

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50606

Title: The role of liver biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 03195661

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's country: China

Author's country: Italy

Reviewer chosen by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-07-30 00:45

Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-05 06:42

Review time: 6 Days and 5 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review submitted by Luca Di Tommaso et al has comprehensively described the role

of liver biopsy in the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). They reported that the role of liver biopsy in the diagnosis of HCC has been challenged by the ability of imaging techniques. Considering the necessity and risk of biopsy, they concluded that the biopsy should be conducted when the nodule has clinical features of higher risk of misdiagnoses such as the increase of atypical markers with normal AFP or the presence of iCCA risk factors. In addition, a noninvasive modality (i.e. liquid biopsy) rather than biopsy is more feasible to index the targeting immune/chemo-therapies in the future. This review was well written and it is instructive to readers. Minor comment: Several multikinase inhibitors, such as sorafenib and regorafenib, have been widely used in clinic, however, these agents are prescribed without biopsy and any target examination, resulting in poor response rate in patients. The authors should discuss this issue. That is to say, in the authors' opinion, is it reasonable to detect the kinase activity or other markers before the targeted treatment?

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☒ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☒ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50606

Title: The role of liver biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02861225

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's country: Austria

Author's country: Italy

Reviewer chosen by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-07-31 20:14

Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-05 10:23

Review time: 4 Days and 14 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Di Tommaso et. al. nicely reviewed the current knowledge on the role of tumor biopsy

and biology in HCC. The manuscript is well written, but the following points might be addressed in order to further improve its quality: 1) Please elaborate about the different biopsy techniques (role of needle size, true cut vs. aspiration biopsy) and their pros and cons. 2) Please discuss histological quality criteria (specimen size, portal fields, ...). 3) Please provide a summarizing table or figure including Pros and Cons of the different approaches towards HCC diagnosis. If you have help from a statistician/mathematician, you could model different scenarios (histological vs. radiological diagnosis) in different cohorts (Europe vs. Asia) and calculate a number needed to treat and number needed to harm, and moreover a cost-effectiveness estimation. 4) Please acknowledge the patients perspective and the need for an informed consent during the work-up of diagnosing a hepatoma.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50606

Title: The role of liver biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 00070894

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's country: China

Author's country: Italy

Reviewer chosen by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

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Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-07 10:50

Review time: 8 Days and 9 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1. The title reflect the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript. 2. The abstract seems to



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

be lack of a sentence to summarize the main aspects described in this study. 3. The key words reflect the focus of the manuscript. 4. The background, methods, results, and discussion were of high-quality, comprehensively collecting and discussing useful information. 5. Lack of figure and table might be less interpretable. There may be a overall flowchart to decribe your aspects of discussion.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50606

Title: The role of liver biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02687374

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's country: China

Author's country: Italy

Reviewer chosen by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-08-02 08:21

Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-12 13:00

Review time: 10 Days and 4 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript mainly introduces the role of current liver biopsy in diagnosis and

molecular treatment of HCC. The authors introduced fundamental diagnosis of HCC, pathological diagnosis of HCC and prognostic markers. Furthermore, pros and cons of liver biopsy use in clinical management of HCC and liquid biopsy in HCC were introduced. This review is comprehensive and the author made an appropriate assessment on the current diagnosis of HCC and current risk/benefit balance. The language of this manuscript was quite appropriate and references were also suitable. Therefore, I recommend accepting this manuscript.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50606

Title: The role of liver biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 00069630

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree:

Professional title:

Reviewer's country: China

Author's country: Italy

Reviewer chosen by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-08-08 05:38

Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-13 06:16

Review time: 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Due to the development of imaging, liver biopsy as a diagnostic method of HCC is not

commonly used now. Only a small number of patients with inconsistent imaging evaluation or the need for careful differential diagnosis were advised for the invasive diagnostic method. However, with the progress of molecular biology, targeted therapy and immunotherapy of HCC, the importance of liver biopsy has been put forward again. In this review, the pros and cons of liver biopsy were analyzed. The role of liver biopsy in gene analysis and molecular tagert of tumors, as well as the effects of targeted therapy and immunotherapy were emphasized. Finally, as the future development direction of this field, liquid biopsy was put forward. This article systematically expounds the recent research related to liver biopsy, which can be used for reference by clinical and scientific researchers. It is an excellent review article.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50606

Title: The role of liver biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02539405

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's country: China

Author's country: Italy

Reviewer chosen by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

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Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-18 09:26

Review time: 16 Days and 18 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review summarizes the advantages and disadvantages of liver biopsy in the

diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma. Liver biopsy has been developed for many years. However, as a kind of invasive examination, it is seldom used in clinic. In the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma, non-invasive techniques such as ultrasound, CT or MRI are preferred. However, with increasing knowledge of the phenotypical and molecular characteristics of HCC, molecular targets have attracted more and more attention in the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of HCC. Liver biopsy warrants a simple key-hole view of the lesion under examination. The pathological data obtained at the morphological, phenotypical and molecular level from these tiny fragments may be incomplete or only partially representative. However, it still represents the best option to get information from the lesion itself. Therefore, it is necessary to reevaluate the role of liver biopsy in HCC, and this review gives us a detailed description. So, we believe this review has some scientific significance. However, there are still some shortcomings in this review. For example, liquid biopsy is a new detection method with good prospects, and the authors should compare the advantages and disadvantages of this method with the liver biopsy. Besides, the second paragraph of the conclusion, was superfluous.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
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[Y] No