

**Nanjing Hospital Affiliated to Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine**

**Decision Letter of Independent Ethics Committee**

The Ethics Committee has carefully reviewed the application material for approval of research protocol. This is a retrospective cohort study. This study will be performed to evaluate the effect of sorafenib on liver function and hepatic stellate cell ferroptosis in advanced fibrotic patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receiving sorafenib monotherapy. This study will not interfere with the whole process of the patient's diagnosis and treatment. Moreover, the patients will not take any additional risks. The research protocol is reasonable and feasible, and the principles of safety and fairness are fully considered. There is no conflict of interest in the content and results of the study. The research results will be beneficial for guiding clinical work. After full consideration, the Ethics Committee approve investigators to carry out the study in accordance with the research protocol.

**The Ethics Committee of the Nanjing Hospital  
Affiliated to Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine**

**November 16, 2019**