

Reply to the reviewer #1

- ①We added the treatments for HCC patients in Table 4. As the reviewer pointed out, strictly speaking, the diagnosis of HCC must be done by pathological study.

In our study the diagnosis of HCC were performed in the hepatectomized patients by pathology, but in other patients it was done by imaging modalities using helical dynamic CT and angiography.

The diagnosis of HCC by radiological imaging was largely accepted in Japan. So, we used it in this study. The propriety of diagnosis of HCC by imaging modalities were as follows in the helical dynamic CT, an intravenous bolus injection of contract material and sequential scanning were performed, and intense homogenous arterial phase (early enhancement), and early washout was thought to be characteristic of HCC (newly added Ref. 5,6,7) Abdominal angiography was also performed to exclude the benign nodular lesions and to exclude the HCC patients with macrovascular invasion. Please, please understand the situation.

- ②The patients with macrovascular invasion or extrahepatic metastasis were excluded.

In the hepatectomy performed patients, final decision of HCC was made by pathological diagnosis and cases of benign nodules were excluded.

- ③Figure 1 and 2 are combined together

- ④In the "Conclusion" the sentence "surveillance with imaging modalities, especially with magnetic resonance imaging is recommended" was deleted.

Reply to the reviewer #2

The treatment methods of all HCC patients was demonstrated in the newly added Table 4.

The pathological diagnosis of all hepatectomized patients in table 4 was HCC. Out of these patients two patients existed whose imaging diagnosis is HCC but the pathological diagnosis is benign nodules. We excluded these patients from the present study.

Reply to the science editor

We added "Author contributions" and uploaded the grant application form. We also added "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text.

Institutional Review Approval was uploaded. Also approved grant application was also uploaded.