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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 14246
Title: Vascular endothelial growth factor and tryptase changes after chemoembolization in hepatocarcinoma patients
Reviewer's code: 01560070
Reviewer's country: Japan
Science editor: Su-Xin Gou
Date sent for review: 2014-09-29 09:30
Date reviewed: 2014-10-13 17:34

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Title: The title was appropriate as written. Abstract: The abstract provides the essentials of the study and, most importantly, the key message of the paper. However, Authors mention the AIM of this study in METHODS. Author should correct it. Introduction: OK. Material and methods: The Material and methods concisely describes the study except my comment below. "The serum AFP median level of patients was 79 ng/mL. Twenty (67%) patients had normal levels (<20 ng/ml) of AFP, while the other 10 (33%) had higher levels." The patients who measured the serum AFP were only 30 patients? "When possible, the artery that feeds the tumor was cannulated in a superselective approach." If there were multiple HCCs in bilobar, where did you inject the drug? Results: The results concisely describe the study. Discussion: The Discussion is well written and provides a good explanation of the benefits of pro-angiogenetic factors in HCC undergone to TACE. References: The references seem to be appropriate. Tables and Figures: The tables and figures seem to be appropriate.

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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 14246
Title: Vascular endothelial growth factor and tryptase changes after chemoembolization in hepatocarcinoma patients
Reviewer's code: 02460503
Reviewer's country: Germany
Science editor: Su-Xin Gou
Date sent for review: 2014-09-29 09:30
Date reviewed: 2014-09-29 23:19

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a very interesting paper with possible clinical impact. Ranieri and colleagues measured VEGF and Tryptase levels prior and after TACE in patients with HCC. They found significantly higher serum levels for VEGF and lower levels for Tryptase after TACE therapy. The paper is well written, title and abtract adequately structure and the manuscript has scrientific merit and is of potential interest to the readers of WJG. Suggest minor changes below: - Just wondering whether student's t-test is okay because are VEGF and typtase levels standard normally distributed? – suggest using Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test for comparison - Did VEGF increase or Tryptase decrease after TACE had impact on the patient's survival in your cohort? – suggest performing log rank test with Kaplan Meier curve comparing survival of two groups: no Tryptase decrease vs. Tryptase decrease and no VEGF increase vs. VEGF increase