

Prof Lian-Sheng Ma, President and Company Editor-in-Chief  
C/o Dr Xiu-Xia Song, Science Editor,  
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc,  
Editorial Office,  
World Journal of Hepatology

4<sup>th</sup> Apr 2017

Dear Prof Ma,

Re: World Journal of Hepatology - Manuscript NO.: 33640  
Title- The value of quality of life analysis in liver cancer – a clinician's  
perspective

Thank you for your email dated 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2017. We have revised the manuscript according to the recommendations of the reviewers. We would like to submit the final version to the Journal. Please find enclosed a point-to-point response to the recommendations of the reviewers (with their comments enclosed) and the manuscript.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Winnie Yeo, MD, FRCP

Author for correspondence:  
Department of Clinical Oncology,  
Chinese University of Hong Kong,  
Prince of Wales Hospital,  
Shatin, NT, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 3505 2118; Fax: (852) 3505 7097

**Comments from Reviewer #00187828:**

The review entitled The value of quality of life analysis in liver cancer – a clinician’s perspective by Leung Li, Winnie Yeo is well written, presented and comprehensive.

**Response to Comments from Reviewer #00187828:**

We thank the Reviewer for his/her valuable review and comments.

**Comments from Reviewer #02861186:**

Well written review regarding QoL in HCC. The authors depicted the most substantial Problems with or of analyses of QoL: Data acquisition/missing data, prospective design, to many kinds of QoL-catalogues, Need for clinical trials with implementation of HRQoL-catalogues as endpoints,...

**Response to Comments from Reviewer #02861186:**

We thank the Reviewer for his/her valuable review and comments.

**Comments from Reviewer #02861175:**

it is difficult to use QoL in daily practices. But it is important for us knowing QoL during treatment especially for HCC patients . Many questionnaire of QoL developed and studied for HCC as you mention in manuscript (see table 1), but you have not mentioned the suggestion QoL or the most important QoL for HCC in clinical practice (simple, complete and sounding all aspects) after reading this review, doctors may use the best QoL for clinical practice and/ or clinical trial.

**Response to Comments from Reviewer #02861175:**

We thank the Reviewer for his/her valuable review and comments. We agree that the best QoL should be adopted in clinical practice. We, therefore, suggest that it is desirable to derive an all rounded and universal QOL instrument which could serve every QOL-related purpose well. However there is paucity of data to compare the robustness among various QOL instruments. Some instruments were derived to serve specific purposes, for example EQ-5D for health care valuation. Moreover some instruments were found to have additional functions after their development, for example survival prognostication by EORTC QLQ-C30, EORTC QLQ-HCC18. The big picture right now suggests QOL instruments are rather diversified. Therefore we suggest that clinicians/researchers are recommended to choose QOL instruments according to their specific clinical/research needs. These issues have been discussed in the manuscript; please refer to section 3.2, section 2.4 and section 2.3.

**Comments from Reviewer #00537002:**

The authors well reviewed the value of quality of life analysis in liver cancer – a clinician’s perspective. This information is useful for clinical management.

**Response to Comments from Reviewer #00537002:**

We thank the Reviewer for his/her valuable review and comments.