

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 66985

Title: Do peripartum and postmenopausal women with primary liver cancer have a worse prognosis? A nationwide cohort in Taiwan

Reviewer's code: 02541712

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Chief Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Slovakia

Author's Country/Territory: Taiwan

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-27 18:21

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read with interest the study focused on the differences in survival in patients with liver cancer. Authors have chosen to compare the rate between peripertum occurrence and matched controls. At the same time, to compare prognosis according to the menopause. There are original findings of the study and the manuscript is well written and presented. The findings are important since there were only few studies addressing women with liver cancer. The only issue that I see in this study, is the definition of postmenopausal women. Authors chose to define it by age, but the problem is that age is also a strong predictor of overall mortality. The group of premenopausal women were 30 years younger than the postmenopausal group, so the statement authors make that postmenopausal women with liver cancer have worse survival only because they are postmenopausal cannot be considered as correct. Likewise, they state that they matched the group with controls the same way as in the perinatal group, but this is impossible since the postmenopausal group was defined only by age. It is also impossible to adjust the comparison for age. Having the national database it would be interesting to compare both premenopausal and postmenopausal women with propensity scored men (younger than 50, and older than 50), providing a clear and practically important (sex related) difference on how female reproductive status effect the prognosis of liver cancer.