

December 18, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14246-Ranieri.doc).

Title: Vascular endothelial growth factor and tryptase changes after chemoembolization in hepatocarcinoma patients

Authors: Girolamo Ranieri, Michele Ammendola, Ilaria Marech, Annamaria Laterza, Ines Abbate, Caroline Oakley, Angelo Vacca, Rosario Sacco and Cosmo Damiano Gadaleta

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14246

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of both reviewers.

In particular in reply to Reviewer (1):

Now we have inserted the purpose of our research in AIM.

The serum AFP basal levels have been assessed in all 71 patients and due to our mistake we have reported a wrong numbers of patients. The corrected sentence has been now reported as follow: "The serum AFP median level of patients was 79 ng/mL. Forty-eight (67%) patients had normal levels (<20 ng/ml) of AFP, while the other twenty-three (33%) had higher levels".

In the case of multiple HCC nodules with disease extension to both lobes a selective TACE (to one lobe) as first treatment has been performed and the drug has been injected in the liver's lobe with a more diffuse disease.

In particular in reply to Reviewer (2):

The Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test has been now employed to evaluate changes in serum VEGF and Tryptase levels. Results have confirmed that the distribution is approximately normal. Obtained data have been reported in the main text and in the table 3.

We agree with the suggestion to evaluate serum VEGF and tryptase levels after TACE with particular reference to patient's survival. However due to the ongoing follow-up of several treated patients that are alive and free disease we aim to evaluate patient's survival when the follow-up will be completed. According to the Reviewer's suggestion we would like to publish mature patient's survival data in another future awaited paper.

3 References and typesetting have been corrected.
Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Girolamo Ranieri', written in a cursive style.

Girolamo Ranieri M.D.,
Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Unit with Integrated Section of Translational Medical
Oncology
National Cancer Research Centre Istituto Tumori “Giovanni Paolo II”
Via Orazio Flacco 65
70124 Bari (Italy)
Telephone: 0039 080 5555561
Fax: 0039 080 5555563
e-mail: giroran@tiscalinet.it