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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 27149

Manuscript Type: Original Article

June 19, 2016

Clara Balsano PhD

Wan-Long Chuang MD, PhD

Editors, World Journal of Hepatology

Dear Drs Balsano and Chuang:

We are respectfully submitting our revised manuscript entitled: **Liver resection for early hepatocellular cancer: comparison of 3 centers in different countries**

We report a very unique study of 573 liver resections that were performed for early stage hepatocellular cancer in 3 large tertiary referral centers in Tokyo, Honolulu and Shanghai. Patient and tumor characteristics, risk factors and outcome are analyzed and discussed. Early survival after liver resection is excellent in all centers but 1 and 5 years outcome is different between the centers and mostly dependent on AFP, low albumin, tumor size and the presence of cirrhosis. It was a great effort to develop this collaboration between centers in different countries and represents the importance of global partnerships and cooperation internationally to fight the rising incidence and death from hepatocellular cancer.

We will address the reviewers questions as seen below:

*Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology*

*ESPS manuscript NO: 27149*

*Title: Liver resection for early hepatocellular cancer: comparison of centers in 3 different countries*

*Reviewer's code: 00041468*

*Reviewer's country: Hungary*

*Science editor: Shui Qiu*

*Date sent for review: 2016-05-14 11:19*

*Date reviewed: 2016-05-16 21:22*

CLASSIFICATION LANGUAGE EVALUATION SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT  
CONCLUSION

- Grade A: Excellent  
 Grade B: Very good  
 Grade C: Good  
 Grade D: Fair  
 Grade E: Poor  Grade A: Priority publishing  
 Grade B: Minor language polishing  
 Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  
 Grade D: Rejected Google Search:  
 The same title  
 Duplicate publication  
 Plagiarism  
 No  
BPG Search:  
 The same title  
 Duplicate publication  
 Plagiarism  
 No  Accept  
 High priority for publication  
 Rejection  
 Minor revision  
 Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

*The retrospective study of Wong et al. aimed to compare the results of 3 different hepatobiliary surgery center regarding HCC resections. Though the study has several limitations, these are critically reviewed by the authors. On the other hand this study has a very important message namely that collaborations at an international level would be very important for understanding how to better manage and treat HCC. Minor comment: Figures A and B are repeatedly inserted into the text. After this minor correction I suggest to accept the manuscript for publication in WJH.*

**Thank you for these comments. We have carefully checked and Figures 1A and 1B are located at the end of the manuscript and there is a single reference to these figures in the results section.**

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 27149

Title: Liver resection for early hepatocellular cancer: comparison of centers in 3 different countries

Reviewer's code: 00053888

Reviewer's country: United Kingdom

Science editor: Shui Qiu

Date sent for review: 2016-05-14 11:19

Date reviewed: 2016-05-18 00:24

CLASSIFICATION LANGUAGE EVALUATION SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT  
CONCLUSION

Grade A: Excellent

Grade B: Very good

Grade C: Good

Grade D: Fair

Grade E: Poor  Grade A: Priority publishing

Grade B: Minor language  
polishing

Grade C: A great deal of  
language polishing

Grade D: Rejected Google Search:

The same title

Duplicate publication

Plagiarism

No

BPG Search:

The same title

Duplicate publication

Plagiarism

No  Accept

High priority for  
publication

Rejection

Minor revision

Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

*This is an interesting paper that compares 3 distinct groups of patients from different countries in a retrospective manner. Specifically the Chinese cohort is from a very short period on 2002-3, whereas the US & Japanese cohorts are over very much longer periods. This inevitable tends to skew the data. The paper, however clearly demonstrates significant differences in the demography & aetiology of the liver disease between the 3 cohorts which off itself is interesting. The authors are reporting the outcome following liver resection for early stage HCC. The paper suffers by the retrospective nature of the data and is in essence 3 retrospective audits, despite this the large number of patients involved make the data interesting & informative. There are a small number of typographical & grammatical errors that will need addressing and the discussion is too long but overall the manuscript is worthy of publication.*

**Thank you for these comments. We have made corrections in the formatting and grammar. We have also shortened the discussion by taking out some sentences that may not be necessary,**

however we did not want to remove large sections of the discussion because we felt that all of these points were essential to the discussion.

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS manuscript NO: 27149

Title: *Liver resection for early hepatocellular cancer: comparison of centers in 3 different countries*

Reviewer's code: 00069855

Reviewer's country: *United States*

Science editor: *Shui Qiu*

Date sent for review: 2016-05-14 11:19

Date reviewed: 2016-05-27 01:21

*CLASSIFICATION LANGUAGE EVALUATION SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT  
CONCLUSION*

*Grade A: Excellent*

*Grade B: Very good*

*Grade C: Good*

*Grade D: Fair*

*Grade E: Poor*  *Grade A: Priority publishing*

*Grade B: Minor language  
polishing*

*Grade C: A great deal of  
language polishing*

*Grade D: Rejected* *Google Search:*

*The same title*

*Duplicate publication*

*Plagiarism*

*No*

*BPG Search:*

*The same title*

*Duplicate publication*

*Plagiarism*

*No*  *Accept*

*High priority for  
publication*

*Rejection*

*Minor revision*

*Major revision*

*COMMENTS TO AUTHORS*

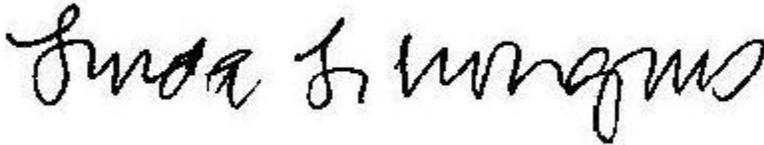
*Recommending to publish.*

Thank you. There were no specific questions to address

Thank you in advance for taking the time and effort to read our manuscript. Please address all correspondence to :

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda L. Wong MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda L. Wong MD