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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 25292

Title: Adjuvant sorafenib after hepatectomy for Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer-stage C hepatocellular carcinoma patients

Reviewer's code: 02462024

Reviewer's country: United Kingdom

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-03-07 09:05

Date reviewed: 2016-03-07 18:40

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for this interesting study A few points to adress 1. why were recurrence <2 months excluded? these should be included at least in the results section 2. it is confusing to state in the results section 3. is the higher AFP (in fact double) definitely not statistically significant between control and active groups



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 25292

Title: Adjuvant sorafenib after hepatectomy for Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer-stage C hepatocellular carcinoma patients

Reviewer's code: 00041468

Reviewer's country: Hungary

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-03-07 09:05

Date reviewed: 2016-03-09 01:44

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This case control study proves the important clinical role of sorafenib as an adjuvant treatment after R0 resection of BCLC-C stage HCC patients. It would be worth using sorafenib not just in advanced but in early stages of HCC, in my opinion. Minor point that needs revision: How was the HCV status of the studied patients? Why were early tumor relapsing patients excluded, and not used as a subgroup of treated ones? After minor revision I suggest to accept the manuscript for publication in WJG.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 25292

Title: Adjuvant sorafenib after hepatectomy for Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer-stage C hepatocellular carcinoma patients

Reviewer's code: 01467363

Reviewer's country: Slovenia

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-03-07 09:05

Date reviewed: 2016-03-14 00:08

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Title and running title: accurately reflects the topic and contents of the paper Key words: 5 key words, precisely define the content of the paper. Abstract: is appropriate, properly structured (aim/methods/ results/ conclusions), 220 words. Introduction: is informative, short, 353 words, the reader is acquainted with the known facts about HCC and modalities of treatment. Methods: definition and methodology of included patients is precise (patients selection, preoperative assessment, type of surgery – partial hepatectomy, conventional surveillance strategy and treatment with sorafenib). The study is retrospective, data were prospectively collected and entered into a computer database. Statistical analysis: statistical software used is quite old (SPSS 13.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) ? Results: the results obtained are appropriately explained, illustrated by 4 tables and 1 figure (A and B - survival analysis in the Sorafenib group and control group). The authors unfortunately do not explain why were early tumor relapsing patients excluded, and not used as a subgroup of treated ones. Discussion: the discussion is appropriate, relevant, 932 words, supported by references and the results obtained in other settings. The authors draw attention to the importance of adjuvant



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sorafenib for BCLC stage C patients after curative resection. They share the opinion that adjuvant systemic treatment is the most promising of all adjuvant therapies for “locally advanced” HCC. Conclusions: short, 36 words, last chapter in discussion, in accordance with the results. References: 35, are appropriate, relevant, from 2003 (Lancet) to 2015 (Lancet Oncol 2015), included are contemporaray references with guidelines/recommendations (N Engl J Med, Hepatology, Gastroenterology) for these patients. Ethics Committee approval: the study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Southwest Hospital before the study began. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients for their data to be used for research purposes. Financial support: this work was supported by the grant of Key Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Pathology of Ministry of Education (NO.2012jsz108) and National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (No. 81272224). Conflict of interest: the authors declared no conflict of interest.