

**Dear Jin-Lei Wang, Director, Editorial Office,**

Please find enclosed the edited and revised manuscript in Word format (file name: 7623-review.doc).

**Title:** Laparoscopic liver resections for hepatocellular carcinoma: current role and limitations

**Authors:** Martin Gaillard, Hadrien Tranchart, Ibrahim Dagher

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7623

We thank the Editors and Reviewers for the insightful comments concerning the manuscript. The manuscript has been essentially improved according your suggestions. In the following lines we specify – point to point – how we revised the manuscript according to the remarks.

All changes in the manuscript are highlighted by underlining.

Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer 1 (00054133):

*This article reviewed literatures of laparoscopic hepatectomy (LLR) to assess usefulness and limitations of this surgical approach.*

#### *Comments*

*1) More details of the basic data supporting specific usefulness of LLR in patients with cirrhosis should be shown.*

**We added additional informations in the paragraph concerning the usefulness of LLR in cirrhotic patients.**

*2) In the part of Outcoms, the authrs should describe what are the advantage and disadvantage of LLR for HCC from the data of meta-analysis.*

**Advantages and disadvantages of LLR for HCC are described in the outcomes and limitations parts.**

*3) Recent progression of surgical devices for LLR should be shown and discussed.*

**We added in the outcomes part informations concerning surgical devices used for parenchymal division.**

*4) Selection criteria may be varied among institutes. The extent of current opinions should be shown.*

**We agree with the reviewer that selection criteria are varied among institutes and this information was added in the manuscript.**

*5) Most advantages and disadvantages of LLR comparing to open hepatectomy were shown based on the non-RCTs. Background of patients with both methods should be different significantly. In general, open hepatectomy is performed in more complex cases comparing to LLR. This point should be mentioned more strongly.*

**We agree with the reviewer that LLR needs a strict selection of patients. Open approach is still required for some patients necessitating complex procedures. This point was mentioned in the manuscript.**

Reviewer 2 (00069023):

The paper 'Laparoscopic liver resections for hepatocellular carcinoma: current role and limitations' by M. Gaillard, et al. is an overview current indications, advantages, and limits of laparoscopic surgery for hepatocellular carcinoma. However, it is not just a 'paper about papers' but also provides the possible evolution of this surgical approach and new technologies. The only weakness of the paper is its cited study, conducted by H. Kim, et al (reference 41). In ' postoperative outcomes' paragraph, the authors report five comparative and three meta-analysis studies to emphasize the main clinical advantage of laparoscopy for cirrhotic patients is probably the significantly lower rate of postoperative ascitic decompensation than open method. The mentioned studies had strong evidences to support the goal based on the scientific analyses, except the reference 41. In the study performed by H.Kim, et al, the participants in laparoscopic group are mainly left hepatic resection and non-anatomical resection in comparison with those in open group. The results from this study are not suited for this review article. I strongly advise to withdraw the study from this review paper. Reference 41: Kim H, Suh KS, Lee KW, Yi NJ, Hong G, Suh SW, Yoo T, Park MS, Choi Y, Lee HW. Long-Term Outcome of Laparoscopic Versus Open Liver Resection for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Case-Controlled Study with Propensity Score Matching. Surg Endosc 2013 [PMID: 24149856]

**Reference 41 was removed from the manuscript.**

Reviewer 3 (00069023):

This is a very interesting review article. Authors made an usefull literature review and add valuable information to clinical practice. I strongly recommend the publication of this manuscript. No comments to add.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further information is required.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Ibrahim Dagher