

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

7th of December 2017

Dear Editor,

Title: Efficacy of intra-arterial contrast-enhanced ultrasonography during transarterial chemoembolization with drug-eluting beads for hepatocellular carcinoma

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Manuscript No: 36549

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.

Reviewed by 03647931

1. We agree with you. In the future, we want to run this future study at multiple centers to make more solid conclusions with prospective design. We added it as one of the limitation in the discussion.
2. This study aimed to evaluate the usefulness of IAUS in DEB-TACE. In order to obtain accurate evaluation, it was necessary to terminate the treatment at one DEB-TACE procedure in all cases. Because not only multiple feeding arteries but also portal invasion are often involved in tumors larger than with diameter 5 cm, viable lesions of the tumor may remain in one session DEB-TACE. Therefore, in this study tumors exceeding 5 cm in diameter were excluded. We did not perform liver biopsy for very small lesions (8 mm) to confirm the diagnosis, because all lesions could be diagnosed using gray-scale US, contrast-enhanced US, dynamic CT, EOB-MRI, AFP, AFP-L3 fraction, and DCP levels.
3. We corrected Table 1.

Reviewed by 00050424

Surely, the comparison with conventional TACE seems to be important in the future. We added it as one of the limitation in the discussion.

Reviewed by 02861252

Thank you very much for your suggestion. Surely, we want to perform a long-term study of the effect of IAUS on the therapeutic efficacy of DEB-TACE in a larger number of patients with HCC.

Reviewed by 03260503

Surely, we think so.

1. We corrected 'single' to 'first' on page 12 line 19 in the discussion.
2. We corrected 'All IAUS' to 'IAUS' on page 8 line 8 in the IAUS procedure.
3. We corrected 'Treatments were judged to be complete and incomplete for lesions that were appropriately and insufficiently treated, respectively' to 'Treatments to be complete and incomplete for lesions were appropriate and insufficient, respectively' from page 9 line 2 to 3 in the image analyses.
4. We deleted 'Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a common tumor and the second leading cause of death worldwide^[1],' in the introduction.

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

Sincerely yours,

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