

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 30690

Title: Multi-analyte analysis of cytokines that predict outcomes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated with radiotherapy

Reviewer's code: 02499423

Reviewer's country: Canada

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-10-19 12:03

Date reviewed: 2016-11-02 21:34

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Paper is relevant and adds to the literature. The use of cytokines is an active area of research and this group appears to be at the forefront of this investigation. No major concerns. Minor issues: 1) word space "Paper is relevant and adds to the literature. The use of cytokines is an active area of research and this group appears to be at the forefront of this investigation." 2) would consider adding more insight into why each cytokine was chosen and may represent ie not just a fishing exercise 3) limitations: add comment on the statistical probability of picking up these changes ie some would be positive by chance based on the statistical methodology Minor changes to strengthen the paper, but would recommend publication even without the changes.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 30690

Title: Multi-analyte analysis of cytokines that predict outcomes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated with radiotherapy

Reviewer's code: 03699989

Reviewer's country: South Korea

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-10-19 12:03

Date reviewed: 2016-11-14 21:50

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This paper is well written and adds to the literature. Although a small number of patients limits the significance of this study, the results are clear and seems to promote further studies. Detailed comments: -Check the abbreviation for radiotherapy in Abstract. -Insert the relevant references in the Introduction section. -Although the 51 patients were accrued for a prospective study, the study was not aimed to evaluate the association between cytokines and RT outcomes according to the informed consent. Please explain about this aspect. -In the results, there was no association between the change of serum cytokines and survival or treatment failures. How did you analyzed the association? -In the Materials and Methods section, mRECIST was used for tumor response evaluation. By the way, there is no data about the relationship between cytokine levels and response. Delete "the sentence about mRECIST", or please describe the results with the timing of response evaluation. -What does "no cases of RILD" in the results mean? For any grade or only for severe RILD? Describe the range of mean liver dose. -There was no correlation between cytokine levels and the interval between the date of last pre-RT treatment and RT. Please, describe the interval (median, range) between pre-RT



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treatment and RT instead of "data not shown". -In Figure 1, numbering is wrong.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 30690

Title: Multi-analyte analysis of cytokines that predict outcomes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated with radiotherapy

Reviewer's code: 02786804

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-10-19 12:03

Date reviewed: 2016-12-06 15:18

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The author detected the serum levels of cytokines IL-1, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12, and TNF- α in 51 hepatocellular carcinoma patients before and after radiotherapy, and claimed that baseline serum level of IL-6 is a useful biomarker for predicting radiotherapy outcomes. This manuscript is not well-designed and lack of novelty. Major issues: (1) The author classified patterns of failure into three categories: infield failure, outfield-intrahepatic failure, and extrahepatic failure, what is it based on? An explanation should be given for each category. (2) IL-6 level was not changed significantly after radiotherapy, which means radiotherapy has not much effects on IL-6, is it suitable to take it as the biomarker for predicting radiotherapy? (3) The author claimed that the cut-off value for IL-6 was set to 9.735 pg/mL based on a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, ROC curve should be provided. And the number of patients for each group should be given. (4) The exact time for blood collecting from patients after radiotherapy should be provided. Generally, the serum levels of cytokines are fluctuating, it is more reasonable to detect the cytokines at different times. (5) Total number of patients is 51, and it was further subdivided into different groups, too small numbers of



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patients are not suitable for statistic analysis. (6) In figure 1, the unit at Y axis should be provided. The symbols used in figure were not consistent with that in figure legends. (7) In figure 2, the patient numbers for each group should be given. (8) English writing should be improved, some sentences are not understandable.