



### PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 52692

**Title:** Initial experience with stereotactic body radiotherapy for intrahepatic hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 00181536

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-11-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-02-25 14:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-02-26 13:55

**Review time:** 23 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors summarized the characteristics of six patients treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) recurrence after orthotopic liver transplantation (OLT). How to manage post OLT HCC recurrence is an unresolved issue that should be investigated. The effect was not bad with 56% of complete responses (CR). While these results are interesting, there are several points that need to be addressed. 1. Table 1; The time to first recurrence should be added in this table. The treatment methods and the effect of it before SBRT in the patients who exhibited recurrence and had received treatment before SBRT. 2. Given that HCC recurrence after OLT is often complicated with metastasis, the frequency of the patients who could receive local treatment such as SBRT is important. In addition, to compare the local control rate of SBRT with another treatment such as trans-catheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE) is also an important message that should be added.



### PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 52692

**Title:** Initial experience with stereotactic body radiotherapy for intrahepatic hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 00068723

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Occupational Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-11-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-02-25 22:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-02-27 01:59

**Review time:** 1 Day and 3 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors reported a series of patients subjected to stereotactic body irradiation to recurrent hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in transplanted liver. The topic was relevant because recurrence of HCC in graft liver is a problem. The irradiation methods should be reproducible for the other clinicians. The methods should be more expanded so that the treatment could be applied to the other patients. It was not clear how the beam was applied to patients. Liver moves. Liver is surrounded by stomach, duodenum, small intestine, and large intestine that are sensitive to irradiation more than liver. How was the damage avoided to organs other than liver? Representative four-dimensional images would solve the part of the problems. How was 6MeV or 10MeV photon beam chosen to each patient? Total dose varied from 20 to 50Gy. How was the total dose determined to each patient? Were there any in-house guidelines? Were there any images of CT or MRI before and after the irradiation treatment of a representative patient? The images would make this study more convincing.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 52692

**Title:** Initial experience with stereotactic body radiotherapy for intrahepatic hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 02099384

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-11-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-02-26 01:08

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-02-28 02:49

**Review time:** 2 Days and 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The outcome of the stereotactic body radiotherapy for intrahepatic HCC recurrence after liver transplantation is described. I have some comments. 1. Please number the page for the reviewers' convenience. 2. The indication should be described in the methods as to the tumor conditions. As far as to the description in the Methods section of the text, the tumor number was 5 or less than 5. However the maximum tumor number was limited to 2 in the patients. Isn't the patient with 4 or 5 tumors thought to be contraindicated? How about the distribution of the tumors? How about the location (ie, the tumor is closed to the hepatic hilum). This should be described both in the abstract and text. 3. In the methods of the abstract, it is described that 6 patients with intrahepatic HCC recurrence were treated. The description will make the readers think that the indication of SBRT is indicated when the recurrent lesions are limited to the liver graft. However in fact, as shown in Table 1, one patient with lung metastasis was treated by SBRT. Please clarify this issue (the indication as to the tumor location). 4. (Abstract, conclusions) Is TACE commonly done to the liver graft? What is the background that additional regional therapy is considered? This comment is not based on the results, which should be deleted. "SBRT was safely performed but did not contributed to the regional tumor control or survival." is more appropriate as a description of the conclusions of the abstract.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Title:** Initial experience with stereotactic body radiotherapy for intrahepatic hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 00181536

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-11-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-21 13:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-21 13:41

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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The authors responded sincerely.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Reviewer's code:** 02099384

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**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-11-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-23 23:31

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-24 01:12

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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The authors well responded to the reviewers' comments.