

ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13238

Title: Diagnostic value of Protein Induced by Vitamin K Antagonist-II in Hepatitis B Virus-associated hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer code: 02521807

Science editor: Yuan Qi

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript was written with precision, objectivity and clarity. Only minor language polishing is required. (1) The research is important and the research findings are significant (2) The novelty and innovative nature of the research is acceptable because there other similar reports but this one depicts an interesting number of patients. (3) The manuscript's presentation and readability are adequate. (4) The ethics-related aspects of the research have been addressed by the author's declaration. Major concerns The comparison between the three groups of patients revealed that there were statistical significant differences in several basal parameters (age, gender, biochemical parameters) behind AFP and PIVKA-II. An alternative mode for comparison should be carry out by stratifying the patients according the coincidence (total or partial), or alternatively difference (total o partial) between AFP and PIVKA-II cut-off values. Hence four groups could be advised according to median levels such as: normal/normal; normal/elevated; elevated/normal; elevated/elevated. No data about HBV infection, cirrhosis, HCC treatment were mentioned. No data about severity of liver damage was scored (MELD ?)