



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39996

Title: New prognostic biomarkers of mortality in patients undergoing liver transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 00006459

Reviewer's country: Australia

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-05-25

Date reviewed: 2018-06-06

Review time: 12 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a useful topic to review, and the topic of broad interest in hepatology. It primarily discusses markers examined by the authors. In order to create a balanced and more useful review, more information on markers that are mentioned briefly, other markers



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that are not mentioned, and new approaches, is needed. Specifically, markers such as C-reactive protein (CRP), PIVKA-II, need more information. What is the % of patients in which such markers and GPC-3 can be readily detected? Please add discussion of portal blood pressure, gene expression profiles of HCC, which are in the TCGA, liver Angiopoietin, liver pyroptosis, and whether receipt of DAA therapy might be of value included for predicting HCC outcome. Apoptosis is discussed, but pyroptosis is probably of value too. Recent papers that should be discussed are: 1. Faillaci, F, et al. (2018) Liver Angiopoietin-2 is a key predictor of de novo or recurrent hepatocellular cancer after HCV direct-acting antivirals. *Hepatology* epub 2018/04/01. doi 10.1002/hep.29911. PMID 29604220 2. Chu, Q, Jiang, Y, Zhang, W, Xu, C, Du, W, Tuguzbaeva, G, Qin, Y, Li, A, Zhang, L, Sun, G, Cai, Y, Feng, Q, Li, G, Li, Y, Du, Z, Bai, Y, Yang, B (2016) Pyroptosis is involved in the pathogenesis of human hepatocellular carcinoma. *Oncotarget* 7(51): 84658-65. PMC5356689. 3. Chiang, DY, Villanueva, A (2017) Progress towards molecular patient stratification of hepatocellular carcinoma: Lost in translation? *Journal of Hepatology* 67(5): 893-5.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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[] Plagiarism

[Y] No



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39996

Title: New prognostic biomarkers of mortality in patients undergoing liver transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer’s code: 02441161

Reviewer’s country: China

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-06-06

Date reviewed: 2018-06-15

Review time: 9 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

A very good review about new prognostic biomarkers of mortality in patients undergoing liver transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 39996

Title: New prognostic biomarkers of mortality in patients undergoing liver transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 00052899

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-06-06

Date reviewed: 2018-06-19

Review time: 13 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this review, the authors summarized the prognostic biomarkers of malondialdehyde, CCK-18, sCD40L, substance P and NLR, PLR, CRP, GPC-3, h-TERT mRNA, MMP-9, E-cadherin and beta-catenin in patients undergoing liver transplantation for



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hepatocellular carcinoma. Previous studies revealed that over-expression of DKK1 was implicated in invasion/metastasis of HCC after OLT. Moreover, pre-LT plasma VEGF may be a predictor of recurrence-free post-LT survival. Both them should be added in the review to broaden the scale of prognostic biomarkers.

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