



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 62595

**Title:** Prognostic Role of Plasma Level of Angiopoietin-1, Angiopoietin-2, and Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 05106340

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-02-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-21 02:59

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-03-21 03:48

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 checked="" 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



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** bpgoffice@wjgnet.com  
**https://**www.wjgnet.com

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

In this manuscript, the authors aimed to study the plasma levels of three angiogenesis markers in HCC patients, and further evaluate the association between their levels and patient's prognosis. The article is interesting. However, there are still some problems need to be resolved, as detailed below. 1. What are the plasma levels of these three factors in normal people and liver cirrhosis patients? It should be supplemented at the same time. 2. The author's results show that Angiotensin-2 is significantly related to the prognosis of HCC patients. The changing trend of this factor after treatment (TACE or alternative drugs) should be classified. 3. There are some format and grammar errors in the text (such as Ang-2, Angiotensin-1). The manuscript needs to be revised thoroughly.



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**Reviewer's code:** 05574518

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input 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
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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" 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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This article is fresh in its perspective. It investigates the utility of Ang-2, AFP, Ang-1, and VEGF in terms of predicting the prognose of HCC patients, but also in terms of OS and PFS. It is interesting to see the choices they've made and how they want to underline the importance of these biomarkers even in comparison with AFP, the most classic one when dealing with HCC. The authors raise many good points and are also good in recognizing the limitations of their study. I just wanted to underline this elements that could use a bit of work: "However, the investigations on the prognostic value of blood angiogenesis biomarkers across all HCC stages are limited, especially in South Korea, where the hepatitis B virus is the dominant etiology of HCC(11)" - The temporal succession of this sentence is not clear. In this form, it seems like the authors suggest a connection between the presence of blood angiogenesis biomarkers and HBV, without explaining it. Moreover, if the authors believe that a correlation is possible, that would affect the efficacy of the study, since a large majority of patients had HBV-related cirrhosis. did not significant: small grammar mistakes. There are still a few grammar mistakes (very little things, overall, like "did not significant" or "the potential of each plasma level" Page 10, line 29: it should also be specified how the other patients evolved. Supplementary figure 4: Kaplan-Meier curve is misspelled



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**Reviewer's code:** 05105325

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor, Surgeon

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

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

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<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
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the article analyzed the relation between the levels of Ang-1, Ang-2, and VEGF and the clinical characteristics, OS, and PFS. only Ang-2 was an statistically significant with the clinical characteristics, OS, and PFS. since Ang-2 was involved in tumor angiogenesis. MVD is an widely accepted marker of tumor angiogenesis. the comparison between Ang-2 and MVD was Naturally indispensable for the convincing conclusion. i hope that author can supplement the data into the article.