

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 79121

Title: Transarterial chemoembolization combined with radiofrequency ablation in the treatment of large hepatocellular carcinoma with stage C

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00053659

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-15 09:25

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-15 09:50

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Sun reported a retrospective study comparing RFA-TACE and TACE alone. They compared two groups with different liver function and tumor progression populations, although the background did not present statistical differences. Therefore, no one would be interested in the results with severe selection biases. In addition, no one selected RFA-TACE for the treatment anymore except in very few cases.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03501077

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-13 12:11

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-21 15:57

Review time: 8 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<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
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study was well designed The manuscript is well written. I suggest some improvements: • Radiological images, before and after treatments, would be useful and interesting • Regarding follow-up, it is reported that in the first 6 months all patients were evaluated every month with chest X-ray, abdominal computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging. It means 6 CT or MR in 6 months; it seems a quite aggressive follow-up. Why? • Tumors were very large, so why ablations were always performed with CT guide, instead of ultrasonography guide? Please discuss. • Every patient presented tumour thrombus; this significantly increase the risk of major complications during TACE, like liver failure or abscess formation. Surprisingly these never occurred. Why? Please discuss. • Consider to read and cite: “Large Multifocal Hepatocarcinoma: Technical Details of Treatment with Combined Transarterial Chemoembolization, Microwave and Radiofrequency Ablation” 2021, J Gastrointest Caner, doi: 10.1007/s12029-020-00416-w

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03622580

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Physiotherapist, Postdoc

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-13

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-07 00:47

Reviewer performed review: 2022-09-09 08:32

Review time: 2 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<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
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting study about the TACE combined with RFA in the treatment of HCC. The study is well designed and the results are very interesting. The authors found that TACE-RFA was superior to TACE alone in improving survival for large HCC patients. The results are very interesting, and well discussed. The reviewer recommends to accept this manuscript after a minor revision. 1. The abstract should be re-written. 2. Some minor language polishing should be corrected. 3. Some radiological images can be added to the results.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer's code: 00053659

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-13

Reviewer chosen by: Jing-Jie Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-10-01 23:42

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-02 00:08

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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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Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The revision has been made inappropriately. The background of the patient is too heterogenous to conclude anything. The survival difference could be due to the potential difference in liver function. Economic reasons cannot justify the clinical strategy. It is unlikely to change current guidelines for multiple HCCs.