

November 1st, 2017

To:

Dr Timothy M Pawlik,
Editor-in-Chief

We are submitting for consideration for publication in your distinguished journal the revised manuscript 36358 entitled: *“Advances and Challenges in Laparoscopic Surgery in the management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma”*. First and foremost, we would like to thank the reviewers and Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Dr Timothy M Pawlik, for taking the time and effort to assess our initial manuscript so meticulously. We took into account all of your recommendations and modified our manuscript accordingly. Detailed replies to the reviewer’s comments are provided below:

Reviewer 00053419:

“The authors provide a review of an interesting topic. The application of a laparoscopic approach to the treatment of HCC patients is an open question that offer an alternative therapeutic intervention but still many challenging issues remain to be addressed. The overall structure of the manuscript is appropriate, the main aspects have been nicely highlighted with references to the most relevant studies currently available. The review might be a good starting point to start productive discussions on this issue. I would recommend to avoid detailed descriptions of very specific technical aspects for an easy reading and to allow the reader to recognise the most relevant and critical points

.”

-Thank you for your time and effort in thoroughly evaluating our work and for your acceptance. We revised the manuscript according to your recommendations and specifically removed the part of describing the techniques of laparoscopic liver resection, as well as other general parts of

insignificant importance. Hence it is now easier for the reader to focus on the critical aspects of the subject.

Reviewer 00052899:

“In this present review, the authors summarized the general principles, current status and future prospects of laparoscopic liver resection for hepatocellular carcinoma. There were two problems in the manuscript. First, indications for surgical resection for HCC could be introduced briefly according to figure 1. Second, the general principles of laparoscopic liver resection should be refined considering the core aim of the review.”

-We are thankful for your comments, as well as your acceptance. In order to meet your comments, we further condensed the indications and general parts of the manuscript, while we also deleted the technical aspects of the procedure. The article is now easier to read and its aim is more clearly depicted.

Reviewer 03656588:

“1) The authors reviewed the present the current knowledge around laparoscopic hepatectomy, with a special interest on the indications, general principles and technique, as well as its’ envisioned future. It is better understanding the current status and advances in laparoscopic hepatectomy. 2) The review is very too long narration involved in many aspects . The focus is not outstanding. The main narration should focus on the “Advances and Challenges in Laparoscopic Surgery in the management of HCC”, not in operating time, safety, learning curve, cost etc. 3) The figure is too nebulous and need to be changed 4) I suggest that the manuscript need be further condensed and the focus is outstanding .

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-We really appreciate your comments and are thankful for your time. (1), (2), (4): We took your thoughts into consideration and removed a great deal of the manuscript (general principles and technique), so that its focus now resembles the title to a greater extent and it is no longer that lengthy. (3): The figure is an explicit representation of the BCLC algorithm presented in a standard way.

We would like to thank all the reviewers again for their valuable time and effort and for helping us improve this paper.

Sincerely yours,

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