in the Figure Legend textual description, it will be defined (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend. Example 2: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

**(9) Tables:** Abbreviations are not allowed in the Table title. For the Table itself, please verify all abbreviations used in tables are defined (separated by semicolons) directly underneath the table. Example 1: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

**Response:** The manuscript was formatted according to the above rules.

## **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:**

*Nicely written and summarized*

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 Gastrointestinal Surgery, 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.

**Response:** Thank you for the comments. The manuscript was revised according to all the reviewers' comments. English of the revised manuscript was also checked by native English speaker in the academic area, and all the revision was tracked in the manuscript. The manuscript was formatted according to the editorial officer's suggestion.

## **7 STEPS FOR SUBMITTING THE REVISED MANUSCRIPT**

### **Step 1: Author Information**

Please click and download the Format for authorship, institution, and corresponding author guidelines, and further check if the authors names and institutions meet the requirements of the journal.

### **Step 2: Manuscript Information**

Please check if the manuscript information is correct.

### **Step 3: Abstract, Main Text, and Acknowledgements**

**(1) Guidelines for revising the content:** Please download the guidelines for Original articles, Review articles, or Case Report articles for your specific manuscript type (Letter to the Editor) at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291>. Please further revise the content your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

**(2) Format for Manuscript Revision:** Please update the format of your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision and the Format for Manuscript Revision. Please visit <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291> for the article type-specific guidelines and formatting examples.

**(3) Requirements for Article Highlights:** If your manuscript is an Original Study (Basic Study or Clinical Study), Meta-Analysis, or Systemic Review, the "Article Highlights" section is required. Detailed writing requirements for the "Article Highlights" can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

**(4) Common issues in revised manuscript.** Please click and download the List of common issues in revised manuscripts by authors and comments (PDF), and revise the manuscript accordingly.

### **Step 4: References**

Please revise the references according to the Format for References Guidelines, and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.

**Reminder:** It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the same journal. To resolve this issue and move forward in the peer-review/publication process, please revise your reference list accordingly.

#### **Step 5: Footnotes and Figure Legends**

**(1) Requirements for Figures:** Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as “**71182-Figures.pptx**” on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of “Image File”.

**(2) Requirements for Tables:** Please provide decomposable Tables (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as “**71182-Tables.docx**” on the system. The tables should be uploaded to the file destination of “Table File”.

**Reminder:** Please click and download the Guidelines for preparation of bitmaps, vector graphics, and tables in revised manuscripts (PDF), and prepare the figures and tables of your manuscript accordingly.

#### **Step 6: Automatically Generate Full-Text Files**

Authors cannot replace and upload the “Manuscript File” separately. Since we only accept a manuscript file that is automatically generated, please download the “Full Text File” or click “Preview” to ensure all the contents of the manuscript automatically generated by the system are correct and meet the requirements of the journal. If you find that there is content that needs to be modified in the Full-Text File, please return to the corresponding step(s), modify and update the content, and save. At this point, you then have to click the “Save & Continue” button in Step 5 and the F6Publishing system will automatically regenerate the Full-Text File, and it will be automatically stored.

#### **Step 7: Upload the Revision Files**

For all required accompanying documents (listed below), you can begin the uploading process via the F6Publishing system. Then, please download all the uploaded documents to ensure all of them are correct.

- (1) 71182-Answering Reviewers
- (2) 71182-Audio Core Tip
- (3) 71182-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form
- (4) 71182-Copyright License Agreement
- (5) 71182-Approved Grant Application Form(s) or Funding Agency Copy of any Approval Document(s)
- (6) 71182-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate

(7) 71182-Video

(8) 71182-Image File

(9) 71182-Table File

(10) 71182-Supplementary Material

*If your manuscript has supportive foundations, the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s) must be provided. Otherwise, we will delete the supportive foundations.*

*If your manuscript has no "Video" or "Supplementary Material", you do not need to submit those two types of documents.*

**Response:** The revised manuscript was submitted according to the above seven steps, with all the documents including (1) to (4), and (6), (9).

## **8 COPYRIGHT LICENSE AGREEMENT**

*All authors should accept and sign the Copyright License Agreement (CLA), following the link sent in individual emails to each author. After all authors have accepted and signed their respective CLA, the Corresponding Author is responsible for downloading the signed CLA by clicking on the "Download" button in the CLA page, re-storing it as "PDF", and then uploading it to the file destination of "Copyright License Agreement". If any of the authors do not accept to sign the CLA, the manuscript will not be accepted for publication.*

**Response:** Copyright was signed and uploaded.

## **9 CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM**

*Please click and download the fillable ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest (PDF), and fill it in. The Corresponding Author is responsible for filling out this form. Once filled out completely, the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form should be uploaded to the file destination of 'Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form'.*

**Response:** The Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form was signed and uploaded.

All the best,

Ming Yang, PhD

University of Missouri