

July 27, 2015

World Journal of Gastroenterology Editorial Office

Dear Editors:

On behalf of the authors, I am grateful for your letter and the comments from the referees regarding our manuscript submitted to *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We revised our manuscript in accordance with the comments of reviewers. The attached documents are revised manuscript with point-by-point reply files. In revised manuscript, we made the changes with blue color.

Here below are our responses to the reviewers' comments. I would appreciate considering our revisions.

Best wishes,



Wei Tang, MD, PhD
Director of General Laboratory, and Ass Professor
Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery Division,
Artificial Organ and Transplantation Division,
Department of Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine,
The University of Tokyo
7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8655, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5800-9269, Fax: +81-3-5684-3989
E-mail: tang-sur@h.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Response to Reviewers' Comments:

Comment 1: Title should be no more than 10~12 words/60 bytes. Please revise it.

Authors' answer: The title has been revised as “Controversies regarding and perspectives on clinical utility of biomarkers in hepatocellular carcinoma”, which are 12 words. We also add a running title as “Clinical utility of biomarkers in HCC” on page one, which are 6 words.

Comment 2: Please provide the author contributions. Authors must indicate their specific contributions to the published work. This information will be published as a footnote to the paper.

Authors' answer: The authors contributions have been added on page one as “Tang W and Kokudo N designed the research; Song PP, Xia JF, and Inagaki Y conducted the data collection and analysis; Song PP produced the initial draft of the paper, Hasegawa K and Sakamoto Y made a further revision on this paper. All authors were involved in the interpretation of the analyses and writing of the paper. All authors approved the final version of the paper and take responsibility for its content.”

Comment 3: Conflict-of-interest statement: Authors are required to make this statement in the manuscript's title page (please see sample wording in attachment). A copy of signed statement should be provided to the BPG in PDF format, which are necessary for final acceptance.

Authors' answer: We added the description of “Conflict-of-interest statement” as “The authors declare that they have no competing interests” on page one. A copy of signed statement will be submitted along with the revised manuscript.

Besides, we also added the description of “Supportive foundation” and “Open-Access” on page one according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

Comment 4: Core tip: Please write a summary of less than 100 words to outline the most innovative and important arguments and core contents in your paper to attract readers.

Authors' answer: The “core tip” has been added on page three as “**Core tip:** Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a major global health problem due to the high prevalence of infection with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and/or hepatitis C virus (HCV) as risk factors. Thus, a good surveillance program and diagnostic strategy for the early detection of HCC should be available. This review summarizes the controversies regarding and perspectives on clinical utility of biomarkers in HCC, especially the current role of alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) and des-γ-carboxyprothrombin (DCP), as well as the research frontiers and prospects for novel biomarkers to evaluate the prognosis for HCC and to facilitate post-treatment monitoring.”

Comment 5: Audio core tip: In order to attract readers to read your full-text article, we request that the author make an audio file describing your final core tip, it is necessary for final acceptance. Please refer to Instruction to authors on our website or attached Format for detailed information.

Authors' answer: The “Audio core tip” will be submitted along with the revised manuscript.

Comment 6: Figure 1: The graphs supplied should be decomposable (each part of your figure could be moved so as to easily edited). You can send it as excel, word or powerpoint format so that I can edit them easily.

Authors' answer: The revised figure 1 with PowerPoint format will be submitted along with the revised manuscript.

Comment 7: Figure 1: Please use ^{1, 2, 3}, *etc* instead of ^{*}, [#], *etc*.

Authors' answer: The footnote has been revised in both Figure 1 and figure legend on page 46.