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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

Manuscript NO: 77022

Title: Outcomes Of Microwave vs Radiofrequency Ablation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03740244
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy
Author's Country/Territory: Australia

Manuscript submission date: 2022-04-24

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-15 08:15

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-18 17:09

Review time: 3 Days and 8 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish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

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [ ] Anonymous [Y] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

detailed systematic review and meta-analysis that identified 42 studies including eight RCT's and 34 cohort studies involving a total of 6719 subjects suggesting that MWA achieves similar complete ablation rates compared with RFA, as well as lower local recurrence rates and similar overall survival. As some studies have no specified follow up period, this leads to a reduction of the power of evidence of these findings within the first few years post ablation. There are a lot of potential bias in particular in retrospective studies but conclusions are convincing

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Reviewer's code: 05391930
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Chief Doctor, Chief Physician, Professor, Surgeon
Reviewer's Country/Territory: China
Author's Country/Territory: Australia

Manuscript submission date: 2022-04-24

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-24 03:43

Reviewer performed review: 2022-06-05 02:46

Review time: 11 Days and 23 Hours

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

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors consider this study to be the most comprehensive and detailed meta-analysis comparing the efficacy and safety of MWA with RFA and includes 8 randomized controlled trials (RCT's) as well as 34 observational cohort studies, both prospective and retrospective, that include a total of 6719 patients. However, the authors did not point out which patients could benefit from MWA and RFA, especially when the tumor diameter was greater than 3 cm, and the safety and efficacy in these patients were not clear. We all know that for liver cancer less than 3 cm, both microwave and radiofrequency ablation can achieve the same radical effect as surgery. Based on this, although this article compares MWA and RFA with similar therapeutic effects, it does not have significant clinical significance. I do not recommend this manuscript for adoption.