

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: This manuscript is an interesting retrospective study to evaluate ethanol-soaked gelatin sponges (ESGs) and microspheres for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) with hepatic arterioportal fistula (APF). The data demonstrated that ESGs showed better local control and survival compared with microspheres. This manuscript is nicely structured and well written. I have no question about this manuscript. R

Response: Thanks for your encouraging comment.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Dear authors, thank you for submitting your manuscript for publication in our journal. The topic of your paper, arterioportal fistula treatment comparison in the grounds of hepatocellular carcinoma is indeed very interesting and scientifically significant. First and foremost, your manuscript is very well structured, following all academic writing rules. In addition, the precise inclusion and exclusion criteria, implemented on the sample studied add to the value of your paper. As a minor revision, restating the conclusions section could enhance your paper. You have very well included only the most important outcomes of the study, but adding some extra points which you justify in the results section, would complete your work. Overall, the manuscript definitely qualifies for publication.

Response: I appreciate the reviewer comment, and revised the Conclusion section as following: Compared with microspheres, ESG embolization showed a higher ORR and longer OS and PFS. These findings may contribute to the selection of embolic agents for treating hepatic APFs in patients with HCC.