

Dear Editor,

Here it is the answer to reviews comments :

REVIEWER 1: No comments

REVIEWER 2: In this paper, authors reviewed the preoperative evaluation of liver function and innovative surgical approaches for hepatocellular carcinoma. The available evidence is well summarized in the paper. Before publication, the paper would require minor revision: 1. They are suggested to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these methods in applications and more extensive comments on the indications or surgical techniques from literature. 2. ALPPS (Associating liver partition and portal vein ligation for staged hepatectomy) should be introduced except Portal vein embolization and stem cells application. 3. The reference should be updated for HCC is the sixth or fifth most common cancer in Abstract and Introduction.

ANSWER 2: We expanded the discussion on advantages and disadvantages. ALPPS is actually a limited indication for HCC, so it represents for us an indication that could be associated to modern strategies. Correction is done for HCC as cause of cancer.

REVIEWER 3:

I have read with great interest the article entitled "innovative surgical approaches for hepatocellular carcinoma" from Memeo et al. The article aims to "describe all innovations in the surgical treatment of HCC". This is an informative article, without methodological structure (how was the literature search, with articles have been included etc). The authors describe superficially some of the advances in HCC but not all and some of them are not exclusive for HCC. Also, some of the concepts are wrong and data from the main text is not in concordance with the abstract. I consider this manuscript does not fulfill criteria to be published in World Journal of gastroenterology.

ANSWER 3: No comments

Best regards

Riccardo Memeo