

Peer Review File

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/hbsn-23-323>

Reviewer A:

Comment 1:

Magnetic resonance rectal flat scan and diffusion performed the irregular thickening of the intestinal wall in the rectum - this sentence has no meaning and needs revision

Reply 1:

The sentence has been revised accordingly based on the comments and suggestions made by the reviewer.

Changes in the text:

We have modified our text as advised (see Page 1, line 19-22, which have been highlighted with yellow background in the revised manuscript).

Comment 2:

or a pathologic biopsy of a hypofractionated adenocarcinoma - what is hypofrcatoonated adenocarcinoma middle of the rectum, which involving a length of about 47 mm

Reply 2:

We apologize for the inaccuracy of the term “hypofrcatoonated adenocarcinoma” and have changed it to a more correct expression after searching the literature.

Changes in the text:

We have modified our text as advised (see Page 4, line 79-80, which have been highlighted with yellow background in the revised manuscript).

Comment 3:

Five months later, the level of AFP was still significantly improved(2047.46ng/mL) compared pre-chemotherap level(1168.91ng/mL). - how is this an improvement?

Reply 3:

We had thought about this question when the patient's AFP levels increased rather than decreased after chemotherapy and guessed the reason might be that the patient was insensitive to this treatment regimen. Then we performed genetic testing on the patient and confirmed this suspicion. Unfortunately, the patient's genetic testing proved to be insensitive to almost all drug regimens. Therefore, after communicating with the patient and his family, we decided to perform immediate surgical resection and obtained their understanding and consent. In the postoperative period, the decrease in patient's AFP levels also demonstrating that the most appropriate treatment option for this patient is still surgical resection.

Comment 4:

The case report also does not cover different available treatment options available for

managing such tumors including their radiosensitivity and response to radiotherapy.

Reply 4:

We strongly agree with the question posed by the reviewers. There are data in the literature suggesting that the most appropriate treatment for HAC is surgical treatment supplemented by postoperative chemotherapy or radiation. However, in the case of this patient, we performed genetic testing to find a more appropriate and sensitive chemotherapeutic agent, but the result proved to be insensitive to almost all pharmacologic regimens. After communicating with the patient and his family, they expressed that they were satisfied with the results. And considering the patient's own condition, he was not treated with radiotherapy and was transferred to a lower-level hospital for maintenance treatment and regular checkups in our hospital.

Therefore, this case report does not cover the different available treatment options such the radiosensitivity and response to radiotherapy. Instead, the focus is on a rare case of HAC occurring in the rectum, rather than the stomach or colon, which have been reported. We are continuing to follow this patient over time and monitor his condition dynamically. We hope to add to the current clinical diversity of cases of HAC and related studies, and it would be valuable to provide some reference significance.