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Title: Comparative study and systematic review of laparoscopic liver resection for hepatocellular carcinoma

Biostatistics statement

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Dr Shen Liang from the Biostatistics Unit of the National University of Singapore.

The clinical characteristics of patients and postoperative results were expressed as means with standard deviations. The Chi-square or Fisher's exact test was used to compare categorical variables and the Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare continuous variables. Survival analysis was performed using the time of disease-free survival versus recurrence of a tumor or death. Survival curves were computed using the Kaplan-Meier method and compared between open and laparoscopic groups by the log-rank test. A p-value of < 0.05 was considered as being statistically significant. All statistical calculations were performed using SPSS version 21.0.



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