

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 21, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Mizuguchi main text 6433.docx).

Title: Propensity score analysis demonstrated the prognostic advantage of anatomical liver resection in hepatocellular carcinoma

Author: Masayuki Ishii, Toru Mizuguchi, Masaki Kawamoto, Makoto Meguro, Shigenori Ota, Toshihiko Nishidate, Kenji Okita, Yasutohshi Kimura, T. T. Hui, and K. Hirata

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6433

We have revised our manuscript according to the reviewers' suggestions, although most points had already analyzed in original submission. So, we could not have or understand the major change at all.
1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) For reviewer #1:

Thank you for understanding a significance of our study. MELD data has already presented in Table 1. However, we do not measure portal hypertension ever. We believe that histological background and vascular invasion would be an alternative for portal hypertension which was totally equal after propensity matching as we have already presented. We changed a last sentence according to your suggestion.

(2) Thank you for understanding a significance of our study and appreciate for your points. We have checked all the data from medical records. We have missed one data regarding recurrence-free time in one patient. Regarding sudden drop in overall survival in Fig. 2, the patient died at 95 months after operation with recurrence at 39 months whose ID was 145. Due to short observation within 95 months in the others, the survival rate was dropped after 95 months in the propensity analysis group. We reanalyzed all of them and found some minor errors, although there was no statistical difference. We collected them all. The other point was regarding histological exam and vascular invasion. Those were already included in the original analysis.

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

Sincerely yours,

Toru Mizuguchi, M.D., Ph.D.

Department of Surgery,
Surgical Oncology and Science, Sapporo Medical University Hospital, Sapporo Medical University
School of Medicine, S-1, W-16, Chuo-Ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-8543, Japan
Tel.: +81-11-611-2111 (ext. 3281), Fax: +81-11-613-1678