

CENTRO DI RIFERIMENTO ONCOLOGICO

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To Dr. Jing Yu,

Science editor of World Journal of Gastroenterology

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 33735

Title: Genetic biomarkers for HCC risk in Caucasian population

May 16, 2017

Dear Dr. Jing Yu,

Thank you for the constructive comments to our manuscript. We revised the manuscript according to all the issues raised by Reviewers and we provide below a reply to all their comments in order to improve the paper for publication. We sincerely hope that our manuscript is now suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The aim of this study was to find novel genetic markers that could contribute in predicting HCC susceptibility in Caucasians. The authors identified five genetic markers in key pathways linked to hepatocarcinogenesis (ERCC1-rs3212986, GSTP1-rs1138272, CYP17A1-rs743572, XRCC3-rs1799794, ABCB1-rs112850) that could predict the individual HCC susceptibility, especially in high-risk (HBV/HCV-infected) Caucasians population. The article provides the novel informations that could contribute to improving HCC surveillance, allowing early cancer diagnosis and possible curative therapy. They showed illustrative CART representation of the markers combination significantly predictive of HCC risk based on their own results on Figure 1. The results of the paper could be important to implement the current guidelines improving genetic-based patients screening and preventive strategies. The authors make a systematic contribution to the research literature in this area of investigation.

I can only suggest to shorten slightly the list of references (68 positions!!, sometimes 5 papers are cited per one sentence) and may be also the Discussion subchapter text should

be shorten. Small errors in the text (Discussion) – e.g. “CYP17A1 is an enzyme that pays role in the...” (double words “in the” are in this fragment).

We thank the Reviewer for the notices. We have reduced the references from 68 to 57 and we have shortened the Discussion subchapters. Moreover, the paper was revised for English language by a commercial editing service in order to correct the possible errors and to improve the manuscript.

The work is very interesting, also from clinical point of view based on the genetic molecular techniques. It may carry practical importance. Congratulations for all the authors! I have no meritoric critical comments. The paper can be accepted for publication providing that the above small errors are eliminated.