

November 27, 2016

Dear Reviewers,

We would like to thank you for considering our paper entitled “Features of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Hispanics Differ from African Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites”, manuscript number 30289. We appreciate and agree with all of the reviewers’ comments, and made significant changes to address them. The revised manuscript is now submitted for your further review and journal submission. In addition to including a revised manuscript with track changes and a ‘clean’ revised manuscript, we are also addressing the reviewers’ comments individually below. Changes are in **bold** below.

Reviewer **02521203**

This study is well designed; results are carefully analyzed and discussed. The findings add on to existing knowledge on racial differences in HCC. Check the spelling on Line 715.

Line 789 (post revisions):

**Previously:**

**Figure 1b:** Overall survival curves by race after exclusion of patients who underwent **orthotic** liver transplantation; Hispanic (n= 34), African American (n=55), Whites (n=69). P value was obtained with the use of the log-rank test.

**Figure 1b:** Overall survival curves by race after exclusion of patients who underwent **orthotopic** liver transplantation; Hispanic (n= 34), African American (n=55), Whites (n=69). P value was obtained with the use of the log-rank test.

Reviewer **00051373**

An interesting observation study for the clinical outcome between HCC in Hispanics to those of African Americans and Whites. A clearly data presentation and manuscript written.

No changes made

Reviewer **02444774**

Nice and important study. Comments: 1. How many of the patients with viral hepatitis had been receiving antiviral treatment before or after HCC diagnosis? Any impact on the outcomes? 2. Follow Point 1, had AFP become less sensitive to detect HCC among patients receiving antiviral? (Wong GL, et al. Hepatology 2014 Mar;59(3):986-95) 3. Please add no. at risk at the bottom of Figure 1a and 1b.

**Damiano Rondelli, MD**  
*Michael Reese Professor  
of  
Hematology and Chief*

**Professors**

*Steven Ackerman, PhD  
Joseph DeSimone, PhD  
Arkadiusz Dudek, MD  
PhD  
Victor Gordeuk, MD  
Giuseppina Nucifora,  
PhD  
Howard Ozer, MD, PhD  
David Peace, MD*

**Associate Professors**

*John Berry, MD  
Lawrence Feldman, MD  
Kent Hoskins, MD  
Sajani Lakka, PhD  
Donald Lavelle, PhD  
Nadim Mahmud, MD,  
PhD  
John Quigley, MD  
Wen-Shu Wu, PhD*

**Assistant Professors**

*Chaher Alhandalous, MD  
Lucy Chen, MD  
Oana Danciu, MD  
Michel Gowhari, DO  
Johara Hassan, MD  
Dominic Ho, MD  
Irum Khan, MD  
Irene Ma, MD  
Robert Molokie, MD  
Annie Oh, MD  
Pritesh Patel, MD  
Zhijian Qian, PhD  
Santosh Saraf, MD  
Neeta Venepalli, MD*

## Hematology/Oncology

1. Unfortunately we did not collect information on antiviral treatment before or after HCC diagnosis as we did not select this variable upfront. As a result we are not able to do an analysis on outcome or assess AFP in relation to HCC detection amongst patients receiving antivirals. On my review of the data, of the 132 patients with HCV, only 45 were on antivirals. This information was not available for HBV patients. Our statistician did not think the information would be statistically significant given the lack of HBV treatment data, and the small number of HCV patients receiving antiviral therapy.
2. We did not have that information to collect and were not able to assess AFP in relation to HCC detection amongst patients receiving antivirals. Our statistician did not think the information would be statistically significant given the lack of HBV treatment data, and the small number of HCV patients receiving antiviral therapy.
3. This was added for both tables as requested (page 30 and 31).

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of our article.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can provide.

Sincerely,

Neeta K. Venepalli, MD MBA  
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
840 South Wood Street, 820-E CSB  
Chicago, Illinois 60612-7123  
nkvenep@uic.edu  
Phone 3129961581 Fax 3124134131

*Nina Yedavalli, MD*

### **Fellows**

*Stan Borowicz, MD*  
*Rozina Chowdhery, MD*  
*Gelenis Domingo, MD*  
*Katherine Exten, MD*  
*Chintan Gandhi, MD*  
*Rongrong Ge, MD*  
*Gowri Ramadas, MD*  
*Mylene Remo, MD*  
*Christopher Sequiera, MD*  
*Hiral Shah, MD*  
*Ardaman Shergill, MD*  
*Alex Sica, MD*  
*Amer Sidani, MD*  
*Maryam Zia, MD*

### **Nurse Practitioners**

*MaryAnn*  
*Enriquez, RN, ACNP-B*  
*Laura Kavoliunaite, NP*  
*Jennifer Windhorst, NP*

### **Genetic Counselors**

*Lara Balay, MS*  
*Tara Maga, PhD, MS*