PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 80279

Title: Predictors of early and late hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06332646

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Attending Doctor, Staff Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-09-21

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-11-19 17:54

Reviewer performed review: 2022-11-27 18:11

Review time: 8 Days

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish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) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous

statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors provide detailed review of the predictive factors as well as recurrence risk stratification guides, focused on the recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma. The authors further differentiate these predictors between early and late recurrence. This is a review article aiming to summarize the available information in literature, and does not involve any new experiment.   The manuscript is of good quality, the efforts from the authors are noticeable, and I commend them for their work. As the authors do not provide the detailed regarding the search criteria or the time-period from which the literature was reviewed, it does limit the impact of the publication long-term.   Future directions described in the manuscript include further research regarding the same topics. The publication will likely assist the care provides including the specialists as well as primary care providers get a comprehensive understanding of the predictors for HCC recurrence. Minor Grammatical / Spelling errors noted, Please refer to the attached file for track changed suggestions. E.g. Introduction includes   Aflotoxin -->Aflatoxin. Consider 1-2 re-reads of the manuscripts to identify if similar minor errors present and address please.

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Title: Predictors of early and late hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06366731

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Thailand

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-09-21

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-12-04 14:30

Reviewer performed review: 2022-12-05 04:19

Review time: 13 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] 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) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous

statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this review, Nevola et al. have summarized predictive factors for early and late recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and potential guidelines to manage the risk of the recurrence. The article is overall well-written and provides useful information for clinicians and those interested in the topic. However, in addition to minor misspellings and grammatical errors, I have a few concerns/suggestions as followed: 1.

The summary of predictors of early and late HCC recurrence in Table 1 and 2 are helpful for readers. However, a side-by-side comparison of the early and late predictors will allow readers to identify factors that are unique for each type of recurrence especially there are several characteristics common in both recurrences such as multifocality, high AFP, male sex, and liver cirrhosis (Table 1 and 2). With this observation, is it true to state "Due to the different pathogenesis, early and late recurrence show non-overlapping predictive factors"? (Pg. 3) In addition, later in the article, the authors suggest "These data suggest that the dichotomy between early and late recurrence is probably not so clear-cut, and pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical features may overlap." (pg. 16). The authors should pay an attention to address these contradictory statements. 2.   A table/figure/flow chart that summarizes therapeutic strategy and post-treatment surveillance for patients with early and late predictors could be useful for the readers. 3.Details of literature search and criteria of the selected studies should be discussed.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02536339

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-09-21

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-12-05 09:12

Reviewer performed review: 2022-12-06 09:31

Review time: 1 Day

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] 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
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous

statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript " Predictors of early and late hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence" is well written and is recommended for publication.

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Title: Predictors of early and late hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06190776

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Chief Physician, Deputy Director, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-09-21

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-12-05 10:30

Reviewer performed review: 2022-12-08 12:36

Review time: 3 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] 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) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
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Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous

statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this work, the authors explored the recurrence predictors of HCC and the differences between predictors of early and late recurrence. However, there are minor specific points in this manuscript as shown in following comments: 1. The content of the article was too long to reflect the novelty which needs to be refined.   2. It is recommended that the authors focus on clinicopathological factors or molecular markers to study predictors of HCC.   3. It is recommended to provide references in the past 5 years.