

20 Apr 2022

Dear Prof. Ke-Qin Hu,, Prof. Koo Jeong Kang and Prof. Nikolaos Pyrsopoulos, Editor in Chief of World Journal of Hepatology, and Reviewers,

Please find a revised review manuscript entitled, "Pre-sarcopenia and Mac-2 Binding Protein glycosylation isomer as predictors of recurrence and prognosis in early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma" by Masato Nakai et al.

We are most grateful to you for the helpful and constructive comments and suggestions on the original version of our manuscript entitled "Pre-sarcopenia and Mac-2 Binding Protein glycosylation isomer (M2BPGi), but not M2BP, are prognostic and recurrence markers of hepatocellular carcinoma treated by radiofrequency ablation in patients without HCV infection" (Manuscript ID: 75981). We have addressed the reviewers' comments and revised the manuscript accordingly. The changes are underlined in the text, and point-to-point response is described below.

**Reviewer: 1**

**Comments to the Author**

This manuscript is a retrospective real world clinical research, it reviewed 160 hepatocellular carcinoma patients and revealed that pre-sarcopenia and M2BPGi are prognostic and recurrence markers for hepatocellular carcinoma without HCV infection. Generally, it is a worthwhile and innovative clinical research.

**Comment 1;**

First, M2BPGi has reported to be a predictive serum marker as well as prognostic marker for hepatocellular carcinoma in various literatures. However, in this manuscript, hepatocellular carcinoma patients were subdivided into HCV positive and HCV negative groups and came into a specific conclusion. It is innovative and useful for clinical work as well.

**Response to Comment 1;**

We appreciate the reviewer for the kind comments.

**Comment 2;**

Second, it is a retrospective study with sufficient amounts of participants and sufficient follow up period. The statistical methods are rigorous. The selection of outcomes is reasonable and practical. All these factors can contribute to a well-grounded conclusion.

**Response to Comment 2;**

We are deeply honored for the compliment.

**Comment 3;**

Third, minor language polishing is recommended. For example, "HCV-negative patients with primary HCC treated with RFA and lower M2BPGi contributed to tumor recurrence and survival". This sentence is recommended to be changed into "lower M2BPGi contributed to lower tumor recurrence rate and longer survival period".

**Response to Comment 3;**

We are most grateful to you for the helpful suggestions. According to review's suggestions, we have polished our manuscript. Moreover, our manuscript has been edited to ensure language and grammar accuracy by professional editors at FORTE, Inc. in the second round.

**Reviewer: 2**

**Comments to the Author**

**Comment 1;**

The title is redundant.

**Response to Comment 1;**

We apologize for the confusion. According to the reviewer's suggestion, we modified the title from "Pre-sarcopenia and Mac-2 Binding Protein glycosylation isomer (M2BPGi), but not M2BP, are prognostic and recurrence markers of hepatocellular carcinoma treated by radiofrequency ablation in patients without HCV infection" to "Pre-sarcopenia and Mac-2 Binding Protein glycosylation isomer as predictors of hepatocellular carcinoma".

**Comment 2;**

Abbreviations should be mentioned in first site for example DCP in abstract, ALBI in results, etc.

**Response to Comment 2;**

We apologize for the confusion. According to the reviewer's suggestion, we added the appropriate abbreviation of the full name in first site.

**Comment 3;**

Wrong or inappropriate sentence structure such as " Pre-sarcopenia was also an independent poor prognostic factor in abstract", "Notably, HCV has been able to

eliminate viruses in almost all cases using direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) in introduction”, etc.

**Response to Comment 3;**

We are most grateful to you for the helpful suggestions. According to review’s suggestions, we have polished our manuscript. Moreover, our manuscript has been edited to ensure language and grammar accuracy by professional editors at FORTE, Inc. in the second round.

**Comment 4;**

Core tip should be more informative about your study.

**Response to Comment 4;**

We appreciate reviewer’s comment. According to the reviewer’s suggestion, we modified the core tip more informative.

**Comment 5;**

On page 7, the guidelines reference should be cited.

**Response to Comment 5;**

We appreciate reviewer’s comment. According to the reviewer’s suggestion, we cited the appropriate guidelines as reference number 28 to 31.

**Comment 6;**

On page 8, SMI reference should be cited.

**Response to Comment 6;**

We are grateful to reviewer’s comment. According to the reviewer’s suggestion, we cited the appropriate guidelines as reference number 14 and 16.

**Comment 7;**

The 1st paragraph on page 12 is wrongly structured.

**Response to Comment 7;**

We appreciate reviewer’s comment. According to review’s suggestions, we have polished our manuscript. Moreover, our manuscript has been edited to ensure language

and grammar accuracy by professional editors at FORTE, Inc. in the second round.

**Comment 8;**

The 1st paragraph on page 13 has a contradictory data to the literature.

**Response to Comment 8;**

We appreciate reviewer's comment. According to review's suggestions, we have polished our manuscript. Moreover, our manuscript has been edited to ensure language and grammar accuracy by professional editors at FORTE, Inc. in the second round.

**Comment 9;**

The discussion should be more organized.

**Response to Comment 9;**

We appreciate reviewer's comment. According to the reviewer's suggestion, we modified the Discussion section.

**Response to All Comments from Reviewers;**

We are truly honored and astonished by the kind comments from both reviewers.

We believe that we have sufficiently revised our paper in accordance with the comments of the reviewers. We hope that you will find this revised manuscript acceptable for publication in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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