

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for your letter and advice. We have revised the manuscript according to 'author's guideline' and the suggestions of you and peer reviewers, and would like to re-submit it for your consideration. We have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers, and the amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. Point by point responses to the reviewers' comments are listed below this letter.

We hope that the revised version of the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Hongtao Wei, MD, PhD

Department of Gastroenterology, Beijing Friendship Hospital, Capital Medical University

Xicheng District, Beijing 100050, China

Email: gulvzhe@126.com

Phone contact: +86-10-63138650 (direct)

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers for the constructive and positive comments.

Replies to Reviewer #1

1. There are some minor language polishing which should be corrected.

Responses: Thank you for your suggestion. Language of the revised version has been polished by professional English language editing company.

2. The references should be numbered both in the main text and the references list according to the journal's guideline.

Responses: The reference formation have been modified according to the journal's guideline.

3. Tables should be edited carefully.

Responses: Tables have been modified in detail according to your suggestion and the requirements of the magazine. The content of previous Table 1 is too much to be displayed on one page. In the modified version, previous Table 1 is divided into two tables (Table 1 and Table 2) to make content clearer and publication easier.

Replies to Reviewer #2

1. This is an interesting study of IBD and EBV. The research is well performed, and the results are very interesting. The reviewer recommends to accept this study after a minor editing.

Responses: Thank you for your praise of the manuscript. We have improved the manuscript, tables and figures according to ‘Guidelines and requirements for manuscript’, and the language of the revised manuscript has been repolished by a professional English language editing company to meet the requirements of publication of the magazine.

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