



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 00054465

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-20

Review time: 23 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an excellent overview of the current status of the management of hepatocellular cancer and survival. The role and outcomes of the use of locoregional therapy is critically analyzed. The conclusions from the available data are appropriate.



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INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 00053888

Reviewer's country: United Kingdom

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-21

Review time: 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This topic is useful and valid to review but the submitted manuscript needs to follow a more conventional pattern of presentation should include a review of the whole literature base and needs to have extensive grammatical correction. There also needs to



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be some tables and or figures to help a reader easily understand the topic.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 02954069

Reviewer's country: Turkey

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-21

Review time: 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a good editorial which, I think, merits publication in WJG.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 00053958

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-23

Review time: 3 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an overall good discussion on the issue of pre transplant loco regional therapy as a bridge to liver transplantation and the authors discussed some recent publications. I would like to see an expansion of their discussion to include the following points: 1) to



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point out that the described benefit of loco regional treatments in the recent Pommergaard study is small although it appears to be statistically significant (69.7 vs. 65.8%; $P < 0.001$) 2) the latest study shows that 1-2 treatments have better survival but once again this may represent better biology i.e. better response of HCC to treatment and I think this is broadly in line with previous evidence and is not very different. 3) to discuss why RFA and RFA + TACE maybe better- it could be due to higher efficacy of RFA and also due to tumor selection (perhaps HCC treated with RFA is smaller in size than HCC treated with TACE). 4) I would like to see a discussion of the fact that local allocation rules and wait time variations may play a huge role in this. In the US for example, most HCC patients have to wait for at least 6 months from diagnosis before getting MELD exception points.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 00051373

Reviewer's country: Taiwan

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-24

Review time: 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a very pertinent editorial suggesting that the LRT is benefit for the outcomes of liver transplantation. I am much agreeing with Prof. Lai regarding the point of view.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 02861333

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-25

Review time: 6 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review paper summerized the recent studies for Locoregional therapy before LT for HCC. The META analysis or RCT study should be furthered.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39909

Title: Locoregional therapy response in patients with hepatocellular cancer waiting for liver transplantation: only selection or biological effect?

Reviewer's code: 02860897

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2018-05-19

Date reviewed: 2018-05-27

Review time: 7 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Milan criteria was widely used as indication for liver transplantation in patients with HCC. Several investigators tried to revise Milan criteria because local therapy for HCC has remarkably improved. This editorial is not only very timely but also very useful



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because authors summarized the present status of locoregional therapy for HCC. Authors' description is very appropriate and no further comments.

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