

Reviewer #1

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments To Authors: Dear Editor, thank you so much for inviting me to revise this manuscript about HCC. This study addresses a current topic. The manuscript is well written and organized. The introduction explains in a clear and coherent manner the background of this study. The authors should expand some sections, including a more personal perspective to reflect on. For example, they could answer the following questions – in order to facilitate the understanding of this complex topic to readers: what potential does this study hold? What are the knowledge gaps and how do researchers tackle them? How do you see this area unfolding in the next 5 years? We think it would be extremely interesting for the readers. We believe this article is suitable for publication in the journal although some revisions are needed. The main strengths of this paper are that it addresses an interesting and very timely question and provides a clear answer, with some limitations.

we agree with the reviewer and, in this regard, a dedicated paragraph has been added before the conclusions, called “LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES”, which analyzes what is requested.

Reviewer #2

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments To Authors: This is very well written review Most relevant papers are included few recent papers can be added Rattan P, Minacapelli CD, Rustgi V. The Microbiome and Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Liver Transpl. 2020 Oct;26(10):1316-1327. doi: 10.1002/lt.25828. Epub 2020 Aug 9. PMID: 32564483. Temraz S, Nassar F, Kreidieh F, Mukherji D, Shamseddine A, Nasr R. Hepatocellular Carcinoma Immunotherapy and the Potential Influence of Gut Microbiome. Int J Mol Sci. 2021 Jul 21;22(15):7800. doi: 10.3390/ijms22157800. PMID: 34360566; PMCID: PMC8346024.

We thank the reviewer for the suggestion and we have added the reference indicated to the text; the reference is the number 23.

Reviewer #3

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments To Authors: The abstract was started by microbiota but the text was started by hcc. I didn't see any table or figure for compare the microbiota population. The author talked generally regarding the microbiota diversity, i recommended to be more specific and add the importance microbiota

we appreciated the suggestion of the reviewer and, to better specify and clarify which agents of the microbiota have been most implicated and studied in the context of HCC, we have added two tables.

Company Editor-in-Chief

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Hepatology, 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. Before final acceptance, the author(s) must add a table/figure to the manuscript.

We added one figure and two tables.