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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology***Manuscript NO:** 55059**Manuscript Type:** REVIEW**Novel molecular targets in** hepatocellular carcinomaChow AKM *et al.* Novel molecular targets in HCC

Ariel Ka-Man Chow, Simon Wing-Lung Yau, Lui Ng

**Abstract**

Globally, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a leading cause of cancer and cancer-related deaths. The therapeutic efficacies of locoregional and systemic treatment in patients with advanced HCC remains low which results in a poor disease prognosis. The development of sorafenib in treating HCC brought a new era of molecular targeted therapy for the disease. However, the median overall survival was reported as being barely higher in the sorafenib treatment group as compared to the control group. Hence, through this review we describe the

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The currently most promising molecular targeted agent within this pathway is the Raf kinase inhibitor sorafenib that additionally targets the tyrosine kinases of VEGFR and PDGFR. HCC is a hypervascularized tumor depending on neoangiogenesis and both cell proliferation and neoangiogenesis contribute to initiation and progression of HCC.

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**Treatment** decisions are complex and dependent upon **tumor staging**, presence of portal **hypertension**, and the underlying degree of **liver dysfunction**. The knowledge of **molecular hepatocarcinogenesis** broadened the horizon for patients with advanced **HCC**.

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## Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Medical Condition

The most common form of liver cancer often seen in people with chronic liver diseases like cirrhosis.

Rare (Fewer than 200,000 cases per year in US)

May be preventable by vaccine

Often requires lab test or imaging

Treatment from medical professional advised

Can last several months or years

Caused mainly due to the chronic infection of the liver or DNA mutation of the liver cells. Characterized by unexplained weight loss, upper abdominal pain and yellowing of the skin. Treatment options include hepatectomy, target drug delivery and the use of radiation to kill the cancerous cells.

Symptoms





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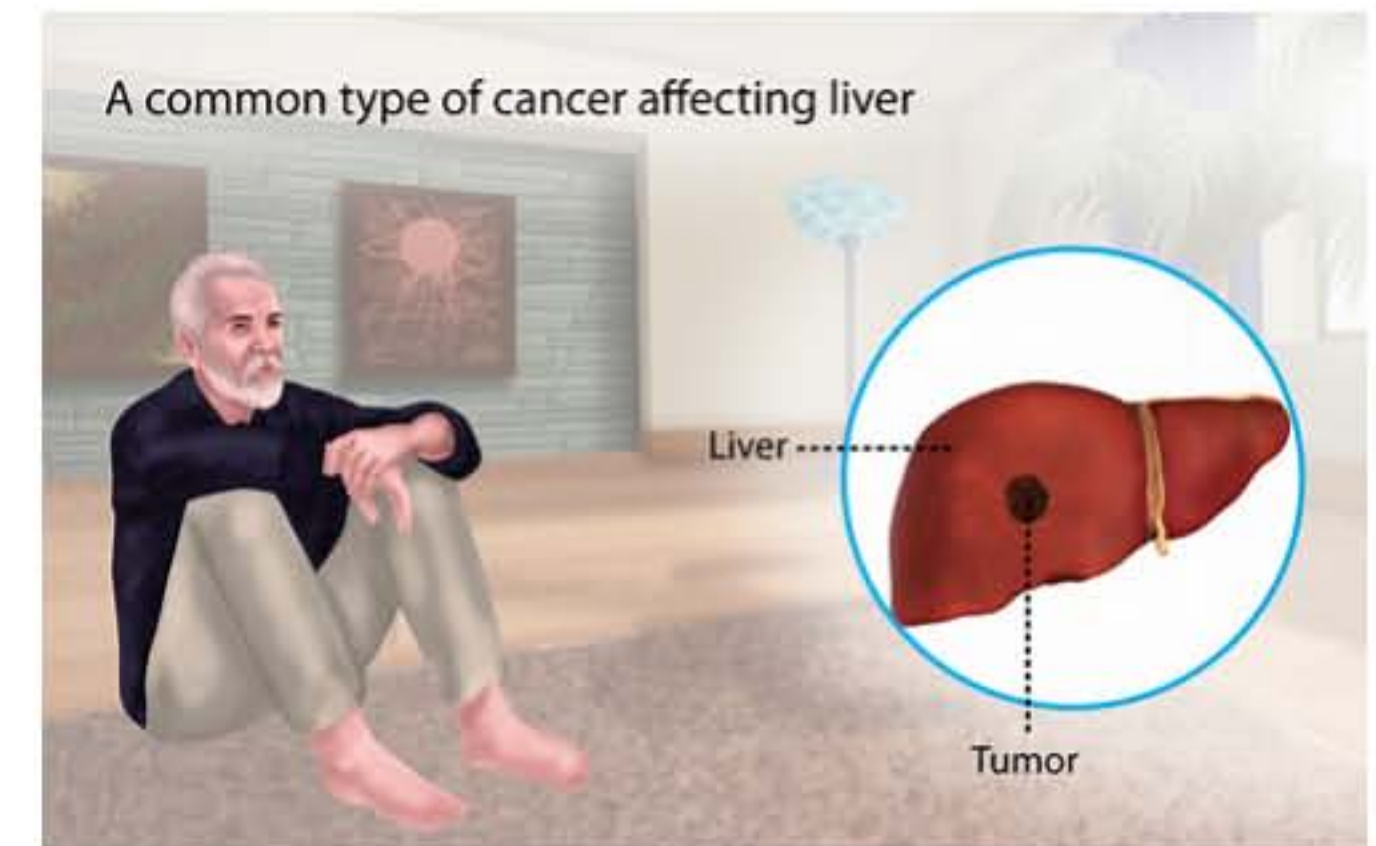
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