

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 89896

Title: Lean body mass index is a marker of advanced tumor features in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07182139

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Poland

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-15

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-11-26 18:47

Reviewer performed review: 2023-11-26 21:24

Review time: 2 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	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

The manuscript is well written and contains a detailed description of a large group of HCC patients. The final conclusions adequately summarize the results. However the conclusions presented in the abstract may be misleading. These conclusions support the 'obesity paradox' which is not based on the results. The conclusion is that patients with larger tumors, more aggressive cancer, etiology of cirrhosis that leads to malnutrition itself usually are malnourished at diagnosis. Therefore more advanced disease is a reason for cachexia and a risk factor for worse survival. Moreover the patients with more advanced disease are more often refused liver transplantation which offers the best survival in patients with cirrhosis and HCC. The title should reflect the main conclusion that patients with advanced HCC are more cachectic at presentation and have the worst survival. The statistical analysis should contain a multivariate approach to select independent risk factors influencing survival and control for confounders. The data should be presented using SI units.