

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



January 1, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5682-review.doc).

Title: Evaluation of endoscopic biliary stenting for obstructive jaundice caused by hepatocellular carcinoma

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5682

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Major comments

Q1) Please describe the treatment of the Patients in Group B, where EBS was not possible! Was there really no change of an external biliary drainage in these patients? What about PTBD in these group? What about other palliative treatment as applied in Group A? Reading the manuscript it seems that no other treatments were possible for patients in group B. Please report more about the clinical course of these patients.

A1)

Then, I have add a sentence as follows,

On the other hands, in Group B, because of depressed performance status after EBS, PTBD and/or re-EBS could not done in all patients. only conservative management could done, so there prognosis was very short.We have been considered the first choice of drainage method was EBS for obstructive jaundice caused by HCC. However, If it was poor drainage effect in the EBS, We added PTBD, in the two cases of group A

Q2) Please point out more detailed in the "Results" and the "Discussion", that patients with no history of "hepatectomy" had superior survival. Was it because EBS was possible? Why could a liver resection contribute to a superior survival? Please discuss that fact more detailed? Is there literature for that fact?

A2)

There was no ever literature with regard to obstructive jaundice that was merged in hepatocellular carcinoma, was reported on the prognosis and hepatectomy

Q3) Additionally if the authors write hepatectomy the reader could get confused. Please write left or right hemihepatectomy or some other types of liver resection. E.g.: You do a hepatectomy before you transplant a new Donor Liver!!

A3) I have add a sentence as follows,

The details of the operation method was Central bisegmentectomy was performed in 1 patient in Group A, Right hemihepatectomy in 2 patients, Left hemihepatectomy in 1 patient and Limited hepatic resection was performed in 1 patient in GroupB

Q4) If the authors write endoscopic nasobiliary stenting and EBS in the results part of the "Abstract" and do not mention nasobiliary stenting above, the reader could get confused. As far as I know nasobiliary stenting is a procedure to manage a severe cholangitis. Did so many patients had a severe cholangitis before EBS? Please clarify!!!

A4) I have add a sentences as follows,

ENBD was inserted not only the treatment of infection but for the judgment of the biliary drainage effect. However, in consideration of the prognosis, ENBD performed neither the advanced case of HCC, nor the poor case of the general state, but it performed EBD from the beginning.

Q5) Please note that the Bismuth-Corlette classification is mostly used for cholangiocarcinoma. Please describe that in the "Methods" as well. Are your sure that you can use that classification in HCC patients?

A5)

As reviewers say, to be used for cholangiocarcinoma Bismuth-Corlette classification usually, but using applied to HCC patients as the evaluation of bile duct invasion this time,

Q6) "Conventionally, percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage (PTBD) has usually been carried out for the treatment of obstructive jaundice caused by HCC, however, in recent years, endoscopic biliary stenting (EBD) has often been undertaken as first-line therapy, taking into account the QOL of the patients." If the authors mention this development of treatment, please find a citation for that fact. Otherwise you do not have evidence for that change of treatment.

A6)

Minami et al. have reported that EBS is a first line therapy for obstructive jaundice caused by HCC in the reference 20)

Q7) "according to the General Rules for the clinical and Pathological Study of Primary liver Cancer, 5th Edition, 2009". If this is a Reference please cite it as a reference in the test and I the references!

A7)

I added as reference 7)

Q8) Please fill up the introduction with more details of this rare cause of HCC complication. For example use the review from "Qin LX, Tang ZY. Hepatocellular carcinoma with obstructive jaundice: diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. World J Gastroenterol. 2003 Mar;9(3):385-91."

A8)

I added as reference 3)

Minor comments

Q1) Please let an English native speaker have a proof reading of your manuscript.

A1) I attach a certificate.

Q2) Abbreviations were used without explaining in the text. For example QOL, CT, NBNC or VP0 and so on.

A2)

I have corrected the full spell QOL, CT and NBNC changed as a non-BC,
Then about VP, Page 5 L6 lines, I described more details of VP(P6 L4 lines)

Q3) If you do not repeat an abbreviation please do not abbreviate in the text (e.g. GW, PS or EST). I could not find these abbreviations anywhere else in the manuscript.

A3)

I removed the abbreviation GW, PS or EST etc, and described full spell,

Q4) You used T.B. in the "Patients an -

A4)

I cannot find a next sentence , so I send E-mail before. but next sentence was not reach

Next reviewer's comment

Q1)

Can you give us data according your cases when the clinician can chose EBS as the primary route approach . Or in Which case base on imaging the EBS cannot be performed

A1)

I'm sorry, I could not understand this sentence enough, so my ancer is next.

We chose the EBS the primary route basically, but patient such as decreased systemic state as endoscopy can not possible, or patient who can not approach the duodenal papilla by endoscopy because of abdominal surgery are impossible. PTBD is selected from the beginning in such cases, but We have no such cases in this study

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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