

Title: Diagnostic value of imaging in patients with primary hepatocellular carcinoma

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Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Diagnostic value of imaging in patients with primary hepatocellular carcinoma”. Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewers comments are as following:

Reviewer #1:

1. Comment: The paper entitled: Diagnostic value of imaging in patients with primary hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), by Xinghui Li et al. aims to describe recent improvements in imaging techniques, especially Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, and their contribution to the diagnosis of HCC. The manuscript has several important shortcomings that should be addressed. It needs an extensive English grammar revision and also needs to be updated with the latest published guidelines by EASL. The main scope of the presented work is meant to be mainly read by radiologists. Since WJG is not a specialized radiology journal, details and values concerning the imaging techniques used in the study should be better explained, since the readers may not be radiologists. This reviewer thinks that the presented paper may be suitable for publication after an extensive major revision. Specific queries: Abstract section

First sentence: "Primary hepatocellular carcinoma ... and rapid progress": It is true that HCC starts without specific symptoms, but, at least in Western Countries, most HCCs develop from liver cirrhosis. So, a careful monitoring of these patients, i.e. ultrasound every six months, allows to discover many HCCs at earlier stage.

Introduction section Lines 17-19: "The early diagnosis ... of Liver Disease (EASL)". Please note that new guidelines on liver cancer of EASL have been recently published. So, please, refer to them and update the manuscript accordingly. As a guide to this: please follow this DOI to the guidelines: doi.org/10.1016/j.jhep.2018.03.019. Progress in CT diagnosis In this section, no real progresses are cited. Progress in MR diagnosis These specific progresses are not written in a clear way for hepatologists (not radiologists) to understand them, including this reviewer. This section should be simplified or better explained in detail for more clarity (i.e. b value, D values, etc.).

Hepatocyte specific contrast The AA cite a Gd-EOB-DTPA as a second hepatocyte-specific contrast agent. At least in Western Countries, the second hepatocyte specific contrast agent is Gd-BOPTA. Please revise this section.

Response: Thanks for your good evaluation and kind suggestion. The reviewer explanation is very correct, and all of mistakes have been corrected using red marks.

We have corrected cite references sequentially in the text. Thank you.

Reviewer #2:

Comment: The manuscript provides a comprehensive review of a collection of imaging technologies which are currently used for the diagnosis of HCC. Overall the

information provided is of interest and covers the most relevant aspects of the technologies in use, their strengths and weaknesses. Minor editing is recommended.

Response: Thanks for your good evaluation and kind suggestion. Thank you.

Reviewer #3:

Comment: This is a very straight-forward review to explore the diagnostic value of imaging in patients with primary hepatocellular carcinoma. The manuscript contains new innovations. It is based on an interesting issue. The discussion comprises the essential topics. The authors can cite the following papers: 1. Ali AS, Ajaz A: The role of mucin-educated platelet activation in tumor invasiveness: An unfolding concern in the realm of cancer biology. *Biomedicine (Taipei)*. 2017 Dec;7(4):21. doi: 10.1051/bmdcn/2017070421. Epub 2017 Nov 13. 2. Chang LC, Yu YL: Dietary components as epigenetic-regulating agents against cancer. *Biomedicine* 2016;6:016-0002 3. Lai SW, Chen PC, Liao KF, Muo CH, Lin CC, Sung FC: Risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in diabetic patients and risk reduction associated with anti-diabetic therapy: a population-based cohort study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2012;107:46-52

Response: Thanks for your good evaluation and kind suggestion. The reviewer explanation is very correct, and all of mistakes have been corrected using red marks. We have cited these papers in the discussion paragraph.

Thanks again for your suggestions and hope to learn more from you.