

Sep 29, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 21908-review.doc).

Title: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Population-Based Screening of Hepatocellular Carcinoma-Comparing Ultrasonography with Two-stage Screening

Author: Ming-Jeng Kuo, Hsiu-Hsi Chen, Chi-Ling Chen, Jean Ching-Yuan Fann, Sam Li-Sheng Chen, Sherry Yueh-Hsia Chiu, Yu-Min Lin, Hung-Chuen Chang, Yueh-Shih Lin, Chao-Sheng Liao, Amy Ming-Fang Yen,

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 21908

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated

2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Q - This study was interesting, but the results may vary depending on countries because cost of management of HCC may be different. The readers have to be aware with this point in Discussion.

A - Agreed. We describe that the results of absolute cost-effectiveness of screening strategies vary depending on the cost of management of HCC in different countries in the discussion section (Page 18, Line 11-13).

(2) Q - It seemed reasonable that AUS only was superior to two-stage screening. In

some cases, HCC is hard to detect. Combination of AUS and biomarkers seemed more effective to diagnose HCC. Were there any discussion to this point?

A - Agreed. In high-risk populations such as advanced cirrhosis where AUS shows low detection rate for HCC, combination of AUS and biomarkers is still valuable. This has been mentioned in the discussion section (Page 20, Line 2-4 from the bottom).

(3) Q - Intervention strategies. Strategy 2, 3 used ultrasonography every year. Interval of one year seemed long for patients of high-risk group. Were there any specific reasons for one-year interval?

A - Our screening policy was designed for the general population. For those patients of high-risk group, the clinical surveillance with AUS every 3 months was considered in our decision model. We apologize for not making this clear in the previous version. The details description for the clinical surveillance were described in method section (Page 9, Line 14-24).

3. References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Ming-Fang Yen, PhD
School of Oral Hygiene, College of Oral Medicine
Taipei Medical University,
No.250, Wu-Hsing St., Xinyi Dist.,
Taipei 110, Taiwan.
Fax: +886-2-27398004
E-mail: amyymf@tmu.edu.tw