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**Unexpected gallbladder cancer: surgical strategies and prognostic factors**

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Reply to the Editor and the Reviewers.

Rome, May 5, 2016

Dear Editor,

Thank You for the opportunity to review the manuscript. In this new version, I took into account the comments of the Reviewers and I have modified the manuscript according their suggestions. The modifications and the improvements performed in reply to their comments are detailed in the following responses. In the revised text the modifications are highlighted in red print.

I am grateful to the Reviewers for the time spent in the revision of the manuscript, and for their constructive comments and advice.

With the best regards,

Gennaro Clemente MD

**Reply to Reviewer 01559565:**

As You suggested, I added the issue of laparoscopic hepatectomy (page 8, line 5). The discussion of this issue certainly improved the text. Thank You for Your appreciation of the manuscript.

**Reply to Reviewer 01560504:**

Thank You for Your suggestions. In the text was added that the aim of surgery is to achieve margin free resection and that a right extended hepatectomy can be required in some cases (page 7, line 8).

As You suggested, the sentence “At present, there is no evidence to support prophylactic common

bile duct excision” was added in the text (page 7, line 18) with the relative references (Garg 2015 and Pandey 2015). The issue of port-sites excision was clarified and a sentence was added in the text (page 8, line 3).

**Reply to Reviewer 02822913:**

Thank You for Your suggestions and constructive comments. Good/intermediate prognosis is related to the early UGBCs, such as pT1a tumors. In the text is emphasized that residual disease is the dominant prognostic factor and nodal disease is included into the residual disease. The term “stones” was replaced with “gallstones”. The issue of the beneficial effects of re-resection on the prognosis was expanded (page 9), and more literature references were added. The issue of port-sites excision was clarified and a sentence was added in the text (page 8, line 3). The conclusions were modified.