

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 76547

Title: Second-line therapy for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma with regorafenib or cabozantinib: Multicenter French clinical experience in real-life after matching

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02936529

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FRCS (Hon), MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgical Oncologist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: France

Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-03-21 02:20

Reviewer performed review: 2022-03-21 02:41

Review time: 1 Hour

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 Grade E: Do not publish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

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This multicenter retrospective trial compares two broad-spectrum tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), regorafenib (REG) and cabozantinib (CBZ) as a second-line rescue treatment for HCC after first-line systemic treatment failure... with progression-free survival (PFS) as primary endpoint. A 2-month online progression risk calculation is also proposed. The study is impeccable regarding the methodology and selection criteria of patients, and the subject of the study is extremely justified. The results are clear and tables very well disposed. The discussion session is concise and invites the reader for future perspectives in the HCC systemic treatment scenario. The only limitation of the research is its retrospective nature and the possible selection bias inherent of retrospective studies. Congratulations for the authors.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05630791

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Romania

Author's Country/Territory: France

Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-03-25 15:46

Reviewer performed review: 2022-03-25 16:16

Review time: 1 Hour

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

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is a retrospective cohort study investigating the outcomes of regorafenib vs cabozantinib as second-line therapy for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. The study is very well documented and the results are based on a solid statistic analysis. This study adds important evidence about the real life results encountered in clinical practice in terms of effects in controlling the neoplastic disease and the side effects encountered. The discussions are well conducted and include the most relevant studies. The conclusions have potential clinical value, as the authors found that inflammation-related factors (CRP and NLR ratio) and AST increased over time were associated with a higher risk of TKI failure and propose an online score to assess progression risk based on these variables after two months of treatment. I recommend accept for publication.