

May 6, 2020

Editor

World Journal of Gastroenterology

RE: Recent Progress in Pulsed Electric Field Ablation for Liver Cancer

Dear Dr. Ma:

Thank you very much for your help and great contribution on our manuscript entitled "Recent Progress in Pulsed Electric Field Ablation for Liver Cancer".

We have made a point-to-point response according to the comments from editors and reviewers. The details can be found as follows. We have revised the manuscript, and carefully proofread the whole manuscript. The revised manuscript has been edited and polished for proper English language at SPRINGER NATURE Author Services (certificate verification key: B9C3-80AE-2D72-6AF3-D020).

We resubmit the revised manuscript and the point-to-point response letter.

REVIEWER REPORT:

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** In this study, the authors have evaluated the usefulness of irreversible electroporation (IRE) to carry out the ablation of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Comments

1. Introduction: Please change the sentence suggesting that patients with a single nodule of <5 cm should be considered candidates for a liver transplant.

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. We have changed the sentence to "Patients with early-stage HCC may be treated with surgical resection, liver transplantation, and percutaneous ablation". Thanks again.

2. Once "hepatocellular carcinoma" was defined, it is ambiguous and inappropriate to use the

general term "liver cancers" instead. (e.g.,...hepatic injury caused by IRE is transient and self-limiting in patients with liver cancers... The clinical application of ECT in the treatment of liver cancer has been limited...).

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. In addition to the introduction, we have changed the term "liver cancer" to "hepatocellular carcinoma". Thanks again.

3. Moreover, once the abbreviation HCC was defined, it should always be used instead of the full words "hepatocellular carcinoma".

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. After the abbreviation HCC was defined, we all corrected the "hepatocellular carcinoma" to "HCC". Thanks again.

4. The drugs used in studies on electrochemotherapy must be mentioned.

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. We added "This technique can significantly improve the ability of chemotherapy drugs to kill cancer cells, especially bleomycin". Thanks again.

5. The "Acknowledgements" section is empty.

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. We added "We thank the associate editor and the reviewers for their useful feedback that improved this paper. This paper is supported by the National S&T Major Project of China (2018ZX10301201-008 and 2017ZX10302201-004-007), National Key Research and Development Program of China (2018YFC2000501)". Thanks again.

6. The last sentence of the Abstract "These I research results" must be corrected.

Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. We have changed it to "These research results are certain to promote the progress of pulsed electric field in the treatment of liver cancer.". Thanks again.

7. English style and grammar require revision.

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your reminder and suggestion. We have further corrected this article by carefully referring to the polishing results of

SPRINGER NATURE. Thanks again.

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** This is a well-done and exhaustive review on a quite interesting topic. I think the manuscript should be accepted in the present form after a minor language polishing.

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your positive comments. We have further corrected this article by carefully referring to the polishing results of SPRINGER NATURE. Thanks again.

**Science Editor:** I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

**Author response:** Thank you very much for your kind reminding. We will submit the relevant documents. Thanks again.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best Regards

Sincerely yours,

Zhigang Ren, PhD, M.D.,

Department of Infectious Diseases; Precision Medicine Center,

The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, No. 1, Jianshe East Road, Zhengzhou,

Henan Province, 450052, China.

E-mail: fccrenzg@zzu.edu.cn

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