

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 49450

Title: A Comparison between the Hong Kong and Barcelona Liver Cancer Staging Systems in South American Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02860814

Reviewer's country: Greece

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-29 19:00

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-02 11:18

Review time: 3 Days and 16 Hours

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 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

I read with great interest paper by de Freitas et al entitled "A Comparison between the Hong Kong and Barcelona Liver Cancer Staging Systems in South American Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma". The authors applied both scoring system in a cohort of



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519 HCC patients from southern Brazil. The found a general agreement of 80% between two classification systems. However, a significant disagreement was noted in the subset of BCLB-B cases, suggesting that some individuals could be offered curative treatments following the HKLC system. It is a very well written paper, which adds useful information in treatment of HCC patients. My comments: 1. The authors should provide as a figure the HKLC prognostic classification scheme. 2. It's not clear to me, how patients with decompensation (e.g. ascites) were handled.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 49450

Title: A Comparison between the Hong Kong and Barcelona Liver Cancer Staging Systems in South American Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02944288

Reviewer's country: Russia

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 08:39

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-06 07:56

Review time: 1 Day and 23 Hours

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 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 type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Weaknesses or deficiencies in the manuscript: 1) Small number of patients 2) Single center study 3) The data from the manuscript does not confirm that Hong Kong system is less practical than Barcelona system. Barcelona and Hong Kong systems had been



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made for different aims. And the comparison has to take it into account.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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BPG Search:

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 49450

Title: A Comparison between the Hong Kong and Barcelona Liver Cancer Staging Systems in South American Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02541391

Reviewer's country: Romania

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-29 10:16

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-09 23:06

Review time: 11 Days and 12 Hours

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1. The title ("A Comparison between the Hong Kong and Barcelona Liver Cancer Staging Systems in South American Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma") reflects the major topic and partially the contents of the study. The objective outlined on page 3 ("This



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study assessed the agreement between the HKLC and BCLC systems in different evolutionary stages of HCC in a Western population") is however, slightly different from the objective outlined on page 10 ("The objective of this study was to evaluate the agreement between BCLC and HKLC treatment recommendations in a Western population"). The first aim/objective of the study (pag. 3) are rather general and could include other elements of comparison. 2. The text of the abstract requires a major revision and could be condensed in many parts. The form presented by the authors repeatedly includes a series of terms/verbs, so sentences are difficult to follow. 3. The authors did not detail the limitations of the study.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 49450

Title: A Comparison between the Hong Kong and Barcelona Liver Cancer Staging Systems in South American Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 00182423

Reviewer's country: South Korea

Science editor: Li-Jun Cui

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-01 09:02

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-12 09:55

Review time: 11 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:
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		<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 evidence that HKLC should be applied for BCLC-B South American patients where HVC associated cirrhosis prevails.



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