

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 38884

Title: Treatment strategies for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: Sorafenib vs hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy

Reviewer's code: 02529007

Reviewer's country: Iran

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Date sent for review: 2018-03-27

Date reviewed: 2018-04-02

Review time: 6 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript # 03736902 entitled, "Treatment strategies for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: sorafenib versus hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy" reviews the strategies for treatment of HCC with emphasis on the "Sorafenib" a multi-tyrosine kinase



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and angiogenesis inhibitor as an approved first-line standard systemic agent compared to , "hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy (HAIC)". Based on the new reports and findings, authors propose that sorafenib might be used as a first-line treatment for advanced HCC patients without macroscopic vascular invasion or Child-Pugh A, while HAIC is recommended for those with macroscopic vascular invasion or Child-Pugh A or B. Comments: Over all, the review manuscript is well-written and covers the major points in the targeted subject. The figures and tables are supportive and clear. However, what that might be lacking in the present review article is quotation of the prior and recent review articles that deal with the same subject, that is "alternative treatment strategies compared to "Sorafenib". Authors are expected to quote these articles and compare their concluding remarks to that of those and discuss the agreements or potential contrary conclusive remarks and clarify the reason and importance of this review compared to those. In the following some examples of such review articles are shown: - Nakano M et al, Alternative treatments in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma patients with progressive disease after sorafenib treatment: a prospective multicenter cohort study. *Oncotarget*. 2016 - Welker MW and Trojan J. Anti-angiogenesis in hepatocellular carcinoma treatment: current evidence and future perspectives. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2011 - Welker MW and Trojan J Antiangiogenic treatment in hepatocellular carcinoma: the balance of efficacy and safety. *Cancer Manag Res*. 2013 - Yamashita T and Kaneko S. Treatment strategies for hepatocellular carcinoma in Japan. *Hepatol Res*. 2013. - Yu SJ and Kim YJ. Effective treatment strategies other than sorafenib for the patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma invading portal vein. *World J Hepatol*. 2015. Manuscript might be improved by inclusion of a brief description of more recent introduced therapies such as, "Ocoxin" (Díaz-Rodríguez E et al, *Oncol Lett*. 2017) or other examples that might be found in the recent literatures.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 38884

Title: Treatment strategies for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: Sorafenib vs hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy

Reviewer's code: 00182114

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Date sent for review: 2018-03-27

Date reviewed: 2018-04-06

Review time: 9 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is very interesting paper . Patients with primary hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) often develop portal venous invasion (PVI). PVI is associated with a high probability of extensive tumor spread and an elevation of portal vein pressure, which subsequently

may cause esophageal varices and liver dysfunction. Few articles on the radiation therapy have been reported for the disease. Nakagawa et al clarify the efficacy and safety of three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3-D CRT) for PVI from HCC (Radiation therapy for portal venous invasion by HCC, World J Gastroenterology 2005). Nakazawa et al also retrospectively studied 97 patients: 40 receiving sorafenib and 57 receiving radiotherapy. After propensity score matching (28 patients in each group), patients treated with radiotherapy had a better survival compared to patients treated with sorafenib (median overall survival, 10.9 vs. 4.8 months; $p = 0.025$). Radiotherapy was an independent factor associated with survival in multivariate analysis . (Overall survival in response to sorafenib versus radiotherapy in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma with major portal vein tumor thrombosis: propensity score analysis. BMC Gastroenterol 2014;14:84.) Therefore,I ask author to comment about the radiation therapy+sorafenib, HAIC+radiation therapy.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 38884

Title: Treatment strategies for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: Sorafenib vs hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy

Reviewer's code: 00070583

Reviewer's country: Romania

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Date sent for review: 2018-03-27

Date reviewed: 2018-04-11

Review time: 15 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
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publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review paper by Saeki et al discusses treatment strategies for advanced hepatocellular carcinomas, namely systemic therapy with Sorafenib in contrast with targeted chemotherapy administered by hepatic arterial infusion, while proposing an



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alternative approach in particular cases. The paper is well-written, with a focus on clinical practice and addressing major points within the current guidelines. It may be published in its current form after a brief review of the language and style. One minor suggestion for the authors would be to include recent data on novel systemic therapies and expected guidelines changes.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No