

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84988

Title: Effect of lifestyle modification on hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality among patients with chronic hepatitis B

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02461627

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Arab Emirates

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-10 19:54

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-20 09:20

Review time: 9 Days and 13 Hours

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 Grade E: Do not publish |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

| | |
|---|--|
| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" 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 |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled “Effect of lifestyle modification on hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality among patients with chronic hepatitis B: A longitudinal nationwide population cohort study” and authored by Park et al showed that unhealthy behaviors, including smoking, sedentary lifestyle, or alcohol drinking have adverse effect on the outcome among chronic hepatitis B (CHB) patients. Due to the limited data on the effect of healthier lifestyle modification (LSM), including quitting smoking, regular exercise, and quitting drinking, on the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in CHB patients, authors offer here this hypothetical randomized trial where they demonstrated that the LSM lowers the risk of developing HCC by using the nationwide database. The necessity for active counseling and therapeutic intervention for LSM in CHB patients was concluded. The following studies should be integrated to further support the discussion section: <https://doi.org/10.4236/ajps.2018.96091>, PMID: 32460808, PMID: 33255507. Other comments • Proofreading would be useful. • In M &M, it is essential to verify if/how the patients’ information used are anonymous. • References should be enriched with more diversified investigations that discuss in

greater depth dietary effects. IF considered, results from the following studies could serve such a purpose: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41936-020-00177-9>, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41936-022-00321-7>, PMID: 35740022, PMID: 35517830, PMID: 35568708, PMID: 36432184.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84988

Title: Effect of lifestyle modification on hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality among patients with chronic hepatitis B

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06272301

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-11 01:53

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-27 01:08

Review time: 15 Days and 23 Hours

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

| | |
|---|--|
| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript, the authors described a trial emulation study to explore the relationship between a healthy lifestyle and disease progression in patients with hepatitis B had been investigated. It had been found that a healthy lifestyle can improve the disease outcome to some extent in patients with hepatitis B. I suggest accepting this manuscript after they address the following concerns. 1. The manuscript lacks specific details on healthy lifestyle practices, such as smoking cessation, alcohol cessation, and appropriate exercise, including specific questionnaire measurement. I would suggest that corresponding details should be provided for a better understanding of these practices. 2. Providing information on changes in mortality rates over time to address deficiencies in the understanding of the relationship between patients' lifestyle changes and disease progression. Please provide information on changes in mortality rates over time. 3. Using the interval between questionnaires that investigates health behaviors as a measure of duration can to some extent quantitatively reflect the impact of LSM on HCC development.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84988

Title: Effect of lifestyle modification on hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality among patients with chronic hepatitis B

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03765308

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-26 09:55

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-27 14:07

Review time: 1 Day and 4 Hours

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

| | |
|---|--|
| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" 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 |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Summary Based on data from the Korean National Health Insurance Service between 2009, and 2017, 48,766 CHB with lifestyle modification (LSM) and 103,560 without LSM were collected by propensity matching. Their questionnaires at baseline and at follow-up period were analyzed for relationship to HCC development and mortality. They found that the adjusted HR for HCC and liver-related mortality was lower in the LSM group than the control group. Comments: 1. The sentence in the result section of abstract “the adjusted hazard ratio (HR) for HCC and liver-related mortality was 0.92 [95% confidence interval (CI) 0.87–0.96] in the LSM group compared to 0.92 (95% CI 0.86–0.99) in the control group.” is confusing. The risk of the control group should be 1. 2. Why would patients like to have lifestyle changes? The comorbidities in Table 1 were higher in the LSM group than the control group. Is it possible that patients changed their lifestyle due to the presence of some comorbidities? 3. Factors used in propensity matching is confusion. Please give a clear declaration. 4. HCC, non-HCC cancer and mortality rates were used to evaluate the outcome between two groups. In prospective study, liver fibrosis and viral load were two major high risk



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

factors that determine the outcome of chronic hepatitis B. Their relative risks of HCC and mortality are much higher than smoking or alcohol drinking. Unfortunately, these two factors were not included in this analysis. 5. The whole study was based on two questionnaires. True lifestyle modification may need a summary of multiple time points observations. 6. Reference 2,4 did not focus on alcohol or smoking habits. The views of prospective cohort study concern about risk factors of HCC and mortality should be included.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84988

Title: Effect of lifestyle modification on hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality among patients with chronic hepatitis B

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02461627

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Arab Emirates

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-05-15 11:12

Reviewer performed review: 2023-05-15 11:17

Review time: 1 Hour

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Peer-reviewer | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

statements

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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

None

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84988

Title: Effect of lifestyle modification on hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality among patients with chronic hepatitis B

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03765308

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-10

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-05-15 14:51

Reviewer performed review: 2023-05-15 15:02

Review time: 1 Hour

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Peer-reviewer | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

statements

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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

No further comments