

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

March 14, 2021



Dear Editors,

On behalf of all the authors, I would like to thank you for your consideration of this paper. In the revised manuscript you will find the changes that we made in response to the Reviewers. In this response to reviewer letter we also indicated how we have dealt with the Reviewers' comments.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: -Manuscript_edited.doc).

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript Type: REVIEW

Worldwide management of hepatocellular carcinoma during the Covid-19 pandemic: a multimodal approach

Riccardo Inchingolo, Fabrizio Acquafredda, Michele Tedeschi, Letizia Laera, Giammarco Surico, Alessia Surgo, Alba Fiorentini, Stavros Spiliopoulos, Nicola de' Angelis, Riccardo Memeo

Invited Manuscript ID: 03358964

Manuscript NO.: 62760

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewer and Editorial Office's

Comments:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Very nice manuscript that summerizes the recommendations for treatment of HCC during covid-19.

A: Thank you for the consideration of this paper and for your comment.

Only some minor comments: - page 10, line 5: recommendation instead of "raccomandation" - page 12, line 22/23: the sentence ".....RT to patients who do not they are suitable or refractory..." does not make sense - table 1, recommendation for liver resection from HC-FMUSP: I assume the number platelets should be 100.000 but not 4100.000 - table 1, recommendation for vascular intervention from HC-FMUSP: Is it really "...patients with solitary nodules 43 cm in size...." ? I think 43 cm is not the cut-off.

A: I have modified all the typing errors.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: General comments This is a nice review article about the impact of COVID-19 to HCC. This review is well written and discussing about a timely topic.

A: Thank you for the consideration of this paper and for your comment.

I do have some comments specified as below. Specific comments At my institution, there were some patients refused to come to the hospital for testing during pandemic to reduce the exposure to themselves, thus delayed screening. Is there any study suggesting about patients' factor? Before pandemic, everyone came to the clinic and got blood test before or after the visit, and ultrasound for HCC screening right away. However, increasing number of telephone or telehealth video visit makes it harder to do these tests right away and some patients got some delay in getting blood draws. Is there any study stating this observation of mine? In the U.S., a lot of liver transplant centers closed earlier in 2020, but our center remained open during pandemic and we actually noted increase in volume of liver transplantation. Was there any study mentioned about these changes?

A: These are interesting point. Since now, we haven't found any study about that. But, it can be interesting for new future ones.

Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a Review of the Worldwide management of hepatocellular carcinoma during the Covid-19 pandemic. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B and Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: Very nice manuscript that summerizes the recommendations for treatment of HCC during covid-19. This review is well written and discussing about a timely topic. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; (3) Format: There

is 1 table; (4) References: A total of 42 references are cited, including 35 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There is 1 self-cited references; and (6) References recommendations (kindly remind): The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A and Grade B. The manuscript is reviewed by a native English speaker. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. 5 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

A: Thank you for the consideration of this paper and for your comment.

Company editor-in-chief: I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

A: Thank you for the consideration of this paper and for your comment.

Finally, we wish to thank the Editor and the Reviewer for their comments that helped us to increase the value of our paper.

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

Sincerely yours,

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