



December 12nd, 2023

To:

Editors-in-Chief of **World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery**

Dear Editors,

Please find enclosed in the web system the revised/edited form of the manuscript (invited Editorial) entitled **“Novel prognostic factors after radical resection of hepatocellular carcinoma: updating an old issue”**. The major changes are highlighted in yellow, while the ‘Track changes’ feature in Microsoft Word are enabled.

The manuscript has been highly improved according to all the suggestions of the reviewer#2: *Specific Comments to Authors: This is an interesting editorial. Survival after radical surgery for liver cancer remains poor, with important perioperative complications and many cases of organ recurrence. But surgery remains superior to other local therapies. How to stratify surgical candidates ? In this editorial, author reviewed many articles and attempted to show many prognostic scores to select those patients who will best benefit from radical liver surgery, such as the Child–Pugh score, the ALBI score, the MELD score, eat. The author summarized that some novel prognostic markers, including immune inflammatory and nutritional indexes, could be of great help in better stratifying surgical candidates. However, no single biomarker can show all these requisites for HCC and it remains to be proven whether these novel prognostic tools maintain predictive power in the long-term follow-up. Besides, further studies are also needed in patients of different ages and physical states. These considerations could introduce the concept of “personalized” medicine. On the whole, I think it's a very valuable editorial and it provides a new idea of stratifying surgical candidates in HCC.*

In details: Most of the comments were accepted and highlighted in the text, following the suggestions of the referee. Moreover, a polish of the text was also added.

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely,

Lapo Bencini, MD, PhD

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