**Supplementary figure legends**

**Figure S1.** DNA sequencing analysis of four other patients who had the R249S mutation in the *p53* gene in the primary tumor and CTCs, but not in non-tumor liver tissues.

**Figure S2.** Imaging modalities and cumulative total CTC count by each CTC type for the other seven patients who had increased CTC counts 1 to 2 months before detectable recurrence or the appearance of metastatic lesions; six of these patients also had increased M-CTC percentage (i.e., patients 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7).

**Figure S3.** A detailed description of the “Pathways in cancer” KEGG cluster related to differentially expressed genes（made by the ClusterProfiler Package）. This cluster (Pathways in cancer) includes nine important canonical cancer pathways, such as the Wnt, FAK, and PI3K-AKT signaling pathways, and many differentially expressed cancer-related genes/ gene clusters are found in these nine canonical pathways.