

Answering Revision Files

Reviewer #1:

1. Page 4: "In addition, patients with recurrent HCCs >2 cm beyond Milan criteria after RFA as first-line therapy had greater risk of recurrence." The statement is confusing. The study (reference 14) showed "Tumor size >2 cm and alpha-fetoprotein levels at the time of ablation were predictors of post-RFA recurrence outside Milan criteria.", not "recurrent HCCs >2cm". Please revise it.

Reply: Thanks for your comments. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

2. Page 5: "Shin et al[12] concluded that HR was better than MWA or RFA plus TACE in terms of OS and recurrence free survival (RFS) for HCCs within Milan criteria." HR should be replaced with "SR".

Reply: Thanks for your comments. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

3. Page 5: "currenting being evaluated in some ongoing clinical studies". "currenting" is misspelled.

Reply: Thanks for your comments. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

4. Page 6: "advanced-stage HCC in a recent systematic review and pooled analysis of 2,402 patients suffering from HCC". Please delete "suffering from HCC", because "advanced-stage HCC" is already mentioned.

Reply: Thanks for your comments. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

5. Page 11: "The results showed that more intrahepatic and extrahepatic recurrence was identified in the control group (7.1% vs. 40%). " The statement is confusing: which number is treatment group? I did not found this data according to the reference. Please revise it.

Reply: Thanks for your comments. The treatment group was the "immunotherapy group" and the recurrence rate (intrahepatic and extrahepatic recurrence rate) was 7.1%. The control group was the "MWA alone group" and the recurrence rate

(intrahepatic recurrence rate, 33.3% and extrahepatic recurrence rate, 6.7%) was 40.0% according to the reference. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

6. Page 11: "The results showed that the patients in the TACE + MWA + CIK group have higher overall response rate (74.42% (32/43) vs. 77.19% (44/57), $P = 0.243$) and disease control rate (87.72% vs. 79.07%, $P = 0.748$).\" Which number represents treatment group? The P-values are not significant, which should be mentioned.

Reply: Thanks for your comments and constructive suggestion. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

7. Table 2: Reference 71 and 83 did not match the authors.

Reply: Thanks for your comments and constructive suggestion. We have revised it in the revised manuscript.

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Reply: Thanks for your comments and constructive suggestion.