

Dear Editors,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to re-submit a revised draft of the manuscript “The combination of SCCA-IgM and AFP in mid- and long-term prediction of Hepatocellular Carcinoma among cirrhotic patients” for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort that you and the reviewers dedicated to providing feedback on our manuscript and are grateful for the insightful comments to our paper. We are pleased to submit this revised version according to your suggestions and hope that the changes will meet your expectations. Changes have been highlighted in the manuscript in red. A point-by-point response to the reviewers’ and editors’ comments have been done.

Peer-Review Report:

- Did you perform only baseline assessment or did you do follow up assay of SCCA?
R: All the analysis and the predictive model is based on baseline data. This have been clarified throughout the text.

- You wrote at least one of the following to diagnose liver cirrhosis but liver cirrhosis cannot be diagnosed only by the presence of portal hypertension.
- Was there a role for Elastography for the diagnosis of liver cirrhosis? Did you perform it?
R: We thank the reviewer for pointing this out. The section regarding the diagnosis of cirrhosis has been changed accordingly.

- Is there a difference between the level of SCCA among patients with HCC of different etiologies?
R: Thanks for the comment. We did explore this and indeed found slight trend on alcoholic/non alcoholic vs viral hepatitis (B&C) etiologies, which happened to have higher levels of SCCA, but not reaching statistical significance. The small sample size and other number of variables over the course of cirrhosis may explain this effect and make difficult to perform the subanalysis in these cohorts. Future studies may help in this matter.

Editor Report:

As gently suggested by the Editors, we have modified the text according to the reviewer’s comments. We have diminished the number of self-citations and we have modified the figures to facilitate editing. Also, we have uploaded the documents needed to justify the grants and included “article highlights” and “author contribution” sections

in the text. Finally, we have modified the references including the PMID and DOI numbers.