**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 53168

**Manuscript Type:** SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

**Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and albumin bilirubin grade in hepatocellular carcinoma: A systematic review**

Bannaga A *et al.* NLR and ALBI in HCC

Ayman Bannaga, Ramesh P Arasaradnam

**Ayman Bannaga, Ramesh P** **Arasaradnam,** Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, Coventry CV2 2DX, West Midlands, United Kingdom

**Ayman Bannaga, Ramesh P Arasaradnam,** Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7HL, West Midlands, United Kingdom

**Author contributions:** Bannaga A was involved in the design, data curation, data analysis, and generating the first draft; Arasaradnam RP supervised the project and edited the draft for intellectual input.

**Corresponding author: Ayman Bannaga, MBBS, MRCP, Research Fellow,** Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, Clifford Bridge Road, Coventry CV2 2DX, West Midlands, United Kingdom. aymanbannaga@yahoo.com

**Received:** June 26, 2020

**Revised:** August 10, 2020

**Accepted:** August 25, 2020

**Published online:** September 7, 2020

**Abstract**

BACKGROUND

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a frequent cause of cancer related death globally. Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and albumin bilirubin (ALBI) grade are emerging prognostic indicators in HCC.

AIM

To study published literature of NLR and ALBI over the last five years, and to validate NLR and ALBI locally in our centre as indicators of HCC survival.

METHODS

A systematic review of the published literature on PubMed of NLR and ALBI in HCC over the last five years. The search followed the guidelines of the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Additionally, we also investigated HCC cases between December 2013 and December 2018 in our centre.

RESULTS

There were 54 studies describing the relation between HCC and NLR and 95 studies describing the relation between HCC and ALBI grade over the last five years. Our local cohort of patients showed NLR to have a significant negative relationship to survival (*P* = 0.011). There was also significant inverse relationship between the size of the largest HCC nodule and survival (*P* = 0.009). Median survival with alpha fetoprotein (AFP) < 10 KU/L was 20 mo and with AFP > 10 KU/L was 5 mo. We found that AFP was inversely related to survival, this relationship was not statically significant (*P* = 0.132). Mean survival for ALBI grade 1 was 37.7 mo, ALBI grade 2 was 13.4 months and ALBI grade 3 was 4.5 mo. ALBI grades performed better than Child Turcotte Pugh score in detecting death from HCC.

CONCLUSION

NLR and ALBI grade in HCC predict survival better than the conventional alpha fetoprotein. ALBI grade performs better than Child Turcotte Pugh score. These markers are done as part of routine clinical care and in cases of normal alpha fetoprotein, these markers could give a better understanding of the patient disease progression. NLR and ALBI grade could have a role in modified easier to learn staging and prognostic systems for HCC.

**Key words:** Hepatocellular carcinoma; Albumin bilirubin Grade; Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; Alpha fetoprotein; Prognosis; Survival

**Citation:** Bannaga A, Arasaradnam RP. Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and albumin bilirubin grade in hepatocellular carcinoma: A systematic review. *World J Gastroenterol* 2020; 26(33): 5022-5049

**URL:** https://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v26/i33/5022.htm

**DOI:** https://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v26.i33.5022

**Core tip:** This review examined the current evidence over the last five years concerning the use of neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and albumin bilirubin (ALBI) as prognostic indicators in Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) from a clinical point of view. We also validated NLR and ALBI as prognostic indicators for HCC in a small cohort of patients in our centre. NLR and ALBI provide ways to prognosticate for HCC patients and should be used in addition to other conventional methods to aid in clinical judgment.

**INTRODUCTION**

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the final sequel of chronic liver disease (CLD) with increasing incidence worldwide. The most common causes of chronic liver disease are related to alcohol abuse and chronic viral hepatitis infections (B and C). In the western hemisphere, the incidence is notably increasing following the rise of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Early noninvasive diagnostic methods to identify HCC are lacking in primary care. Most of the patients present late with an advanced stage of the disease, which is manifested in poor clinical outcomes[1,2].

The main system used to estimate the liver function in HCC patients is the Child Turcotte Pugh (CTP). This score was created in the early 1970s as a method for prognostication of CLD[3,4]. CTP scoring rely on five parameters namely, Bilirubin, Albumin, International Normalised Ratio, Ascites, and Encephalopathy. The last two parameters are dependent on physical examination; this is of course is quite variable between clinicians. While CTP score can be useful in prognostication, a score like the Model For End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) was shown to have better prognostic value in CLD[5,6].

HCC prognostic staging systems integrated CTP in addition to imaging results and the comorbid status of the patient. The main staging systems used in HCC include the Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (BCLC), Cancer of Liver Italian Program, Hong Kong Liver Cancer staging system, the Japanese Tumour Node Metastasis staging system for primary liver cancer[1,2].

HCC literature continues to report on studies from around the world aiming to find simpler prognostic markers for the disease. Linear predictive models generated from large data sets were shown to be able to prognosticate for HCC patients[7,8]. Indeed, simpler prognostic ways are required given the complexity of the intermediate stage of HCC[9]. The emerging literature describes two new markers in HCC prognosis, the Neutrophil to Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) and the Albumin Bilirubin (ALBI) grade.

NLR is a simple and generic way to look into the cellular immune response and is considered a measure of the physiologic response of the body to different stressful factors[10]. NLR was described to be a prognostic factor in many liver diseases. In non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NLR was associated with inflammatory activity and different histological fibrotic grades[11-15]. In chronic viral hepatitis B and C, NLR predicted response to anti-viral therapy[16-21]. In cirrhosis, NLR was associated with worse outcomes[22-27]. In alcoholic hepatitis, NLR predicted mortality and identified patients likely to require steroid treatment[28,29]. In primary biliary cholangitis, NLR predicted one-year mortality[30,31]. NLR was also studied in liver transplantation and found to be correlated with poor prognosis and graft dysfunction[32-38]. It is also important to note that NLR was also described to be prognostic in the gastrointestinal, renal tract, lung, and breast cancers[39-56]. Furthermore, miscellaneous studies Identified NLR to be associated with colorectal adenoma, tinnitus, hyperemesis gravidarum, hypertensive renal disease, acute appendicitis, and bacterial and viral infections[57-65].

Albumin Bilirubin grade was described in 2015 by Johnson *et al*[66]. It is a mathematical model for assessment of liver function in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma based on data from 1313 Japanese patients. ALBI uses the numerical values of both albumin and bilirubin to measure the distance/relation of these values to the overall prognosis of HCC. Johnson *et al*[66], identified that ALBI = (log10 bilirubin × 0.66) + (albumin × -0.085), where bilirubin is in μmol/L and albumin in g/L. ALBI has three grades; ALBI ≤ -2.60 or Grade 1, ALBI > -2.60 to ≤ -1.39 or Grade 2 and ALBI > -1.39 or grade 3.

This systematic review aimed to evaluate the studies published over the last five years in relation to the use of NLR and ALBI grade as prognostic indicators in HCC. Additionally, we also evaluated the performance of NLR and ALBI locally in our centre.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

We searched PubMed using the following MeSH Terms “neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio liver” and “albumin bilirubin grade” on 05/02/2020 covering the last 5 years. Following the initial search, all articles were retrieved. The checklist of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses was instituted in this review. We further applied the Problem, Intervention, Comparison Outcome (PICO) criteria to filter the retrieved articles, by identifying the problem as HCC patients, interventions as NLR/ALBI, comparators as conventional prognostic scores/systems and outcome as the described prognosis in the clinical studies.

In addition to the systematic search, we also looked into our local results concerning HCC, NLR, and ALBI in our centre. We retrospectively analysed all HCC cases between December 2013 and December 2018. The analysis was done using the IBM SPSS Statistics software version 25. We looked into the baseline characteristics of the patients. Survival analysis was performed using the Kaplan-Meier method and the log-rank test. Bivariate analysis was performed to detect the correlation between different variables and survival using the Independent Samples *t*-Test to compare the means between independent groups. We also performed receiver operating characteristic analysis between the ALBI grades, and CTP scores and death from HCC.

**RESULTS**

***NLR and ALBI in HCC***

The initial systematic search revealed 430 articles related to NLR. After applying the PICO criteria 376 NLR articles were excluded, leaving 54 studies describing the relation between HCC and NLR (Table 1)[67-121]. Furthermore, there were 348 articles related to ALBI and after applying the PICO criteria, 253 articles were excluded leaving 95 studies describing the relation between HCC and ALBI (Table 2)[66,122-216].

***HCC outcomes and validation of NLR and ALBI in our centre***

Given the strong evidence around NLR and ALBI as demonstrated in (Table 1 and Table 2), we aimed to validate these prognostic indicators in our patients. Between December 2013 and December 2018, a total of 121 HCC patients was identified using the hospital informatics systems. We evaluated their clinical notes, test results, treatment, survival post treatment and overall survival since the diagnosis was made. Overall survival was calculated for each patient by calculating the time when the case was first discussed in the local hepato-pancreaticobiliary (HPB) multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting till the end of collecting the data on 09/03/2019. The HPB-MDT meeting is formed by HPB surgeon, hepatologist, oncologist, histopathologist and interventional liver radiologist.

HCC diagnosis was based on the identification of the typical hallmarks of HCC, which differed according to the imaging techniques or contrast agents used. All patients had an initial abdominal ultrasound scan either in our hospital or from a referring centre (general practice centre or district hospital). Initial computed tomography scan was used to make the radiological diagnosis. In case of any uncertainty, a dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI was done. 54 patients (44.6%) were diagnosed by HCC features on computed tomography scan while 67 (55.4%) patients were diagnosed with liver MRI features.

Commonest symptoms that patients presented with were abdominal pain and weight loss. Raised alpha fetoprotein (AFP) was found in 68 patients (> 10 KU/L). 82 patients (67.8%) had radiological features of liver cirrhosis. Majority of the patients had relatively good liver function as per CTP score (Table 3). Oesophageal varices and ascites were present in 36 patients (29.8%) and 29 patients had splenomegaly (24%). Patients were staged using the BCLC system (Table 3). Raised AFP (> 10 KU/L) was found in 68 patients (33 patients with AFP > 100KU/L, and 33 patients > 300KU/L). Normal AFP (AFP < 10 KU/L) was found in 53 patients. 50 patients had confirmatory histology for HCC leaving the sensitivity of AFP in comparison to histology to be low at 44%. Morphological characteristics of the HCC are described in (Table 3).

Current HCC treatment modalities available at our centre include liver surgery, radiofrequency ablation (RFA), transarterial chemoembolisation (TACE), palliative chemotherapy (Sorafenib). For the liver transplant, patients were transferred to a nearby national transplant centre and then followed up in our hospital. Curative treatment (liver resection, RFA and/or liver transplant) was done in 13.2% of the patients. Non curative treatment (TACE and Sorafenib) was done in 41.3% of the patients. The rest of the patients (45.5%) were offered the best supportive care due to their late presentation at the time of diagnosis.

There were 10 patients that were referred for a liver transplant, 4 were transplanted. Among the other 6 liver transplant referrals two were denied a transplant because continued alcohol consumption. Three patients were denied a liver transplant because the tumour size increased while waiting for a transplant assessment. One patient died while on the waiting list for a liver transplant. On reviewing the clinical notes, it is important to note that both TACE and RFA were used as a bridge for liver transplant and liver resection in 3 cases. Three patients were offered TACE but declined to have any treatment. Few more cases were offered Sorafenib but declined to have chemotherapy for HCC following discussion with a specialised oncologist.

We divided patients into two groups treated and not treated. The treated group included curative and non-curative modalities. The mean and median survival for the treated group was 29.7 mo and 18 mo, respectively. The mean and median survival for the non-treated group was 7.7 mo and 4 mo, respectively. This can be observed in the Kaplan-Meier survival curves for the treated and non-treated groups in (Figure 1A). Mean survival for resection was 47.8 months, liver transplant was 23.2 mo, RFA was 12.29 months, TACE was 17.3 mo and Sorafenib was 4 mo.

CTP Score was also good in predicting overall survival. The mean and median survival for CTP (A) was 26.3 and 15 mo, CTP (B) 9.6 and 5 mo and CTP (C) 3.2 and 2 mo. This can be also observed in the survival curves (Figure 1B).

Overall survival per tumour number is shown in (Table 3). There was a negative significant relationship between the size of the largest HCC tumour/nodule detected on imaging and survival (*P* = 0.009). Our study also showed that BCLC is a good staging system when it comes to survival. The median survival for BCLC 0 was 50 mo, BCLC A was 40 mo, BCLC B was 21 mo, BCLC C was 6 mo and for BCLC D was 2 mo. Median survival with AFP < 10 KU/L was 20 mo and with AFP > 10 KU/L was 5 mo. We found that AFP was inversely related to survival, the higher the AFP the smaller number of months they live after HCC diagnosis. However, this relationship was not statically significant (*P* = 0.132).

NLR had a significant (*P* = 0.011) negative relationship, the higher the NLR the smaller number of months patients live after HCC diagnosis. NLR was categorised to < 3 and > 3 as previously described literature (Figure 1C). The mean and median survival with NLR < 3 was 24.5 and 11 mo respectively and with NLR > 3 the mean was 12.1 mo and the median survival was 6 mo.

We also calculated the ALBI grades at diagnosis and compared them to overall survival. The mean and median survival for ALBI grade 1 were 37.7 and 26 mo, ALBI grade 2 were 13.4 and 6 mo and for ALBI grade 3 were 4.5 and 3 months (Figure 1D).

Visually the Kaplan Meier curves showed better discriminative performance for ALBI grade than CTP score. To further evaluate this, we performed a comparison between receiver operating characteristics curves of CTP and ALBI. The area under the curve showed that ALBI was better than CTP in detecting death from HCC (Figure 2).

**DISCUSSION**

Our systematic search identified many studies describing NLR and ALBI in HCC over the last 5 years. Indeed, they are simple to use and they are also done routinely in HCC patients. It is important to note that NLR was proposed to be a surrogate marker of inflammation and immunological status in many diseases not just solely in HCC, it was also reported to add prognostic value in various other cancers. Only a few studies in this review found NLR not an independent indicator for prognosis[71,72], while many studies associated NLR with HCC progression and metastatic spread. In particular, our review identified that NLR was associated with tumour vascular invasion and large tumour size and raised NLR (> 3) was associated with early and overall recurrence and survival after resection in HCC patients. Our local cohort also revealed that patients with high NLR (> 3) had an inversely significant relationship with survival.

In this review, the ALBI results described in (Table 2) showed better discriminative performance than CTP class as an indicator for survival after HCC diagnosis in many studies. ALBI was validated in large cohorts and was shown to be a good prognostic model in HCC. ALBI was shown to be able to stratify the choice of therapeutic interventions in HCC, in addition to the morphological features of HCC.

Our local cohort demonstrated typical characteristics for the HCC patient, being frequently in males and that two thirds of the patients had liver cirrhosis. Commonest presenting symptoms were abdominal pain and weight loss. In addition to this incidental diagnosis and hepatic decompensation were also common. This suggests that there was variability in the clinical presentation. Biochemical liver abnormality was commonly detected with serum Alkaline phosphatase being markedly raised in comparison to Alanine transaminase.

We would like to highlight that nearly 50% of the patients in our study had normal AFP. This suggests its poor sensitivity and specificity. International guidelines advised on not using AFP routinely in screening patients at risk of developing HCC[1,2]. As in the literature, we found that in secretory HCC the serum AFP increases with the tumour growth and can predict poor survival and hence AFP can be considered a predictor of survival in patients who already had raised AFP at time of the diagnosis.

We found that patients who were treated with surgical resection have survived more than patients who had a liver transplant. However, this is not significant given that only 4 patients underwent liver transplantation in our cohort. RFA and TACE were used in some cases as bridge therapy while awaiting transplantation. Some patients who underwent chemotherapy by Sorafenib often developed side effects and were not able to continue with the chemotherapy.

This review was limited to 5 years only and hence not inclusive of all data around NLR and HCC. Nevertheless, studies concluded in (Table 1) are sufficient to formulate a clinical opinion that NLR is a generic marker of inflammation in HCC and is associated with the overall prognosis. On the other hand, the review included all studies published since the first paper describing ALBI. Another limitation is that nearly all studies were retrospective, however, many had large numbers of HCC patients.

Many HCC patients are diagnosed radiologically in this era. The cancer HPB-MDT involved need to adequately prognosticate and stage patients. NLR and ALBI can aid by eliminating variable judgement between clinicians. Given the evidence from this systematic search, we argue that ALBI can be incorporated in staging HCC rather than CTP and that NLR can be used as an additional marker for severity of HCC in case of normal AFP. This will be required to be looked into by the interested stakeholders in the care of HCC patients.

**CONCLUSION**

NLR and ALBI are validated easy cost-effective markers that can predict survival and help in stratifying therapeutic interventions. They should be included in modified staging systems for HCC. They can be used for monitoring inflammation status and liver function in HCC patients in addition to overall functional status and radiological features.

**ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS**

***Research background***

Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and albumin bilirubin (ALBI) are emerging prognostic indicators in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). This review aimed to evaluate the use of these indicators in published clinical studies over the last 5 years.

***Research motivation***

HCC staging systems are complex and include many parameters to determine the overall therapeutic goals and prognosis. There is a need for a simple way to prognosticate for these patients. ALBI and NLR are numerical values that can be obtained easily from patient records.

***Research objectives***

To study the published literature of NLR and ALBI from a clinical point of view.

***Research methods***

Systematic search over the last 5 years of published literature on NLR and ALBI, and validation of these markers in a retrospective cohort locally in our centre.

***Research results***

NLR is a generic measure of inflammation in infection, cancer and the critically ill. Raised NLR predicted HCC prognosis and survival. ALBI was better than CTP score in predicting overall survival and liver function in HCC patients. NLR and ALBI can be used in prediction of HCC recurrence after surgery, ablation and chemo/radioembolisation.

***Research conclusions***

NLR and ALBI can be used in staging and prognosis of HCC.

***Research perspectives***

Stakeholders interested in HCC care should consider the use of NLR and ALBI in staging systems for HCC.

**REFERENCES**

1 **European Association for the Study of the Liver**. EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Management of hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol* 2018; **69**: 182-236 [PMID: 29628281 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2018.03.019]

2 **Heimbach JK**, Kulik LM, Finn RS, Sirlin CB, Abecassis MM, Roberts LR, Zhu AX, Murad MH, Marrero JA. AASLD guidelines for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology* 2018; **67**: 358-380 [PMID: 28130846 DOI: 10.1002/hep.29086]

3 **Child CG**, Turcotte JG. Surgery and portal hypertension. *Major Probl Clin Surg* 1964; **1**: 1-85 [PMID: 4950264]

4 **Pugh RN**, Murray-Lyon IM, Dawson JL, Pietroni MC, Williams R. Transection of the oesophagus for bleeding oesophageal varices. *Br J Surg* 1973; **60**: 646-649 [PMID: 4541913 DOI: 10.1002/bjs.1800600817]

5 **Kamath PS**, Wiesner RH, Malinchoc M, Kremers W, Therneau TM, Kosberg CL, D'Amico G, Dickson ER, Kim WR. A model to predict survival in patients with end-stage liver disease. *Hepatology* 2001; **33**: 464-470 [PMID: 11172350 DOI: 10.1053/jhep.2001.22172]

6 **Kim WR**, Biggins SW, Kremers WK, Wiesner RH, Kamath PS, Benson JT, Edwards E, Therneau TM. Hyponatremia and mortality among patients on the liver-transplant waiting list. *N Engl J Med* 2008; **359**: 1018-1026 [PMID: 18768945 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa0801209]

7 **Chan AWH**, Zhong J, Berhane S, Toyoda H, Cucchetti A, Shi K, Tada T, Chong CCN, Xiang BD, Li LQ, Lai PBS, Mazzaferro V, García-Fiñana M, Kudo M, Kumada T, Roayaie S, Johnson PJ. Development of pre and post-operative models to predict early recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma after surgical resection. *J Hepatol* 2018; **69**: 1284-1293 [PMID: 30236834 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2018.08.027]

8 **Han G**, Berhane S, Toyoda H, Bettinger D, Elshaarawy O, Chan AWH, Kirstein M, Mosconi C, Hucke F, Palmer D, Pinato DJ, Sharma R, Ottaviani D, Jang JW, Labeur TA, van Delden OM, Pirisi M, Stern N, Sangro B, Meyer T, Fateen W, García-Fiñana M, Gomaa A, Waked I, Rewisha E, Aithal GP, Travis S, Kudo M, Cucchetti A, Peck-Radosavljevic M, Takkenberg RB, Chan SL, Vogel A, Johnson PJ. Prediction of Survival Among Patients Receiving Transarterial Chemoembolization for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Response-Based Approach. *Hepatology* 2020; **72**: 198-212 [PMID: 31698504 DOI: 10.1002/hep.31022]

9 **Elshaarawy O**, Gomaa A, Omar H, Rewisha E, Waked I. Intermediate stage hepatocellular carcinoma: a summary review. *J Hepatocell Carcinoma* 2019; **6**: 105-117 [PMID: 31372364 DOI: 10.2147/JHC.S168682]

10 **Zahorec R**. Ratio of neutrophil to lymphocyte counts--rapid and simple parameter of systemic inflammation and stress in critically ill. *Bratisl Lek Listy* 2001; **102**: 5-14 [PMID: 11723675]

11 **Khoury T**, Mari A, Nseir W, Kadah A, Sbeit W, Mahamid M. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio is independently associated with inflammatory activity and fibrosis grade in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2019; **31**: 1110-1115 [PMID: 30888972 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000001393]

12 **Abdel-Razik A**, Mousa N, Shabana W, Refaey M, ElMahdy Y, Elhelaly R, Elzehery R, Zalata K, Arafa M, Elbaz S, Hafez M, Awad M. A novel model using mean platelet volume and neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio as a marker of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis in NAFLD patients: multicentric study. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016; **28**: e1-e9 [PMID: 26469357 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000000486]

13 **Yilmaz H**, Yalcin KS, Namuslu M, Celik HT, Sozen M, Inan O, Nadir I, Turkay C, Akcay A, Kosar A. Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) Could Be Better Predictor than C-reactive Protein (CRP) for Liver Fibrosis in Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis(NASH). *Ann Clin Lab Sci* 2015; **45**: 278-286 [PMID: 26116591]

14 **Sung KT**, Kuo R, Sun JY, Hung TC, Chang SC, Liu CC, Yun CH, Wu TH, Hung CL, Yeh HI, Hou CJ, Cury RC, Zidar DA, Bezerra HG, Longenecker CT. Associations between CT-determined visceral fat burden, hepatic steatosis, circulating white blood cell counts and neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio. *PLoS One* 2018; **13**: e0207284 [PMID: 30458019 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0207284]

15 **Kahraman NK**, Kahraman C, Koçak FE, Coşgun S, Şanal B, Korkmaz M, Bayhan Z, Zeren S. Predictive value of neutrophiltolymphocyte ratio in the severity of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease among type 2 diabetes patients. *Acta Gastroenterol Belg* 2016; **79**: 295-300 [PMID: 27821024]

16 **Pokora Rodak A**, Kiciak S, Tomasiewicz K. Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio and mean platelet volume as predictive factors for liver fibrosis and steatosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B. *Ann Agric Environ Med* 2018; **25**: 690-692 [PMID: 30586966 DOI: 10.26444/aaem/99583]

17 **Le PH**, Liang KH, Chang ML, Hsu CW, Chen YC, Lin CL, Lin WR, Lai MW, Yeh CT. Clinical Predictors for Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Changes in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B Receiving Peginterferon Treatment. *In Vivo* 2017; **31**: 723-729 [PMID: 28652447 DOI: 10.21873/invivo.11121]

18 **Marallag M**, Patel A, Choi M, Wong MN, Seetharam AB. Profiling Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Changes in Response to Nucleoside Analog Therapy for Chronic Hepatitis B Infection. *In Vivo* 2017; **31**: 1175-1177 [PMID: 29102942 DOI: 10.21873/invivo.11186]

19 **Fan Z**, EnQiang C, Yao DL, LiBo Y, Hong L, Lang B, Ping F, Hong T. Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio predicts short term mortality in patients with hepatitis B virus-related acute-on-chronic liver failure treated with an artificial liver support system. *PLoS One* 2017; **12**: e0175332 [PMID: 28426800 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0175332]

20 **Kekilli M**, Tanoglu A, Sakin YS, Kurt M, Ocal S, Bagci S. Is the neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio associated with liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B? *World J Gastroenterol* 2015; **21**: 5575-5581 [PMID: 25987782 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v21.i18.5575]

21 **Abdel-Razik A**, Mousa N, Besheer TA, Eissa M, Elhelaly R, Arafa M, El-Wakeel N, Eldars W. Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio as a reliable marker to predict insulin resistance and fibrosis stage in chronic hepatitis C virus infection. *Acta Gastroenterol Belg* 2015; **78**: 386-392 [PMID: 26712048]

22 **Deng Y**, Fan X, Ran Y, Xu X, Lin L, Cui B, Hou L, Zhao T, Wang Y, Su Z, Jiang X, Zhao W, Wang B, Sun C. Prognostic impact of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio in cirrhosis: A propensity score matching analysis with a prespecified cut-point. *Liver Int* 2019; **39**: 2153-2163 [PMID: 31408916 DOI: 10.1111/liv.14211]

23 **Rice J**, Dodge JL, Bambha KM, Bajaj JS, Reddy KR, Gralla J, Ganapathy D, Mitrani R, Reuter B, Palecki J, Acharya C, Shaw J, Burton JR, Biggins SW. Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Associates Independently With Mortality in Hospitalized Patients With Cirrhosis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2018; **16**: 1786-1791.e1 [PMID: 29705264 DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2018.04.045]

24 **Peng Y**, Li Y, He Y, Wei Q, Xie Q, Zhang L, Xia Y, Zhou X, Zhang L, Feng X, Chen K, Chen S, Chen W, Long Q, Chai J. The role of neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio for the assessment of liver fibrosis and cirrhosis: a systematic review. *Expert Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2018; **12**: 503-513 [PMID: 29629626 DOI: 10.1080/17474124.2018.1463158]

25 **Sahinturk Y**, Cekin AH. Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio as a Potential Early Marker of Antibiotic Resistance in Patients with Infected Cirrhotic Ascites. *Clin Lab* 2018; **64**: 1403-1411 [PMID: 30274006 DOI: 10.7754/Clin.Lab.2018.180215]

26 **Moreau N**, Wittebole X, Fleury Y, Forget P, Laterre PF, Castanares-Zapatero D. Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Predicts Death in Acute-on-Chronic Liver Failure Patients Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *Shock* 2018; **49**: 385-392 [PMID: 28930918 DOI: 10.1097/SHK.0000000000000993]

27 **Cai YJ**, Dong JJ, Dong JZ, Yang NB, Song M, Wang YQ, Chen YP, Lin Z, Shi KQ. Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio predicts hospital-acquired bacterial infections in decompensated cirrhosis. *Clin Chim Acta* 2017; **469**: 201-207 [PMID: 28412195 DOI: 10.1016/j.cca.2017.04.011]

28 **Abu Omar Y**, Randhawa T, Attar B, Agrawal R, Wang Y, Pichardo R, Majeed MB, Patel SA. Prognostic Value of Neutrophil-lymphocyte Ratio in Patients with Severe Alcoholic Hepatitis. *Cureus* 2019; **11**: e6141 [PMID: 31886076 DOI: 10.7759/cureus.6141]

29 **Forrest EH**, Storey N, Sinha R, Atkinson SR, Vergis N, Richardson P, Masson S, Ryder S, Thursz MR, Allison M, Fraser A, Austin A, McCune A, Dhanda A, Katarey D, Potts J, Verma S, Parker R, Hayes PC; STOPAH NLR Group. Baseline neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts response to corticosteroids and is associated with infection and renal dysfunction in alcoholic hepatitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2019; **50**: 442-453 [PMID: 31313853 DOI: 10.1111/apt.15335]

30 **Yoo JJ**, Cho EJ, Lee B, Kim SG, Kim YS, Lee YB, Lee JH, Yu SJ, Kim YJ, Yoon JH. Prognostic Value of Biochemical Response Models for Primary Biliary Cholangitis and the Additional Role of the Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio. *Gut Liver* 2018; **12**: 714-721 [PMID: 30400732 DOI: 10.5009/gnl18271]

31 **Lin L**, Piao M, Jiang X, Lv H, Zhao N, Yang F, Sun C. Does neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predict 1-year mortality in patients with primary biliary cholangitis? Results from a retrospective study with validation cohort. *BMJ Open* 2017; **7**: e015304 [PMID: 28706093 DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2016-015304]

32 **Hayashi H**, Takamura H, Ohbatake Y, Nakanuma S, Tajima H, Fushida S, Onishi I, Tani T, Shimizu K, Ohta T. Postoperative changes in neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio and platelet count: A simple prognostic predictor for adult-to-adult living donor liver transplantation. *Asian J Surg* 2018; **41**: 341-348 [PMID: 28365200 DOI: 10.1016/j.asjsur.2017.02.004]

33 **Lin BY**, Zhou L, Geng L, Zheng ZY, Jia JJ, Zhang J, Yao J, Zheng SS. High neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio indicates poor prognosis for acute-on-chronic liver failure after liver transplantation. *World J Gastroenterol* 2015; **21**: 3317-3324 [PMID: 25805939 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v21.i11.3317]

34 **Kalra A**, Wedd JP, Bambha KM, Gralla J, Golden-Mason L, Collins C, Rosen HR, Biggins SW. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio correlates with proinflammatory neutrophils and predicts death in low model for end-stage liver disease patients with cirrhosis. *Liver Transpl* 2017; **23**: 155-165 [PMID: 28006875 DOI: 10.1002/lt.24702]

35 **Kwon HM**, Moon YJ, Jung KW, Park YS, Jun IG, Kim SO, Song JG, Hwang GS. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio is a predictor of early graft dysfunction following living donor liver transplantation. *Liver Int* 2019; **39**: 1545-1556 [PMID: 30903725 DOI: 10.1111/liv.14103]

36 **Lin B**, Geng L, Zheng Z, Jia J, Shen T, Zhang J, Zhou L, Zheng S. The predictive value of blood neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in patients with end-stage liver cirrhosis following ABO-incompatible liver transplantation. *J Res Med Sci* 2016; **21**: 69 [PMID: 27904614 DOI: 10.4103/1735-1995.189653]

37 **Chung HS**, Kim ES, Cho MJ, Park CS. Prediction of Intraoperative Circulatory Risk Based on Preoperative Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio in Patients Undergoing Living Donor Liver Transplantation. *Ann Transplant* 2015; **20**: 408-417 [PMID: 26194950 DOI: 10.12659/AOT.894048]

38 **Hayashi H**, Takamura H, Ohbatake Y, Nakanuma S, Makino I, Nakagawara H, Miyashita T, Tajima H, Fushida S, Ohta T. Postoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio of living-donor liver transplant: Association with graft size. *Asian J Surg* 2016; **39**: 103-108 [PMID: 26699814 DOI: 10.1016/j.asjsur.2015.10.005]

39 **Ventriglia J**, Petrillo A, Huerta Alváro M, Laterza MM, Savastano B, Gambardella V, Tirino G, Pompella L, Diana A, Iovino F, Troiani T, Martinelli E, Morgillo F, Orditura M, Cervantes A, Ciardiello F, De Vita F. Neutrophil to Lymphocyte Ratio as a Predictor of Poor Prognosis in Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer Patients Treated with Nab-Paclitaxel plus Gemcitabine: A Propensity Score Analysis. *Gastroenterol Res Pract* 2018; **2018**: 2373868 [PMID: 29983708 DOI: 10.1155/2018/2373868]

40 **Piciucchi M**, Stigliano S, Archibugi L, Zerboni G, Signoretti M, Barucca V, Valente R, Fave GD, Capurso G. The Neutrophil/Lymphocyte Ratio at Diagnosis Is Significantly Associated with Survival in Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer Patients. *Int J Mol Sci* 2017; **18**: [PMID: 28353661 DOI: 10.3390/ijms18040730]

41 **Haram A**, Boland MR, Kelly ME, Bolger JC, Waldron RM, Kerin MJ. The prognostic value of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio in colorectal cancer: A systematic review. *J Surg Oncol* 2017; **115**: 470-479 [PMID: 28105646 DOI: 10.1002/jso.24523]

42 **Cimino MM**, Donadon M, Giudici S, Sacerdote C, Di Tommaso L, Roncalli M, Mavilio D, Hudspeth K, Torzilli G. Peri-tumoural CD3+ Inflammation and Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Predict Overall Survival in Patients Affected by Colorectal Liver Metastases Treated with Surgery. *J Gastrointest Surg* 2020; **24**: 1061-1070 [PMID: 31823322 DOI: 10.1007/s11605-019-04458-9]

43 **Hand F**, Ryan EJ, Harrington C, Durand M, Maguire D, O'Farrelly C, Hoti E, Geoghegan JG. Chemotherapy and repeat resection abrogate the prognostic value of neutrophil lymphocyte ratio in colorectal liver metastases. *HPB (Oxford)* 2020; **22**: 670-676 [PMID: 31570259 DOI: 10.1016/j.hpb.2019.09.003]

44 **Kim H**, Jung HI, Kwon SH, Bae SH, Kim HC, Baek MJ, Lee MS. Preoperative neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio and CEA is associated with poor prognosis in patients with synchronous colorectal cancer liver metastasis. *Ann Surg Treat Res* 2019; **96**: 191-200 [PMID: 30941323 DOI: 10.4174/astr.2019.96.4.191]

45 **Wang LL**, Wang YR, Wang JW, Guan L, Shu M, Wang TZ. [Effect of grain-moxibustion on neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and quality of life in patients with advanced gastric cancer]. *Zhongguo Zhen Jiu* 2019; **39**: 1169-1172 [PMID: 31724351 DOI: 10.13703/j.0255-2930.2019.11.009]

46 **Gao J**, Wang Y, Li F, Zhu Z, Han B, Wang R, Xie R, Xue Y. Prognostic Nutritional Index and Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Are Respectively Associated with Prognosis of Gastric Cancer with Liver Metatasis Undergoing and without Hepatectomy. *Biomed Res Int* 2019; **2019**: 4213623 [PMID: 31687389 DOI: 10.1155/2019/4213623]

47 **Filippi L**, Di Costanzo GG, Tortora R, Pelle G, Saltarelli A, Marino Marsilia G, Cianni R, Schillaci O, Bagni O. Prognostic value of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio and its correlation with fluorine-18-fluorodeoxyglucose metabolic parameters in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma submitted to 90Y-radioembolization. *Nucl Med Commun* 2020; **41**: 78-86 [PMID: 31800510 DOI: 10.1097/MNM.0000000000001123]

48 **Huang H**, Wan X, Bai Y, Bian J, Xiong J, Xu Y, Sang X, Zhao H. Preoperative neutrophil-lymphocyte and platelet-lymphocyte ratios as independent predictors of T stages in hilar cholangiocarcinoma. *Cancer Manag Res* 2019; **11**: 5157-5162 [PMID: 31239770 DOI: 10.2147/CMAR.S192532]

49 **Dogan M**, Eren T, Ozdemir N, Cigirgan CL, Zengin N. The relationship between platelet-lymphocyte ratio, neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio, and survival in metastatic gastric cancer on firstline modified docetaxel and cisplatinum plus 5 Fluorourasil Regimen: A single institute experience. *Saudi J Gastroenterol* 2015; **21**: 320-324 [PMID: 26458860 DOI: 10.4103/1319-3767.166207]

50 **Chen Q**, Yang LX, Li XD, Yin D, Shi SM, Chen EB, Yu L, Zhou ZJ, Zhou SL, Shi YH, Fan J, Zhou J, Dai Z. The elevated preoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts poor prognosis in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma patients undergoing hepatectomy. *Tumour Biol* 2015; **36**: 5283-5289 [PMID: 25672606 DOI: 10.1007/s13277-015-3188-6]

51 **Na N**, Yao J, Cheng C, Huang Z, Hong L, Li H, Qiu J. Meta-analysis of the efficacy of the pretreatment neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a predictor of prognosis in renal carcinoma patients receiving tyrosine kinase inhibitors. *Oncotarget* 2016; **7**: 44039-44046 [PMID: 27270655 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.9836]

52 **Taguchi S**, Nakagawa T, Matsumoto A, Nagase Y, Kawai T, Tanaka Y, Yoshida K, Yamamoto S, Enomoto Y, Nose Y, Sato T, Ishikawa A, Uemura Y, Fujimura T, Fukuhara H, Kume H, Homma Y. Pretreatment neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as an independent predictor of survival in patients with metastatic urothelial carcinoma: A multi-institutional study. *Int J Urol* 2015; **22**: 638-643 [PMID: 25903328 DOI: 10.1111/iju.12766]

53 **Chen Y**, Chen K, Xiao X, Nie Y, Qu S, Gong C, Su F, Song E. Pretreatment neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio is correlated with response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy as an independent prognostic indicator in breast cancer patients: a retrospective study. *BMC Cancer* 2016; **16**: 320 [PMID: 27198767 DOI: 10.1186/s12885-016-2352-8]

54 **Li X**, Zeng WH, Zhou YQ, Ji YY, Li WZ, Zhang LY, Guo YF, Feng DY, Zhang TT. Neutrophil-To-Lymphocyte Ratio Predicted Long-Term Chemotherapy Benefits In Stage IIIB-IV Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients Without Sensitive Mutations. *Onco Targets Ther* 2019; **12**: 8779-8787 [PMID: 31695433 DOI: 10.2147/OTT.S225544]

55 **McDermott SM**, Saunders ND, Schneider EB, Strosberg D, Onesti J, Dillhoff M, Schmidt CR, Shirley LA. Neutrophil Lymphocyte Ratio and Transarterial Chemoembolization in Neuroendocrine Tumor Metastases. *J Surg Res* 2018; **232**: 369-375 [PMID: 30463743 DOI: 10.1016/j.jss.2018.06.058]

56 **Arima K**, Okabe H, Hashimoto D, Chikamoto A, Nitta H, Higashi T, Kaida T, Yamamura K, Kitano Y, Komohara Y, Yamashita YI, Beppu T, Takeya M, Baba H. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts metachronous liver metastasis of pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. *Int J Clin Oncol* 2017; **22**: 734-739 [PMID: 28285371 DOI: 10.1007/s10147-017-1111-4]

57 **Kim JH**, Cho KI, Kim YA, Park SJ. Elevated Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio in Metabolic Syndrome Is Associated with Increased Risk of Colorectal Adenoma. *Metab Syndr Relat Disord* 2017; **15**: 393-399 [PMID: 28910195 DOI: 10.1089/met.2017.0041]

58 **Ozbay I**, Kahraman C, Balikci HH, Kucur C, Kahraman NK, Ozkaya DP, Oghan F. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio in patients with severe tinnitus: prospective, controlled clinical study. *J Laryngol Otol* 2015; **129**: 544-547 [PMID: 25936355 DOI: 10.1017/S0022215115000845]

59 **Caglayan EK**, Engin-Ustun Y, Gocmen AY, Sarı N, Seckin L, Kara M, Polat MF. Is there any relationship between serum sirtuin-1 level and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in hyperemesis gravidarum? *J Perinat Med* 2016; **44**: 315-320 [PMID: 26352076 DOI: 10.1515/jpm-2015-0178]

60 **Chen C**, Zhao HY, Zhang YH. Correlation between neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio and kidney dysfunction in undiagnosed hypertensive population from general health checkup. *J Clin Hypertens (Greenwich)* 2020; **22**: 47-56 [PMID: 31786831 DOI: 10.1111/jch.13749]

61 **Park HS**, In SG, Yoon HJ, Lee WJ, Woo SH, Kim D. Predictive values of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio as an early indicator for severe acute pancreatitis in the emergency department patients. *J Lab Physicians* 2019; **11**: 259-264 [PMID: 31579249 DOI: 10.4103/JLP.JLP\_82\_19]

62 **Zhang L**, Wang Y, Han J, Shen H, Zhao M, Cai S. Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio, gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase, lipase, high-density lipoprotein as a panel of factors to predict acute pancreatitis in pregnancy. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2018; **97**: e11189 [PMID: 29952970 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000011189]

63 **Liang H**, Gao Y, Miao C, Song Y, He F. [Predictive value of neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio on 28-day mortality of patients with severe pneumonia]. *Zhonghua Wei Zhong Bing Ji Jiu Yi Xue* 2019; **31**: 827-831 [PMID: 31441404 DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.issn.2095-4352.2019.07.006]

64 **Manohar V**, Prasad SB, Raj S, Sreekrishnan TP, Gireesh Kumar KP. The Eminence of Neutrophil-lymphocyte Count Ratio in Predicting Bacteremia for Community-acquired Infections at an Emergency Medicine Department in a Tertiary Care Setting. *J Emerg Trauma Shock* 2018; **11**: 271-275 [PMID: 30568369 DOI: 10.4103/JETS.JETS\_72\_17]

65 **Park KS**, Lee SH, Yun SJ, Ryu S, Kim K. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a feasible prognostic marker for pyogenic liver abscess in the emergency department. *Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg* 2019; **45**: 343-351 [PMID: 29480320 DOI: 10.1007/s00068-018-0925-8]

66 **Johnson PJ**, Berhane S, Kagebayashi C, Satomura S, Teng M, Reeves HL, O'Beirne J, Fox R, Skowronska A, Palmer D, Yeo W, Mo F, Lai P, Iñarrairaegui M, Chan SL, Sangro B, Miksad R, Tada T, Kumada T, Toyoda H. Assessment of liver function in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma: a new evidence-based approach-the ALBI grade. *J Clin Oncol* 2015; **33**: 550-558 [PMID: 25512453 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2014.57.9151]

67 **Kong W**, Xu H, Cheng J, Fang Z, Wang H, Zhang J, Wang X, Dai T, Gao Y. The Prognostic Role of a Combined Fibrinogen and Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Score in Patients with Resectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Retrospective Study. *Med Sci Monit* 2020; **26**: e918824 [PMID: 31929496 DOI: 10.12659/MSM.918824]

68 **Hong YM**, Cho M, Yoon KT, Ryu JH, Yang KH, Jeon UB, Hwang TH. Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio predicts the therapeutic benefit of neoadjuvant transarterial chemoembolization in patients with resectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2020; **32**: 1186-1191 [PMID: 31851089 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000001629]

69 **Cruz JC**, Watchmaker JM, Albin MM, Wang L, Wu G, Baker JC, Fritsche MR, Alexopoulos SP, Matsuoka L, Fleming JW, Su J, Borgmann AJ, Banovac F, Brown DB. Neutrophil/Lymphocyte Ratio Predicts Increased Risk of Immediate Progressive Disease following Chemoembolization of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2019; **30**: 1887-1892 [PMID: 31669086 DOI: 10.1016/j.jvir.2019.08.001]

70 **Uchinaka EI**, Amisaki M, Yagyu T, Morimoto M, Watanabe J, Tokuyasu N, Sakamoto T, Honjo S, Saito H, Fujiwara Y. Prognostic Significance of Pre-surgical Combined Platelet Count and Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio for Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *In Vivo* 2019; **33**: 2241-2248 [PMID: 31662563 DOI: 10.21873/invivo.11729]

71 **McVey JC**, Sasaki K, Firl DJ, Fujiki M, Diago-Uso T, Quintini C, Eghtesad B, Miller CC, Hashimoto K, Aucejo FN. Prognostication of inflammatory cells in liver transplantation: Is the waitlist neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio really predictive of tumor biology? *Clin Transplant* 2019; **33**: e13743 [PMID: 31655000 DOI: 10.1111/ctr.13743]

72 **Sun S**, Wang X, Chen J. Using Pre-Treatment Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio to Predict the Prognosis of Young Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma Implemented Minimally Invasive Treatment. *J Adolesc Young Adult Oncol* 2020; **9**: 85-89 [PMID: 31621472 DOI: 10.1089/jayao.2019.0046]

73 **Kabir T**, Ye M, Mohd Noor NA, Woon W, Junnarkar SP, Shelat VG. Preoperative Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Plus Platelet-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Predicts the Outcomes after Curative Resection for Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Int J Hepatol* 2019; **2019**: 4239463 [PMID: 31065387 DOI: 10.1155/2019/4239463]

74 **Wong L**, Bozhilov K, Hernandez B, Kwee S, Chan O, Ellis L, LeMarchand L. Underlying liver disease and advanced stage liver cancer are associated with elevated neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio. *Clin Mol Hepatol* 2019; **25**: 305-316 [PMID: 31001964 DOI: 10.3350/cmh.2019.0004]

75 **Chon YE**, Park H, Hyun HK, Ha Y, Kim MN, Kim BK, Lee JH, Kim SU, Kim DY, Ahn SH, Hwang SG, Han KH, Rim KS, Park JY. Development of a New Nomogram Including Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio to Predict Survival in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma Undergoing Transarterial Chemoembolization. *Cancers (Basel)* 2019; **11**: [PMID: 30974843 DOI: 10.3390/cancers11040509]

76 **Hong YM**, Yoon KT, Hwang TH, Heo J, Woo HY, Cho M. Changes in the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predict the prognosis of patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma treated with sorafenib. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2019; **31**: 1250-1255 [PMID: 30925530 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000001405]

77 **Hu Z**, Chen H, Chen S, Huang Z, Qin S, Zhong J, Qin X, Li S. The value of neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase to platelet ratio in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2019; **98**: e14749 [PMID: 30817633 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000014749]

78 **Shiraki T**, Ishizuka M, Kubota K, Kato M, Matsumoto T, Mori S, Shimizu T, Aoki T. An elevated neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts a poor postoperative survival in primary hepatocellular carcinoma patients with a normal preoperative serum level of alpha-fetoprotein. *Surg Today* 2019; **49**: 661-669 [PMID: 30806789 DOI: 10.1007/s00595-019-01781-1]

79 **Uchinaka E**, Amisaki M, Morimoto M, Tokuyasu N, Sakamoto T, Honjo S, Saito H, Fujiwara Y. Utility and Limitation of Preoperative Neutrophil Lymphocyte Ratio as a Prognostic Factor in Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Yonago Acta Med* 2018; **61**: 197-203 [PMID: 30636915 DOI: 10.33160/yam.2018.12.002]

80 **Hu J**, Wang N, Yang Y, Ma L, Han R, Zhang W, Yan C, Zheng Y, Wang X. Diagnostic value of alpha-fetoprotein combined with neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio for hepatocellular carcinoma. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2018; **18**: 186 [PMID: 30545306 DOI: 10.1186/s12876-018-0908-6]

81 **Wu XL**, Bi XY, Li ZY, Zhao H, Zhao JJ, Zhou JG, Huang Z, Zhang YF, Cai JQ. [Correlation between postoperative neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and recurrence and prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma after radical liver resection]. *Zhonghua Zhong Liu Za Zhi* 2018; **40**: 365-371 [PMID: 29860764 DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.issn.0253-3766.2018.05.009]

82 **Wang Y**, Peng C, Cheng Z, Wang X, Wu L, Li J, Huang C, Guo Q, Cai H. The prognostic significance of preoperative neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receiving hepatectomy: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int J Surg* 2018; **55**: 73-80 [PMID: 29787804 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijsu.2018.05.022]

83 **Galun D**, Bogdanovic A, Djokic Kovac J, Bulajic P, Loncar Z, Zuvela M. Preoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a prognostic predictor after curative-intent surgery for hepatocellular carcinoma: experience from a developing country. *Cancer Manag Res* 2018; **10**: 977-988 [PMID: 29765248 DOI: 10.2147/CMAR.S161398]

84 **Qi X**, Li J, Deng H, Li H, Su C, Guo X. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio for the prognostic assessment of hepatocellular carcinoma: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *Oncotarget* 2016; **7**: 45283-45301 [PMID: 27304193 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.9942]

85 **Tan W**, Sun W, Li X, Zhao L, Wang C, Zang A, Kong X. Preablation neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as an independent prognostic factor in locally advanced hepatocellular carcinoma patients following radiofrequency ablation. *J Cancer Res Ther* 2018; **14**: 84-89 [PMID: 29516965 DOI: 10.4103/jcrt.JCRT\_835\_17]

86 **Najjar M**, Agrawal S, Emond JC, Halazun KJ. Pretreatment neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio: useful prognostic biomarker in hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatocell Carcinoma* 2018; **5**: 17-28 [PMID: 29404284 DOI: 10.2147/JHC.S86792]

87 **Xu ZG**, Ye CJ, Liu LX, Wu G, Zhao ZX, Wang YZ, Shi BQ, Wang YH. The pretransplant neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio as a new prognostic predictor after liver transplantation for hepatocellular cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Biomark Med* 2018; **12**: 189-199 [PMID: 29327595 DOI: 10.2217/bmm-2017-0307]

88 **Chen K**, Zhan MX, Hu BS, Li Y, He X, Fu SR, Xin YJ, Lu LG. Combination of the neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and the platelet to lymphocyte ratio as a useful predictor for recurrence following radiofrequency ablation of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Oncol Lett* 2018; **15**: 315-323 [PMID: 29285194 DOI: 10.3892/ol.2017.7291]

89 **Lué A**, Serrano MT, Bustamante FJ, Iñarrairaegui M, Arenas JI, Testillano M, Lorente S, Gil C, de la Torre M, Gomez A, Sangro B. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts survival in European patients with hepatocellular carcinoma administered sorafenib. *Oncotarget* 2017; **8**: 103077-103086 [PMID: 29262546 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.21528]

90 **Liu C**, Jia BS, Zou BW, Du H, Yan LN, Yang JY, Jiang L, Wen TF, Lu WS. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte and aspartate-to-alanine aminotransferase ratios predict hepatocellular carcinoma prognosis after transarterial embolization. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2017; **96**: e8512 [PMID: 29137051 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000008512]

91 **Margetts J**, Ogle LF, Chan SL, Chan AWH, Chan KCA, Jamieson D, Willoughby CE, Mann DA, Wilson CL, Manas DM, Yeo W, Reeves HL. Neutrophils: driving progression and poor prognosis in hepatocellular carcinoma? *Br J Cancer* 2018; **118**: 248-257 [PMID: 29123264 DOI: 10.1038/bjc.2017.386]

92 **Min GT**, Li YM, Yao N, Wang J, Wang HP, Chen W. The pretreatment neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio may predict prognosis of patients with liver cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clin Transplant* 2018; **32**: [PMID: 29112283 DOI: 10.1111/ctr.13151]

93 **Liu C**, Li L, Lu WS, Du H, Yan LN, Yang JY, Wen TF, Zeng GJ, Jiang L, Yang J. Neutrophil-lymphocyte Ratio Plus Prognostic Nutritional Index Predicts the Outcomes of Patients with Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma After Transarterial Chemoembolization. *Sci Rep* 2017; **7**: 13873 [PMID: 29066730 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-13239-w]

94 **Hung HC**, Lee JC, Cheng CH, Wu TH, Wang YC, Lee CF, Wu TJ, Chou HS, Chan KM, Lee WC. Impact of neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio on survival for hepatocellular carcinoma after curative resection. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci* 2017; **24**: 559-569 [PMID: 28846835 DOI: 10.1002/jhbp.498]

95 **Li J**, Liao Y, Suo L, Zhu P, Chen X, Dang W, Liao M, Qin L, Liao W. A novel prognostic index-neutrophil times γ-glutamyl transpeptidase to lymphocyte ratio (NγLR) predicts outcome for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Sci Rep* 2017; **7**: 9229 [PMID: 28835713 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-09696-y]

96 **Jin C**, Li C, Peng W, Wen TF, Yan LN, Li B, Wang WT, Yang JY, Xu MQ. Changes of platelet times neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio predict BCLC stage A hepatocellular carcinoma survival. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2017; **96**: e7821 [PMID: 28816981 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000007821]

97 **Zhang X**, Li C, Wen T, Peng W, Yan L, Li B, Yang J, Wang W, Xu M, Zeng Y. Synchronous splenectomy and hepatectomy for patients with small hepatocellular carcinoma and pathological spleen: neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio changes can predict the prognosis. *Oncotarget* 2017; **8**: 46298-46311 [PMID: 28549349 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.17758]

98 **Li SH**, Wang QX, Yang ZY, Jiang W, Li C, Sun P, Wei W, Shi M, Guo RP. Prognostic value of the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio for hepatocellular carcinoma patients with portal/hepatic vein tumor thrombosis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2017; **23**: 3122-3132 [PMID: 28533669 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v23.i17.3122]

99 **Liu X**, He L, Han J, Wang L, Li M, Jiang Y, Wang X, Yang Z. Association of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio and T lymphocytes with the pathogenesis and progression of HBV-associated primary liver cancer. *PLoS One* 2017; **12**: e0170605 [PMID: 28231294 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0170605]

100 **Son SH**, Park EY, Park HH, Kay CS, Jang HS. Pre-radiotherapy neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as an independent prognostic factor in patients with locally advanced hepatocellular carcinoma treated with radiotherapy. *Oncotarget* 2017; **8**: 16964-16971 [PMID: 28199977 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.15209]

101 **Taussig MD**, Irene Koran ME, Mouli SK, Ahmad A, Geevarghese S, Baker JC, Lipnik AJ, Banovac F, Brown DB. Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio predicts disease progression following intra-arterial therapy of hepatocellular carcinoma. *HPB (Oxford)* 2017; **19**: 458-464 [PMID: 28190710 DOI: 10.1016/j.hpb.2017.01.013]

102 **Yang T**, Zhu J, Zhao L, Mai K, Ye J, Huang S, Zhao Y. Lymphocyte to monocyte ratio and neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio are superior inflammation-based predictors of recurrence in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after hepatic resection. *J Surg Oncol* 2017; **115**: 718-728 [PMID: 28127774 DOI: 10.1002/jso.24549]

103 **Personeni N**, Giordano L, Abbadessa G, Porta C, Borbath I, Daniele B, Van Laethem JL, Van Vlierberghe H, Trojan J, De Toni EN, Gasbarrini A, Lencioni M, Lamar ME, Wang Y, Shuster D, Schwartz B, Santoro A, Rimassa L. Prognostic value of the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio in the ARQ 197-215 second-line study for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *Oncotarget* 2017; **8**: 14408-14415 [PMID: 28122337 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.14797]

104 **Fu SJ**, Ji F, Han M, Chen MG, Wang XP, Ju WQ, Zhao Q, Wu LW, Ren QQ, Guo ZY, Wang DP, Zhu XF, Ma Y, He XS. Prognostic value of combined preoperative fibrinogen and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after liver transplantation. *Oncotarget* 2017; **8**: 4301-4312 [PMID: 27935864 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.13804]

105 **Ji F**, Fu S, Guo Z, Pang H, Chen D, Wang X, Ju W, Wang D, He X, Hua Y, Peng B. Prognostic significance of preoperative aspartate aminotransferase to neutrophil ratio index in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after hepatic resection. *Oncotarget* 2016; **7**: 72276-72289 [PMID: 27472390 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.10848]

106 **Yang HJ**, Guo Z, Yang YT, Jiang JH, Qi YP, Li JJ, Li LQ, Xiang BD. Blood neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio predicts survival after hepatectomy for hepatocellular carcinoma: A propensity score-based analysis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2016; **22**: 5088-5095 [PMID: 27275101 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v22.i21.5088]

107 **D'Emic N**, Engelman A, Molitoris J, Hanlon A, Sharma NK, Moeslein FM, Chuong MD. Prognostic significance of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio and platelet-lymphocyte ratio in patients treated with selective internal radiation therapy. *J Gastrointest Oncol* 2016; **7**: 269-277 [PMID: 27034796 DOI: 10.3978/j.issn.2078-6891.2015.108]

108 **Arai K**, Fukumoto T, Kido M, Tanaka M, Kuramitsu K, Kinoshita H, Komatsu S, Tsugawa D, Terai S, Matsumoto T, Goto T, Asari S, Toyama H, Ajiki T, Ku Y. Preoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a predictor of survival after reductive surgery plus percutaneous isolated hepatic perfusion for hepatocellular carcinoma: a retrospective analysis. *Surg Today* 2017; **47**: 385-392 [PMID: 27465474 DOI: 10.1007/s00595-016-1384-7]

109 **Hu XG**, Mao W, Park YK, Xu WG, Kim BW, Wang HJ. Blood Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio Predicts Tumor Recurrence in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma within Milan Criteria after Hepatectomy. *Yonsei Med J* 2016; **57**: 1115-1123 [PMID: 27401641 DOI: 10.3349/ymj.2016.57.5.1115]

110 **Lu SD**, Wang YY, Peng NF, Peng YC, Zhong JH, Qin HG, Xiang BD, You XM, Ma L, Li LQ. Preoperative Ratio of Neutrophils to Lymphocytes Predicts Postresection Survival in Selected Patients With Early or Intermediate Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2016; **95**: e2722 [PMID: 26844516 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000002722]

111 **Sun XD**, Shi XJ, Chen YG, Wang CL, Ma Q, Lv GY. Elevated Preoperative Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio Is Associated with Poor Prognosis in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients Treated with Liver Transplantation: A Meta-Analysis. *Gastroenterol Res Pract* 2016; **2016**: 4743808 [PMID: 26843858 DOI: 10.1155/2016/4743808]

112 **Tajiri K**, Baba H, Kawai K, Minemura M, Yasumura S, Takahara T, Sugiyama T. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts recurrence after radiofrequency ablation in hepatitis B virus infection. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016; **31**: 1291-1299 [PMID: 26729319 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.13287]

113 **Huang GQ**, Zhu GQ, Liu YL, Wang LR, Braddock M, Zheng MH, Zhou MT. Stratified neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio accurately predict mortality risk in hepatocellular carcinoma patients following curative liver resection. *Oncotarget* 2016; **7**: 5429-5439 [PMID: 26716411 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.6707]

114 **Wang W**, Ye Y, Wang T, Zhang F, Geng L, Yu J, Zhou L, Yan S, Zheng S. Prognostic prediction of male recipients selected for liver transplantation: With special attention to neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio. *Hepatol Res* 2016; **46**: 899-907 [PMID: 26666880 DOI: 10.1111/hepr.12633]

115 **Xiao GQ**, Yang JY, Yan LN. Combined Hangzhou criteria with neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio is superior to other criteria in selecting liver transplantation candidates with HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis Int* 2015; **14**: 588-595 [PMID: 26663006 DOI: 10.1016/s1499-3872(15)60416-7]

116 **Liao R**, Tang ZW, Li DW, Luo SQ, Huang P, Du CY. Preoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts recurrence of patients with single-nodule small hepatocellular carcinoma following curative resection: a retrospective report. *World J Surg Oncol* 2015; **13**: 265 [PMID: 26328917 DOI: 10.1186/s12957-015-0670-y]

117 **Li C**, Wen TF, Yan LN, Li B, Wang WT, Yang JY, Xu MQ. Postoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio plus platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio predicts the outcomes of hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Surg Res* 2015; **198**: 73-79 [PMID: 26022997 DOI: 10.1016/j.jss.2015.05.003]

118 **Sukato DC**, Tohme S, Chalhoub D, Han K, Zajko A, Amesur N, Orons P, Marsh JW, Geller DA, Tsung A. The Prognostic Role of Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio in Patients with Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma Treated with Radioembolization. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2015; **26**: 816-24.e1 [PMID: 25824315 DOI: 10.1016/j.jvir.2015.01.038]

119 **Gao F**, Li X, Geng M, Ye X, Liu H, Liu Y, Wan G, Wang X. Pretreatment neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio: an independent predictor of survival in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2015; **94**: e639 [PMID: 25789957 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000000639]

120 **Fan W**, Zhang Y, Wang Y, Yao X, Yang J, Li J. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratios as predictors of survival and metastasis for recurrent hepatocellular carcinoma after transarterial chemoembolization. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**: e0119312 [PMID: 25742141 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0119312]

121 **Okamura Y**, Ashida R, Ito T, Sugiura T, Mori K, Uesaka K. Preoperative neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and prognostic nutritional index predict overall survival after hepatectomy for hepatocellular carcinoma. *World J Surg* 2015; **39**: 1501-1509 [PMID: 25670038 DOI: 10.1007/s00268-015-2982-z]

122 **An C**, Li X, Yu X, Cheng Z, Han Z, Liu F, Yu J, Liang P. Nomogram based on albumin-bilirubin grade to predict outcome of the patients with hepatitis C virus-related hepatocellular carcinoma after microwave ablation. *Cancer Biol Med* 2019; **16**: 797-810 [PMID: 31908896 DOI: 10.20892/j.issn.2095-3941.2018.0486]

123 **Ni JY**, Fang ZT, Sun HL, An C, Huang ZM, Zhang TQ, Jiang XY, Chen YT, Xu LF, Huang JH. A nomogram to predict survival of patients with intermediate-stage hepatocellular carcinoma after transarterial chemoembolization combined with microwave ablation. *Eur Radiol* 2020; **30**: 2377-2390 [PMID: 31900694 DOI: 10.1007/s00330-019-06438-8]

124 **Geng L**, Zong R, Shi Y, Xu K. Prognostic role of preoperative albumin-bilirubin grade on patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after surgical resection: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2020; **32**: 769-778 [PMID: 31834053 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000001618]

125 **Huang Q**, Zeng Q, Long Y, Tan L, Zheng R, Xu E, Li K. Fusion imaging techniques and contrast-enhanced ultrasound for thermal ablation of hepatocellular carcinoma - A prospective randomized controlled trial. *Int J Hyperthermia* 2019; **36**: 1207-1215 [PMID: 31813295 DOI: 10.1080/02656736.2019.1687945]

126 **Soydal C**, Araz M, Nak D, Akkus P, Baltacioğlu MH, Bilgic S, Kucuk NO. Analysis of prognostic factors in patients receiving transarterial radioembolization for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Nucl Med Commun* 2020; **41**: 73-77 [PMID: 31800509 DOI: 10.1097/MNM.0000000000001122]

127 **Palmer DH**, Hawkins NS, Vilgrain V, Pereira H, Chatellier G, Ross PJ. Tumor burden and liver function in HCC patient selection for selective internal radiation therapy: SARAH post-hoc study. *Future Oncol* 2020; **16**: 4315-4325 [PMID: 31797680 DOI: 10.2217/fon-2019-0658]

128 **Hatanaka T**, Kakizaki S, Nagashima T, Namikawa M, Tojima H, Shimada Y, Takizawa D, Naganuma A, Arai H, Sato K, Harimoto N, Shirabe K, Uraoka T. Analyses of objective response rate, progression-free survival, and adverse events in hepatocellular carcinoma patients treated with lenvatinib: A multicenter retrospective study. *Hepatol Res* 2020; **50**: 382-395 [PMID: 31760660 DOI: 10.1111/hepr.13460]

129 **Xu L**, Wu J, Lu W, Yang C, Liu H. Application of the Albumin-Bilirubin Grade in Predicting the Prognosis of Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Transplant Proc* 2019; **51**: 3338-3346 [PMID: 31732203 DOI: 10.1016/j.transproceed.2019.08.027]

130 **Ho SY**, Liu PH, Hsu CY, Hsia CY, Huang YH, Su CW, Lei HJ, Lee RC, Hou MC, Huo TI. A New Prognostic Model Based on Albumin-Bilirubin Grade for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Beyond the Milan Criteria. *Dig Dis Sci* 2020; **65**: 658-667 [PMID: 31659612 DOI: 10.1007/s10620-019-05813-1]

131 **Wu B**, Hu X, Jin H, Zhou L, Zhang D, Man Z, Wang Y, Yang S, Pang Q, Liu H, Cui P. Albumin-bilirubin and platelet-albumin-bilirubin grades for hepatitis B-associated hepatocellular carcinoma in Child-Pugh A patients treated with radical surgery: A retrospective observational study. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2019; **98**: e17394 [PMID: 31651841 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000017394]

132 **Mai RY**, Wang YY, Bai T, Chen J, Xiang BD, Wu GB, Wu FX, Li LQ, Ye JZ. Combination Of ALBI And APRI To Predict Post-Hepatectomy Liver Failure After Liver Resection For HBV-Related HCC Patients. *Cancer Manag Res* 2019; **11**: 8799-8806 [PMID: 31632139 DOI: 10.2147/CMAR.S213432]

133 **Kornberg A**, Witt U, Schernhammer M, Kornberg J, Müller K, Friess H, Thrum K. The role of preoperative albumin-bilirubin grade for oncological risk stratification in liver transplant patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Surg Oncol* 2019; **120**: 1126-1136 [PMID: 31578753 DOI: 10.1002/jso.25721]

134 **Lin CY**, Lin CC, Wang CC, Chen CL, Hu TH, Hung CH, Huang PY, Tsai MC. The ALBI Grade is a Good Predictive Model for Very Late Recurrence in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma Undergoing Primary Resection. *World J Surg* 2020; **44**: 247-257 [PMID: 31559485 DOI: 10.1007/s00268-019-05197-3]

135 **Ye L**, Liang R, Zhang J, Chen C, Chen X, Zhang Y, Wang G, Yang Y, Chen G. Postoperative albumin-bilirubin grade and albumin-bilirubin change predict the outcomes of hepatocellular carcinoma after hepatectomy. *Ann Transl Med* 2019; **7**: 367 [PMID: 31555681 DOI: 10.21037/atm.2019.06.01]

136 **Zhang J**, Luo Y, Li C, Liu J, Xiang H, Wen T. The combination of the preoperative albumin-bilirubin grade and the fibrosis-4 index predicts the prognosis of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after liver resection. *Biosci Trends* 2019; **13**: 351-357 [PMID: 31527331 DOI: 10.5582/bst.2019.01212]

137 **Ho SY**, Hsu CY, Liu PH, Hsia CY, Lei HJ, Huang YH, Ko CC, Su CW, Lee RC, Hou MC, Huo TI. Albumin-bilirubin grade-based nomogram of the BCLC system for personalized prognostic prediction in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Liver Int* 2020; **40**: 205-214 [PMID: 31505104 DOI: 10.1111/liv.14249]

138 **Hiraoka A**, Kumada T, Atsukawa M, Hirooka M, Tsuji K, Ishikawa T, Takaguchi K, Kariyama K, Itobayashi E, Tajiri K, Shimada N, Shibata H, Ochi H, Tada T, Toyoda H, Nouso K, Tsutsui A, Nagano T, Itokawa N, Hayama K, Imai M, Joko K, Koizumi Y, Hiasa Y, Michitaka K; On behalf of the Real-Life Practice Experts for HCC (RELPEC) Study Group and HCC 48 Group (hepatocellular carcinoma experts from 48 clinics in Japan). Early Relative Change in Hepatic Function with Lenvatinib for Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Oncology* 2019; **97**: 334-340 [PMID: 31466068 DOI: 10.1159/000502095]

139 **Takada H**, Kurosaki M, Tsuchiya K, Komiyama Y, Itakura J, Takahashi Y, Nakanishi H, Yasui Y, Tamaki N, Maeyashiki C, Kaneko S, Takaura K, Higuchi M, Okada M, Wang W, Osawa L, Sekiguchi S, Hayakawa Y, Yamashita K, Enomoto N, Izumi N. Baseline and Early Predictors of Good Patient Candidates for Second-Line after Sorafenib Treatment in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Cancers (Basel)* 2019; **11**: [PMID: 31461985 DOI: 10.3390/cancers11091256]

140 **Ni JY**, Fang ZT, An C, Sun HL, Huang ZM, Zhang TQ, Jiang XY, Chen YT, Xu LF, Huang JH. Comparison of albumin-bilirubin grade, platelet-albumin-bilirubin grade and Child-Turcotte-Pugh class for prediction of survival in patients with large hepatocellular carcinoma after transarterial chemoembolization combined with microwave ablation. *Int J Hyperthermia* 2019; **36**: 841-853 [PMID: 31452408 DOI: 10.1080/02656736.2019.1646927]

141 **Nguyen TTH**, Nguyen VH, Nguyen VH, Nguyen TL, Le VQ. Role of Baseline Albumin-Bilirubin Grade on Predict Overall Survival Among Sorafenib-Treated Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Vietnam. *Cancer Control* 2019; **26**: 1073274819865269 [PMID: 31364390 DOI: 10.1177/1073274819865269]

142 **Ho SY**, Liu PH, Hsu CY, Hsia CY, Su CW, Huang YH, Lei HJ, He YJ, Hou MC, Huo TI. An Albumin-Bilirubin (ALBI) Grade-based Prognostic Model For Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma Within Milan Criteria. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2019; **42**: 698-704 [PMID: 31335351 DOI: 10.1097/COC.0000000000000581]

143 **Lee IC**, Hung YW, Liu CA, Lee RC, Su CW, Huo TI, Li CP, Chao Y, Lin HC, Hou MC, Huang YH. A new ALBI-based model to predict survival after transarterial chemoembolization for BCLC stage B hepatocellular carcinoma. *Liver Int* 2019; **39**: 1704-1712 [PMID: 31319016 DOI: 10.1111/liv.14194]

144 **Hiraoka A**, Kumada T, Atsukawa M, Hirooka M, Tsuji K, Ishikawa T, Takaguchi K, Kariyama K, Itobayashi E, Tajiri K, Shimada N, Shibata H, Ochi H, Tada T, Toyoda H, Nouso K, Tsutsui A, Nagano T, Itokawa N, Hayama K, Imai M, Joko K, Tanaka H, Tamai T, Koizumi Y, Hiasa Y, Michitaka K, Kudo M; Real-life Practice Experts for HCC (RELPEC) Study Group; HCC 48 Group (hepatocellular carcinoma experts from 48 clinics in Japan). Important Clinical Factors in Sequential Therapy Including Lenvatinib against Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Oncology* 2019; **97**: 277-285 [PMID: 31307035 DOI: 10.1159/000501281]

145 **Elshaarawy O**, Alkhatib A, Elhelbawy M, Gomaa A, Allam N, Alsebaey A, Rewisha E, Waked I. Validation of modified albumin-bilirubin-TNM score as a prognostic model to evaluate patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *World J Hepatol* 2019; **11**: 542-552 [PMID: 31293722 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v11.i6.542]

146 **Ueshima K**, Nishida N, Hagiwara S, Aoki T, Minami T, Chishina H, Takita M, Minami Y, Ida H, Takenaka M, Sakurai T, Watanabe T, Morita M, Ogawa C, Hiraoka A, Johnson P, Kudo M. Impact of Baseline ALBI Grade on the Outcomes of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients Treated with Lenvatinib: A Multicenter Study. *Cancers (Basel)* 2019; **11**: [PMID: 31284682 DOI: 10.3390/cancers11070952]

147 **Sonohara F**, Yamada S, Tanaka N, Tashiro M, Sunagawa Y, Morimoto D, Tanaka H, Takami H, Hayashi M, Kanda M, Tanaka C, Kobayashi D, Nakayama G, Koike M, Fujiwara M, Kodera Y. Comparison of non-invasive liver reserve and fibrosis models: Implications for surgery and prognosis for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatol Res* 2019; **49**: 1305-1315 [PMID: 31260575 DOI: 10.1111/hepr.13400]

148 **Antkowiak M**, Gabr A, Das A, Ali R, Kulik L, Ganger D, Moore C, Abecassis M, Katariya N, Mouli S, Mahalingam D, Lewandowski RJ, Salem R, Riaz A. Prognostic Role of Albumin, Bilirubin, and ALBI Scores: Analysis of 1000 Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma Undergoing Radioembolization. *Cancers (Basel)* 2019; **11**: [PMID: 31238514 DOI: 10.3390/cancers11060879]

149 **Honmyo N**, Kobayashi T, Hamaoka M, Kohashi T, Abe T, Oishi K, Tazawa H, Imaoka Y, Akita T, Tanaka J, Ohdan H; Hiroshima Surgical study group of Clinical Oncology (HiSCO). Comparison of new prognostic systems for patients with resectable hepatocellular carcinoma: Albumin-Bilirubin grade and Albumin-Indocyanine Green Evaluation grade. *Hepatol Res* 2019; **49**: 1218-1226 [PMID: 31237074 DOI: 10.1111/hepr.13393]

150 **Khalid MA**, Achakzai IK, Hanif FM, Ahmed S, Majid Z, Luck NH. To determine the prognostic value of the albumin-bilirubin grade (ALBI) in patients underwent transarterial chemoembolization for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gastroenterol Hepatol Bed Bench* 2019; **12**: 110-115 [PMID: 31191834]

151 **Luo H**, Li C, Chen L. Preoperative albumin-bilirubin grade combined with aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet count ratio index predict outcomes of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma within Milan criteria after liver resection. *Biosci Trends* 2019; **13**: 176-181 [PMID: 31061272 DOI: 10.5582/bst.2019.01088]

152 **Lu LH**, Zhang YF, Mu-Yan C, Kan A, Zhong XP, Mei J, Ling YH, Li SH, Shi M, Wei W, Guo RP. Platelet-albumin-bilirubin grade: Risk stratification of liver failure, prognosis after resection for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Dig Liver Dis* 2019; **51**: 1430-1437 [PMID: 31054962 DOI: 10.1016/j.dld.2019.04.006]

153 **Lee SK**, Song MJ, Kim SH, Park M. Comparing various scoring system for predicting overall survival according to treatment modalities in hepatocellular carcinoma focused on Platelet-albumin-bilirubin (PALBI) and albumin-bilirubin (ALBI) grade: A nationwide cohort study. *PLoS One* 2019; **14**: e0216173 [PMID: 31048923 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0216173]

154 **Su TS**, Yang HM, Zhou Y, Huang Y, Liang P, Cheng T, Chen L, Li LQ, Liang SX. Albumin - bilirubin (ALBI) versus Child-Turcotte-Pugh (CTP) in prognosis of HCC after stereotactic body radiation therapy. *Radiat Oncol* 2019; **14**: 50 [PMID: 30917853 DOI: 10.1186/s13014-019-1251-y]

155 **Mai RY**, Ye JZ, Long ZR, Shi XM, Bai T, Chen J, Li LQ, Wu GB, Wu FX. Preoperative aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet-ratio index as a predictor of posthepatectomy liver failure for resectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Cancer Manag Res* 2019; **11**: 1401-1414 [PMID: 30863151 DOI: 10.2147/CMAR.S186114]

156 **Chen PC**, Chiu NC, Su CW, Huang YH, Hou MC, Lin HC, Wu JC. Albumin-bilirubin grade may determine the outcomes of patients with very early stage hepatocellular carcinoma after radiofrequency ablation therapy. *J Chin Med Assoc* 2019; **82**: 2-10 [PMID: 30839396 DOI: 10.1097/JCMA.0000000000000001]

157 **Zhong BY**, Ni CF, Ji JS, Yin GW, Chen L, Zhu HD, Guo JH, He SC, Deng G, Zhang Q, Li PC, Yu H, Song JJ, Teng GJ. Nomogram and Artificial Neural Network for Prognostic Performance on the Albumin-Bilirubin Grade for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Undergoing Transarterial Chemoembolization. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2019; **30**: 330-338 [PMID: 30819473 DOI: 10.1016/j.jvir.2018.08.026]

158 **Sonohara F**, Yamada S, Tanaka N, Suenaga M, Takami H, Hayashi M, Niwa Y, Sugimoto H, Hattori N, Kanda M, Tanaka C, Kobayashi D, Nakayama G, Koike M, Fujiwara M, Kodera Y. Perioperative and prognostic implication of albumin-bilirubin-TNM score in Child-Pugh class A hepatocellular carcinoma. *Ann Gastroenterol Surg* 2019; **3**: 65-74 [PMID: 30697612 DOI: 10.1002/ags3.12212]

159 **Xu YX**, Wang YB, Tan YL, Xi C, Xu XZ. Prognostic value of pretreatment albumin to bilirubin ratio in patients with hepatocellular cancer: A meta-analysis. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2019; **98**: e14027 [PMID: 30633195 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000014027]

160 **Lee YH**, Koh YS, Hur YH, Cho CK, Kim HJ, Park EK. Effectiveness of the albumin-bilirubin score as a prognostic factor for early recurrence after curative hepatic resection for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Ann Hepatobiliary Pancreat Surg* 2018; **22**: 335-343 [PMID: 30588524 DOI: 10.14701/ahbps.2018.22.4.335]

161 **Tada T**, Kumada T, Toyoda H, Tsuji K, Hiraoka A, Michitaka K, Deguchi A, Ishikawa T, Imai M, Ochi H, Joko K, Shimada N, Tajiri K, Hirooka M, Koizumi Y, Hiasa Y, Tanaka J. Impact of albumin-bilirubin grade on survival in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma who received sorafenib: An analysis using time-dependent receiver operating characteristic. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2019; **34**: 1066-1073 [PMID: 30549320 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.14564]

162 **Russolillo N**, Forchino F, Conci S, Mele C, Langella S, Ruzzenente A, Scoleri I, Giuliante F, Guglielmi A, Ferrero A. Validation of the albumin-indocyanine green evaluation model in patients with resected hepatocellular carcinoma and comparison with the albumin-bilirubin score. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci* 2019; **26**: 51-57 [PMID: 30537424 DOI: 10.1002/jhbp.597]

163 **Mohammadi H**, Abuodeh Y, Jin W, Frakes J, Friedman M, Biebel B, Choi J, El-Haddad G, Kis B, Sweeney J, Hoffe S. Using the Albumin-Bilirubin (ALBI) grade as a prognostic marker for radioembolization of hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Gastrointest Oncol* 2018; **9**: 840-846 [PMID: 30505583 DOI: 10.21037/jgo.2018.05.14]

164 **Fang KC**, Kao WY, Su CW, Chen PC, Lee PC, Huang YH, Huo TI, Chang CC, Hou MC, Lin HC, Wu JC. The Prognosis of Single Large Hepatocellular Carcinoma Was Distinct from Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer Stage A or B: The Role of Albumin-Bilirubin Grade. *Liver Cancer* 2018; **7**: 335-358 [PMID: 30488023 DOI: 10.1159/000487407]

165 **Ho SY**, Hsu CY, Liu PH, Hsia CY, Su CW, Huang YH, Hou MC, Huo TI. Albumin-bilirubin (ALBI) grade-based nomogram to predict tumor recurrence in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2019; **45**: 776-781 [PMID: 30401507 DOI: 10.1016/j.ejso.2018.10.541]

166 **Casadei Gardini A**, Foschi FG, Conti F, Petracci E, Vukotic R, Marisi G, Buonfiglioli F, Vitale G, Ravaioli F, Gitto S, Verucchi G, Lenzi M, Bolondi L, Mazzella G, Brillanti S, Andreone P; member of the Bologna DAA group. Immune inflammation indicators and ALBI score to predict liver cancer in HCV-patients treated with direct-acting antivirals. *Dig Liver Dis* 2019; **51**: 681-688 [PMID: 30327251 DOI: 10.1016/j.dld.2018.09.016]

167 **Zhang ZQ**, Xiong L, Zhou JJ, Miao XY, Li QL, Wen Y, Zou H. Ability of the ALBI grade to predict posthepatectomy liver failure and long-term survival after liver resection for different BCLC stages of HCC. *World J Surg Oncol* 2018; **16**: 208 [PMID: 30326907 DOI: 10.1186/s12957-018-1500-9]

168 **Mohammed MAA**, Khalaf MH, Liang T, Wang DS, Lungren MP, Rosenberg J, Kothary N. Albumin-Bilirubin Score: An Accurate Predictor of Hepatic Decompensation in High-Risk Patients Undergoing Transarterial Chemoembolization for Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2018; **29**: 1527-1534.e1 [PMID: 30274856 DOI: 10.1016/j.jvir.2018.06.016]

169 **Carling U**, Røsok B, Line PD, Dorenberg EJ. ALBI and P-ALBI grade in Child-Pugh A patients treated with drug eluting embolic chemoembolization for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Acta Radiol* 2019; **60**: 702-709 [PMID: 30205701 DOI: 10.1177/0284185118799519]

170 **Jaruvongvanich V**, Sempokuya T, Wong L. Is there an optimal staging system or liver reserve model that can predict outcome in hepatocellular carcinoma? *J Gastrointest Oncol* 2018; **9**: 750-761 [PMID: 30151272 DOI: 10.21037/jgo.2018.05.11]

171 **Amisaki M**, Uchinaka E, Morimoto M, Tokuyasu N, Sakamoto T, Honjo S, Saito H, Fujiwara Y. Post-operative albumin-bilirubin grade predicts long-term outcomes among Child-Pugh grade A patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after curative resection. *Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis Int* 2018; **17**: 502-509 [PMID: 30077606 DOI: 10.1016/j.hbpd.2018.07.011]

172 **Cai XR**, Chen ZH, Liu MM, Lin JX, Zhang XP, Chen J, Lin Q, Ma XK, Wen JY, Xie SD, Wu XY, Dong M. Modified CLIP score with the albumin-bilirubin grade retains prognostic value in HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma patients treated with trans-catheter arterial chemoembolization therapy. *J Cancer* 2018; **9**: 2380-2388 [PMID: 30026834 DOI: 10.7150/jca.22925]

173 **Li C**, Zhang XY, Peng W, Wen TF, Yan LN, Li B, Yang JY, Wang WT, Xu MQ, Chen LP. Preoperative albumin-bilirubin grade plus platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio predict the outcomes of patients with BCLC stage A hepatocellular carcinoma after liver resection. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2018; **97**: e11599 [PMID: 30024565 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000011599]

174 **Ho CHM**, Chiang CL, Lee FAS, Choi HCW, Chan JCH, Yeung CSY, Huang JJ, Chan MKH, Blanck O, Wong FCS. Comparison of platelet-albumin-bilirubin (PALBI), albumin-bilirubin (ALBI), and child-pugh (CP) score for predicting of survival in advanced hcc patients receiving radiotherapy (RT). *Oncotarget* 2018; **9**: 28818-28829 [PMID: 29988960 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.25522]

175 **Murray LJ**, Sykes J, Brierley J, Kim JJ, Wong RKS, Ringash J, Craig T, Velec M, Lindsay P, Knox JJ, Dawson LA. Baseline Albumin-Bilirubin (ALBI) Score in Western Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma Treated With Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2018; **101**: 900-909 [PMID: 29976502 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2018.04.011]

176 **Okuda T**, Hayashi N, Takahashi M, Uzuka T, Okita Y, Otani R, Fujinaka T, Fujita M, Kato A, Narita Y, Nakasu Y. Clinical outcomes of brain metastases from hepatocellular carcinoma: a multicenter retrospective study and a literature review. *Int J Clin Oncol* 2018; **23**: 1095-1100 [PMID: 29968168 DOI: 10.1007/s10147-018-1312-5]

177 **Luo HM**, Zhao SZ, Li C, Chen LP. Preoperative platelet-albumin-bilirubin grades predict the prognosis of patients with hepatitis B virus-related hepatocellular carcinoma after liver resection: A retrospective study. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2018; **97**: e0226 [PMID: 29561452 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000010226]

178 **Ho SY**, Liu PH, Hsu CY, Hsia CY, Su CW, Lee YH, Huang YH, Lee FY, Hou MC, Huo TI. Comparison of twelve liver functional reserve models for outcome prediction in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma undergoing surgical resection. *Sci Rep* 2018; **8**: 4773 [PMID: 29555927 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-018-22923-4]

179 **Lei Q**, Zhang Y, Ke C, Yan C, Huang P, Shen H, Lei H, Chen Y, Luo J, Meng Z. Value of the albumin-bilirubin score in the evaluation of hepatitis B virus-related acute-on-chronic liver failure, liver cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. *Exp Ther Med* 2018; **15**: 3074-3079 [PMID: 29456711 DOI: 10.3892/etm.2018.5748]

180 **Na SK**, Yim SY, Suh SJ, Jung YK, Kim JH, Seo YS, Yim HJ, Yeon JE, Byun KS, Um SH. ALBI versus Child-Pugh grading systems for liver function in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Surg Oncol* 2018; **117**: 912-921 [PMID: 29448306 DOI: 10.1002/jso.24992]

181 **Chong CCN**, Lee KF, Chu CM, Chan AWH, Wong J, Chan SL, Lok HT, Fung AKY, Fong AKW, Cheung YS, Yu SCH, Johnson P, Lai PBS. Microwave ablation provides better survival than liver resection for hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with borderline liver function: application of ALBI score to patient selection. *HPB (Oxford)* 2018; **20**: 546-554 [PMID: 29352659 DOI: 10.1016/j.hpb.2017.12.001]

182 **Gkika E**, Bettinger D, Krafft L, Schultheiss M, Neeff HP, Maruschke L, Schulenburg M, Adebahr S, Kirste S, Nestle U, Thimme R, Grosu AL, Brunner TB. The role of albumin-bilirubin grade and inflammation-based index in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy. *Strahlenther Onkol* 2018; **194**: 403-413 [PMID: 29322205 DOI: 10.1007/s00066-017-1256-0]

183 **Chen PH**, Hsieh WY, Su CW, Hou MC, Wang YP, Hsin IF, Yang TC, Liao WC, Lin HC, Lee FY, Wu JC. Combination of albumin-bilirubin grade and platelets to predict a compensated patient with hepatocellular carcinoma who does not require endoscopic screening for esophageal varices. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2018; **88**: 230-239.e2 [PMID: 29317268 DOI: 10.1016/j.gie.2017.12.023]

184 **Hiraoka A**, Michitaka K, Kumada T, Izumi N, Kadoya M, Kokudo N, Kubo S, Matsuyama Y, Nakashima O, Sakamoto M, Takayama T, Kokudo T, Kashiwabara K, Kudo M. Validation and Potential of Albumin-Bilirubin Grade and Prognostication in a Nationwide Survey of 46,681 Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients in Japan: The Need for a More Detailed Evaluation of Hepatic Function. *Liver Cancer* 2017; **6**: 325-336 [PMID: 29234636 DOI: 10.1159/000479984]

185 **Yoh T**, Seo S, Ogiso S, Kawai T, Okuda Y, Ishii T, Taura K, Higashi T, Nakamoto Y, Hatano E, Kaido T, Uemoto S. Proposal of a New Preoperative Prognostic Model for Solitary Hepatocellular Carcinoma Incorporating 18F-FDG-PET Imaging with the ALBI Grade. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2018; **25**: 542-549 [PMID: 29168098 DOI: 10.1245/s10434-017-6262-z]

186 **Dong ZR**, Zou J, Sun D, Shi GM, Ke AW, Cai JB, Sun HC, Qiu SJ, Li T, Zhou J, Zhi XT, Fan J. Preoperative Albumin-Bilirubin Score for Postoperative Solitary Hepatocellular Carcinoma within the Milan Criteria and Child-Pugh A Cirrhosis. *J Cancer* 2017; **8**: 3862-3867 [PMID: 29151974 DOI: 10.7150/jca.21313]

187 **Li C**, Zhang XY, Peng W, Wen TF, Yan LN, Li B, Yang JY, Wang WT, Xu MQ. Postoperative Albumin-Bilirubin Grade Change Predicts the Prognosis of Patients with Hepatitis B-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma Within the Milan Criteria. *World J Surg* 2018; **42**: 1841-1847 [PMID: 29138913 DOI: 10.1007/s00268-017-4355-2]

188 **Hsu HY**, Yu MC, Lee CW, Tsai HI, Sung CM, Chen CW, Huang SW, Lin CY, Jeng WJ, Lee WC, Chen MF. RAM score is an effective predictor for early mortality and recurrence after hepatectomy for hepatocellular carcinoma. *BMC Cancer* 2017; **17**: 742 [PMID: 29121890 DOI: 10.1186/s12885-017-3748-9]

189 **Hiraoka A**, Kumada T, Kudo M, Hirooka M, Koizumi Y, Hiasa Y, Tajiri K, Toyoda H, Tada T, Ochi H, Joko K, Shimada N, Deguchi A, Ishikawa T, Imai M, Tsuji K, Michitaka K; Real-life Practice Experts for HCC (RELPEC) Study Group and HCC 48 Group (hepatocellular carcinoma experts from 48 clinics). Hepatic Function during Repeated TACE Procedures and Prognosis after Introducing Sorafenib in Patients with Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Multicenter Analysis. *Dig Dis* 2017; **35**: 602-610 [PMID: 29040999 DOI: 10.1159/000480256]

190 **Pinato DJ**, Sharma R, Citti C, Platt H, Ventura-Cots M, Allara E, Chen TY, Dalla Pria A, Jain M, Mínguez B, Kikuchi L, Kaufman West E, Merli M, Kaplan DE, Hasson H, Marks K, Nelson M, Núñez M, Aytaman A, Bower M, Bräu N; Liver Cancer in HIV Study Group. The albumin-bilirubin grade uncovers the prognostic relationship between hepatic reserve and immune dysfunction in HIV-associated hepatocellular carcinoma. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2018; **47**: 95-103 [PMID: 29034998 DOI: 10.1111/apt.14356]

191 **Oh IS**, Sinn DH, Kang TW, Lee MW, Kang W, Gwak GY, Paik YH, Choi MS, Lee JH, Koh KC, Paik SW. Liver Function Assessment Using Albumin-Bilirubin Grade for Patients with Very Early-Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma Treated with Radiofrequency Ablation. *Dig Dis Sci* 2017; **62**: 3235-3242 [PMID: 28983724 DOI: 10.1007/s10620-017-4775-8]

192 **Lo CH**, Liu MY, Lee MS, Yang JF, Jen YM, Lin CS, Chao HL, Shen PC, Huang WY. Comparison Between Child-Turcotte-Pugh and Albumin-Bilirubin Scores in Assessing the Prognosis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma After Stereotactic Ablative Radiation Therapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2017; **99**: 145-152 [PMID: 28816140 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2017.04.036]

193 **Chong CC**, Chan AW, Wong J, Chu CM, Chan SL, Lee KF, Yu SC, To KF, Johnson P, Lai PB. Albumin-bilirubin grade predicts the outcomes of liver resection versus radiofrequency ablation for very early/early stage of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Surgeon* 2018; **16**: 163-170 [PMID: 28807570 DOI: 10.1016/j.surge.2017.07.003]

194 **Lee PC**, Chen YT, Chao Y, Huo TI, Li CP, Su CW, Lee MH, Hou MC, Lee FY, Lin HC, Huang YH. Validation of the albumin-bilirubin grade-based integrated model as a predictor for sorafenib-failed hepatocellular carcinoma. *Liver Int* 2018; **38**: 321-330 [PMID: 28736952 DOI: 10.1111/liv.13527]

195 **Hansmann J**, Evers MJ, Bui JT, Lokken RP, Lipnik AJ, Gaba RC, Ray CE Jr. Albumin-Bilirubin and Platelet-Albumin-Bilirubin Grades Accurately Predict Overall Survival in High-Risk Patients Undergoing Conventional Transarterial Chemoembolization for Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2017; **28**: 1224-1231.e2 [PMID: 28688815 DOI: 10.1016/j.jvir.2017.05.020]

196 **Zou H**, Wen Y, Yuan K, Miao XY, Xiong L, Liu KJ. Combining albumin-bilirubin score with future liver remnant predicts post-hepatectomy liver failure in HBV-associated HCC patients. *Liver Int* 2018; **38**: 494-502 [PMID: 28685924 DOI: 10.1111/liv.13514]

197 **Ho SY**, Liu PH, Hsu CY, Hsia CY, Lee YH, Lee RC, Huang YH, Lee FY, Hou MC, Tsai YJ, Huo TI. Prognostic role of noninvasive liver reserve markers in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma undergoing transarterial chemoembolization. *PLoS One* 2017; **12**: e0180408 [PMID: 28672011 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0180408]

198 **Hiraoka A**, Kumada T, Kudo M, Hirooka M, Tsuji K, Itobayashi E, Kariyama K, Ishikawa T, Tajiri K, Ochi H, Tada T, Toyoda H, Nouso K, Joko K, Kawasaki H, Hiasa Y, Michitaka K; Real-Life Practice Experts for HCC (RELPEC) Study Group and HCC 48 Group (hepatocellular carcinoma experts from 48 clinics). Albumin-Bilirubin (ALBI) Grade as Part of the Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for HCC of the Japan Society of Hepatology: A Comparison with the Liver Damage and Child-Pugh Classifications. *Liver Cancer* 2017; **6**: 204-215 [PMID: 28626732 DOI: 10.1159/000452846]

199 **Kao WY**, Su CW, Chiou YY, Chiu NC, Liu CA, Fang KC, Huo TI, Huang YH, Chang CC, Hou MC, Lin HC, Wu JC. Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Nomograms Based on the Albumin-Bilirubin Grade to Assess the Outcomes of Radiofrequency Ablation. *Radiology* 2017; **285**: 670-680 [PMID: 28562211 DOI: 10.1148/radiol.2017162382]

200 **Gui B**, Weiner AA, Nosher J, Lu SE, Foltz GM, Hasan O, Kim SK, Gendel V, Mani NB, Carpizo DR, Saad NE, Kennedy TJ, Zuckerman DA, Olsen JR, Parikh PJ, Jabbour SK. Assessment of the Albumin-Bilirubin (ALBI) Grade as a Prognostic Indicator for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients Treated With Radioembolization. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2018; **41**: 861-866 [PMID: 28418940 DOI: 10.1097/COC.0000000000000384]

201 **Kuo YH**, Wang JH, Hung CH, Rau KM, Wu IP, Chen CH, Kee KM, Hu TH, Lu SN. Albumin-Bilirubin grade predicts prognosis of HCC patients with sorafenib use. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017; **32**: 1975-1981 [PMID: 28295594 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.13783]

202 **Waked I**, Berhane S, Toyoda H, Chan SL, Stern N, Palmer D, Tada T, Yeo W, Mo F, Bettinger D, Kirstein MM, Iñarrairaegui M, Gomaa A, Vogel A, Meyer T, Sangro B, Lai P, Kumada T, Johnson PJ. Transarterial chemo-embolisation of hepatocellular carcinoma: impact of liver function and vascular invasion. *Br J Cancer* 2017; **116**: 448-454 [PMID: 28125820 DOI: 10.1038/bjc.2016.423]

203 **Pinato DJ**, Yen C, Bettinger D, Ramaswami R, Arizumi T, Ward C, Pirisi M, Burlone ME, Thimme R, Kudo M, Sharma R. The albumin-bilirubin grade improves hepatic reserve estimation post-sorafenib failure: implications for drug development. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2017; **45**: 714-722 [PMID: 28116800 DOI: 10.1111/apt.13904]

204 **King J**, Palmer DH, Johnson P, Ross P, Hubner RA, Sumpter K, Darby S, Braconi C, Iwuji C, Swinson D, Collins P, Patel K, Nobes J, Muazzam I, Blesing C, Kirkwood A, Nash S, Meyer T. Sorafenib for the Treatment of Advanced Hepatocellular Cancer - a UK Audit. *Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol)* 2017; **29**: 256-262 [PMID: 27964898 DOI: 10.1016/j.clon.2016.11.012]

205 **Li MX**, Zhao H, Bi XY, Li ZY, Huang Z, Han Y, Zhou JG, Zhao JJ, Zhang YF, Cai JQ. Prognostic value of the albumin-bilirubin grade in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma: Validation in a Chinese cohort. *Hepatol Res* 2017; **47**: 731-741 [PMID: 27558521 DOI: 10.1111/hepr.12796]

206 **Ma XL**, Zhou JY, Gao XH, Tian L, Wu J, Zhang CY, Zhou Y, Dai Q, Wang BL, Pan BS, Yang XR, Guo W. Application of the albumin-bilirubin grade for predicting prognosis after curative resection of patients with early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Chim Acta* 2016; **462**: 15-22 [PMID: 27520748 DOI: 10.1016/j.cca.2016.08.005]

207 **Liu PH**, Hsu CY, Hsia CY, Lee YH, Chiou YY, Huang YH, Lee FY, Lin HC, Hou MC, Huo TI. ALBI and PALBI grade predict survival for HCC across treatment modalities and BCLC stages in the MELD Era. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017; **32**: 879-886 [PMID: 27696519 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.13608]

208 **Pinato DJ**, Sharma R, Allara E, Yen C, Arizumi T, Kubota K, Bettinger D, Jang JW, Smirne C, Kim YW, Kudo M, Howell J, Ramaswami R, Burlone ME, Guerra V, Thimme R, Ishizuka M, Stebbing J, Pirisi M, Carr BI. The ALBI grade provides objective hepatic reserve estimation across each BCLC stage of hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol* 2017; **66**: 338-346 [PMID: 27677714 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2016.09.008]

209 **Hiraoka A**, Kumada T, Nouso K, Tsuji K, Itobayashi E, Hirooka M, Kariyama K, Ishikawa T, Tada T, Toyoda H, Kawasaki H, Hiasa Y, Michitaka K. Proposed New Sub-Grouping for Intermediate-Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma Using Albumin-Bilirubin Grade. *Oncology* 2016; **91**: 153-161 [PMID: 27362669 DOI: 10.1159/000447061]

210 **Chan AW**, Chong CC, Mo FK, Wong J, Yeo W, Johnson PJ, Yu S, Lai PB, Chan AT, To KF, Chan SL. Incorporating albumin-bilirubin grade into the cancer of the liver Italian program system for hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017; **32**: 221-228 [PMID: 27257086 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.13457]

211 **Edeline J**, Blanc JF, Johnson P, Campillo-Gimenez B, Ross P, Ma YT, King J, Hubner RA, Sumpter K, Darby S, Evans J, Iwuji C, Swinson D, Collins P, Patel K, Muazzam I, Palmer DH, Meyer T. A multicentre comparison between Child Pugh and Albumin-Bilirubin scores in patients treated with sorafenib for Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Liver Int* 2016; **36**: 1821-1828 [PMID: 27214151 DOI: 10.1111/liv.13170]

212 **Hickey R**, Mouli S, Kulik L, Desai K, Thornburg B, Ganger D, Baker T, Abecassis M, Ralph Kallini J, Gabr A, Gates VL, Benson Iii AB, Lewandowski RJ, Salem R. Independent Analysis of Albumin-Bilirubin Grade in a 765-Patient Cohort Treated with Transarterial Locoregional Therapy for Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2016; **27**: 795-802 [PMID: 27038686 DOI: 10.1016/j.jvir.2016.03.005]

213 **Wang YY**, Zhong JH, Su ZY, Huang JF, Lu SD, Xiang BD, Ma L, Qi LN, Ou BN, Li LQ. Albumin-bilirubin versus Child-Pugh score as a predictor of outcome after liver resection for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Br J Surg* 2016; **103**: 725-734 [PMID: 27005482 DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10095]

214 **Chan AW**, Kumada T, Toyoda H, Tada T, Chong CC, Mo FK, Yeo W, Johnson PJ, Lai PB, Chan AT, To KF, Chan SL. Integration of albumin-bilirubin (ALBI) score into Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (BCLC) system for hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016; **31**: 1300-1306 [PMID: 26751608 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.13291]

215 **Hiraoka A**, Kumada T, Michitaka K, Toyoda H, Tada T, Ueki H, Kaneto M, Aibiki T, Okudaira T, Kawakami T, Kawamura T, Yamago H, Suga Y, Miyamoto Y, Tomida H, Azemoto N, Mori K, Miyata H, Ninomiya T, Kawasaki H. Usefulness of albumin-bilirubin grade for evaluation of prognosis of 2584 Japanese patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016; **31**: 1031-1036 [PMID: 26647219 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.13250]

216 **Ogasawara S**, Chiba T, Ooka Y, Suzuki E, Kanogawa N, Saito T, Motoyama T, Tawada A, Kanai F, Yokosuka O. Liver function assessment according to the Albumin-Bilirubin (ALBI) grade in sorafenib-treated patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *Invest New Drugs* 2015; **33**: 1257-1262 [PMID: 26462681 DOI: 10.1007/s10637-015-0292-9]

**Footnotes**

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** Authors declare no conflict of interest.

**PRISMA 2009 Checklist statement:** The authors have read the PRISMA 2009 Checklist, and the manuscript was prepared and revised according to the PRISMA 2009 Checklist.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

**Manuscript source:** Invited conference manuscripts

**Peer-review started:** June 26, 2020

**First decision:** July 28, 2020

**Article in press:** August 25, 2020

**Specialty type:** Gastroenterology and hepatology

**Country/Territory of origin:** United Kingdom

**Peer-review report’s scientific quality classification**

Grade A (Excellent): A

Grade B (Very good): 0

Grade C (Good): C

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

**P-Reviewer:** Elshaarawy O, Li J **S-Editor:** Zhang H **L-Editor: A P-Editor:** Zhang YL

**Figure Legends**

**A**



**B**



C ****

**D**



**Figure 1 Hepatocellular carcinoma survival curves.** A: Survival curvebetween the treated and non-treated group; B: Survival curvebetween different stages of the child Turcotte Pugh score; C: Survival curve comparing low and high neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; D: Survival curve comparing different albumin bilirubin grades. NLR: Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio. ALBI: Albumin bilirubin.



**Figure 2 Receiver operating characteristic curves comparing between child turcotte pugh score and albumin bilirubin grading system.** The area under the curves represents death from hepatocellular carcinoma. ROC:Receiver operating characteristic.

**Table 1 studies describing the relation between hepatocellular carcinoma and Neutrophil to Lymphocyte Ratio in the last 5 years**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Type** | **Patients/Studies (*n*)** | **Summary of main clinical points** |
| Kong *et al*[67] | Retrospective | 292 patients | Combined preoperative fibrinogen with NLR was an independent predictor OS and DFS in patients with surgically resectable HCC |
| Hong *et al*[68] | Retrospective | 441 patients | NLR was found to be predictive factor of long-term survival and able to identify patients with resectable HCC who benefit from neoadjuvant TACE |
| Cruz *et al*[69] | Retrospective  | 190 patients | Elevated baseline NLR was associated with higher rates of HCC tumour progression at two month follow-up imaging after TACE |
| Uchinaka *et al*[70] | Retrospective | 176 patients | Combination of platelet count and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (COP-NLR) was an independent predictor for prognosis of HCC patients after hepatic resection |
| McVey *et al*[71] | Retrospective | 422 patients | The objective of this retrospective study was to characterize the NLR on the transplantation waitlist and determine its prognostic utility in LT for HCC. NLR demonstrated a positive correlation with MELD-Na at LT (*P* < 0.001). However, NLR lost its statistical significance when MELD-Na was added to the Cox regression model (OS: HR = 1.46, *P* = 0.098) (recurrence: HR = 1.40, *P* = 0.115). NLR was a volatile marker on the waitlist that demonstrated a significant correlation and collinearity with MELD-Na temporally and at the time of LT. These characteristics of NLR bring into question its utility as a predictive marker in HCC patients |
| Sun *et al*[72] | Retrospective | 47 patients | Pre-treatment NLR ≥ 3.09 is related to poor prognosis of young HCC patients implemented minimally invasive treatment (TACE/RFA). However, it is not an independent indicator for prognosis |
| Kabir *et al*[73] | Retrospective | 132 patients | The preoperative NLR in combination with platelet to lymphocyte ratio was predictive of both OS and recurrence free survival in patients with HCC undergoing curative liver resection |
| Wong *et al*[74] | Retrospective | 789 patients | Elevated NLR is associated with advanced cancer stage and aggressive tumour characteristics, such as large size, rupture, and invasion. NLR ≥ 3 was associated with early and overall recurrence after resection but varied with aetiology |
| Chon *et al*[75] | Retrospective | 1697 patients | The tumour size, tumour number, AFP level, vascular invasion, CTP score, objective response after TACE, and NLR were selected as predictors of OS *via* multivariate Cox's regression model, incorporated into a 14-point risk prediction model called SNAVCORN score. The prognostic performance of the SNAVCORN score including NLR in patients with HCC treated with TACE was remarkable, much better than those of the conventional scores |
| Hong *et al*[76] | Retrospective | 82 patients | A change in NLR after sorafenib therapy was associated with a better prognosis in patients with advanced HCC |
| Hu *et al*[77] | Retrospective | 565 patients | NLR correlated with the BCLC stages, CTP score and tumour size. However, it was not correlated with Edmondson-Steiner histological grades for HCC |
| Shiraki *et al*[78] | Retrospective | 478 patients | An elevated NLR (>  3.2) is predictive of a poor survival in patients with primary HCC showing normal AFP levels |
| Uchinaka *et al*[79] | Retrospective | 135 patients | NLR was an independent predictor for OS in hepatectomy treated HCC |
| Hu *et al*[80] | Retrospective | 545 patients | AFP and NLR offers better diagnostic performance than either marker alone for differentiating HCC from liver disease |
| Wu *et al*[81] | Retrospective | 344 patients | HCC patients who receive radical liver resection, postoperative NLR ≥ 2.29 implicates poor prognosis. Moreover, postoperative NLR ≥ 2.41 suggests early recurrence, while NLR ≥ 2.15 suggests late recurrence |
| Wang *et al*[82] | Meta-analysis | 17 studies | Elevated preoperative NLR had a close relationship with the OS, RFS and DFS of HCC. Additionally, preoperative NLR was associated with vascular invasion and tumour size |
| Gauln *et al*[83] | Retrospective | 109 patients | Prognostic value of NLR was confirmed in noncirrhotic HCC patients who underwent curative-intent liver surgery. In HCC patients with cirrhosis, the prognostic role of NLR was not confirmed |
| Qi *et al*[84] | Meta-analysis | 20475 patients; 90 studies | Low baseline NLR was significantly associated with better OS, RFS and DFS. Low post treatment NLR was significantly associated with better OS. Decreased NLR was significantly associated with OS, RFS and DFS |
| Tan *et al*[85] | Retrospective | 402 | Pre-ablation NLR was a valuable predictor in locally advanced HCC patients treated with RFA. NLR ≥ 2.2 indicated a poor prognosis |
| Najjar *et al*[86] | Systematic review | 7902 patients with liver resection; 2929 patients with liver transplantation | Pretransplant NLR was most often predictive of HCC recurrence, RFS and OS. NLR was, however, more variably and less clearly associated with worse outcomes following liver surgical resection |
| Xu *et al*[87] | Meta-analysis | 13 studies 1936 patients | Elevated pretransplant NLR had a close association with the OS, RFS DFS of patients undergoing liver transplantation for HCC, respectively. In addition, elevated NLR was associated with the presence of vascular invasion and Milan criteria |
| Chen *et al*[88] | Retrospective | 287 patients | The combination of the NLR and the PLR, for predicting the survival time of patients with HCC who had received RFA was associated with developing distant intrahepatic recurrence, extrahepatic metastasis, shorter OS and RFS |
| Lué *et al*[89] | Retrospective | 154 patients | NLR was found to be an independent prognostic indicator for OS in HCC patients treated with sorafenib |
| Liu *et al*[90] | Retrospective | 760 patients | Combination of the NLR to the aspartate aminotransferase-to-alanine aminotransferase ratio was found to be an independent marker of poor prognosis in patients with HCC receiving TACE |
| Margetts *et al*[91] | Retrospective | 1168 patients | Neutrophils alone, rather than lymphocytes, were independently associated with outcome |
| Min *et al*[92] | Meta-analysis | 12979 patients | Elevated NLR had a close relationship with OS and DFS of liver cancer. It was also associated with tumour vascular invasion, multiple tumours, AFP ≥ 400 ng/ML, presence of HBV S Ag and cirrhosis |
| Liu *et al*[93]  | Retrospective  | 793 patients | NLR plus prognostic nutritional index score had superior discriminative abilities, compared with either the NLR or PNI alone in predicting the outcomes of patients with unresectable HCC after TACE |
| Hung *et al*[94] | Retrospective | 672 patients | In patients who had curative liver resection for HCC, NLR > 2.5 had larger tumour size, higher histology grade, and higher rates of tumour multiplicity and vascular invasion. After a median follow up of 76.3 mo, 437 (65.0%) patients had tumour recurrence. When patients had tumour recurrence, 5-year post-recurrent survival was best in the patients staying with NLR ≤ 2.5 |
| Li *et al*[95] | Retrospective | 724 patients | In HCC patients undergoing curative resection a prognostic index model, NγLR = [neutrophil count (109/L) × γ-glutamyl transpeptidase (U/L)]/[(lymphocyte count) (109/L) × U/L], was selected. Elevated NγLR predicted a worse OS and progression-free survival (PFS) for HCC patients |
| Jin *et al*[96] | Retrospective | 556 patients | Platelet times neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio in hepatitis B related HCC within BCLC stage A was found to be a prognostic indicator of poor outcomes |
| Zhang *et al*[97] | Retrospective  | 756 patients | Investigated the outcome of synchronous hepatectomy and splenectomy in HCC. Splenectomy and NLR were found to be significant independent prognostic factors  |
| Li *et al*[98] | Retrospective | 81 patients | The preoperative NLR is a prognostic predictor after hepatectomy for HCC patients with portal/hepatic vein tumour thrombosis. NLR > 2.9 indicated poorer OS and DFS |
| Liu *et al*[99]  | Prospective | 160 patients | Elevated NLR is associated with the pathogenesis and progression of HBV related HCC. The study also identified that there was also reduced thymic output and hyperactivation of T lymphocytes which may contribute to the decrease of T lymphocytes, which could be also related to the pathogenesis of HBV related HCC |
| Son *et al*[100] | Retrospective | 56 patients | Low NLR was significantly associated with better PFS and OS in patients with locally advanced HCC treated with radiotherapy |
| Taussig *et al*[101] | Prospective | 86 patients | In 86 HCC treatment-naïve patients who had chemoembolization or radioembolization, NLR was found to be associated with early progressive disease after intra-arterial therapy of HCC |
| Yang *et al*[102] | Retrospective | 1020 patients | NLR found to be independent prognostic factor for DFS in HCC patients undergoing hepatectomy |
| Personeni *et al*[103] | Prospective | 98 patients | A study that randomized HCC patients to tivantinib or placebo. High NLR was associated with hazard ratio for overall survival (OS) of 1.58 [95% confidence interval (CI) 1.01; 2.47; *P* < 0.046], corresponding to median OS of 5.1 months *vs* 7.8 mo in patients with low NLR (*P* = 0.044). In contrast, time to progression was not significantly affected by NLR (*P* = 0.20). Multivariable model confirmed that both NLR > 3 (*P* = 0.03) and presence of vascular invasion (*P* = 0.017) were negatively associated with OS. After adjustment for vascular invasion, NLR independently predicted survival in both the placebo and the tivantinib cohort |
| Fu *et al*[104] | Retrospective | 130 patients | Combination of preoperative Fibrinogen and NLR enlarges the prognostic accuracy of testing in HCC patients who underwent liver transplantation |
| Ji *et al*[105] | Retrospective | 303 patients | Combining the preoperative aspartate aminotransferase to neutrophil ratio index and NLR increases the prognostic accuracy of testing in patients who underwent curative resection for HCC |
| Yang *et al*[106] | Retrospective | 526 patients | Preoperative NLR ≥ 2.81 is an indicator of poor DFS and OS in patients with HCC undergoing surgery |
| D'Emic *et al*[107] | Retrospective | 339 patients | Study evaluated the association between NLR and clinical outcomes in patients receiving SIRT. The results confirm that pre- and/or post-treatment NLR is predictive of clinical outcomes |
| Arai *et al*[108] | Retrospective | 42 patients | Elevated preoperative NLR is an independent predictive risk factor for patients undergoing two-stage treatment combining reductive surgery and percutaneous isolated hepatic perfusion for multiple HCC with portal vein tumour thrombus. The median survival of patients with a preoperative NLR > 2.3 was 14.9 mo, whereas that of patients with a preoperative NLR ≤ 2.3 was 26.1 mo |
| Hu *et al*[109] | Retrospective | 213 patients | Elevated preoperative NLR was found to be a reliable biomarker for assessing early recurrence of HCC after the initial hepatectomy |
| Lu *et al*[110] | Retrospective | 963 patients | NLR is an independent predictor of OS and tumour recurrence after potentially curative resection in HCC patients of BCLC stages 0/A or B |
| Sun *et al*[111] | Meta-analysis | 1687 patients10 studies | Elevated NLR was significantly associated with poorer OS and poorer DFS in HCC patients treated with LT. In addition, poor prognosis was not altered by cut off values of NLR or types of LT |
| Tajiri *et al*[112] | Retrospective | 163 patients | Pre RFA treatment NLR >  2.5 was significantly associated with recurrence in HBV-HCC |
| Huang *et al*[113] | Retrospective | 1659 patients | NLR measurements were associated with worse OS from HCC patients who had liver resection with curative intent |
| Wang *et al*[114] | Retrospective  | 248 patients | NLR > 4 was associated with early tumour recurrence in HCC patients treated with LT |
| Xiao *et al*[115] | Retrospective | 305 patients | NLR > 4 showed recurrence-free survival rates when compared to NLR ≤ 4 in HCC patients treated with LT |
| Liao *et al*[116] | Retrospective  | 222 patients | Preoperative NLR is a prognostic marker in HCC after curative resection |
| Li *et al*[117] | Retrospective | 263 patients | The postoperative NLR predicted outcomes of hepatitis B virus-related HCC patients within Milan criteria after liver resection |
| Sukato *et al*[118] | Retrospective | 176 patients | HCC patients with a normal NLR were found to have longer survival than individuals with a high NLR. HCC patients with BCLC stage C disease with elevated NLR may not derive benefit from yttrium-90 radioembolization |
| Gao *et al*[119] | Retrospective | 825 patients | NLR ≥ 2.7 was a significant predictor of poor OS, and the survival period of patients with an NLR ≥ 2.7 decreased with more advanced BCLC and tumour node metastasis stage |
| Fan *et al*[120] | Retrospective | 132 patients | High NLR and was associated with poor prognosis and metastasis in recurrent HCC patients treated with TACE |
| Okamura *et al*[121] | Retrospective | 256 patients | NLR was an independent prognostic factor for overall, and recurrence-free survival in patients who undergo hepatectomy for HCC with curative intent |

NLR: Neutrophil to lymphocyte ration; OS: Overall survival; DFS: Disease free survival; HCC: Hepatocellular carcinoma; TACE: Transarterial chemoembolization; LT: Liver transplantation; MELD-Na: Model for end-stage liver disease-Na; RFA: Radiofrequency ablation; PLR: Platelet to lymphocyte ratio; RFS: Recurrence free survival ; CTP:Child Turcotte Pugh score ; BCLC: Barcelona clinic liver cancer staging system; AFP: Alpha fetoprotein; HBV: Hepatitis B virus; SIRT: Selective internal radiation therapy.

**Table 2 Studies describing the relation between hepatocellular carcinoma and albumin bilirubin grade in the last 5 years**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.**  | **Type** | **Patients/Studies (*n*)** | **Summary of main clinical points** |
| Johnson *et al*[66] | Retrospective | 6410 | ALBI was developed as a simple model to assess liver function, based on 1,313 patients with HCC of all stages from Japan that involved only serum bilirubin and albumin levels. ALBI was then tested using similar cohorts from other geographical regions (*n* = 5097). The ALBI grade was found to offer a simple, evidence-based, objective, and discriminatory method of assessing liver function in HCC. ALBI was tested in an international setting. ALBI eliminated the need for subjective variables such as ascites and encephalopathy, a requirement in the conventional CTP grade |
| An *et al*[122] | Retrospective  | 251 | ALBI grade predicted long-term outcomes for HCV-related HCC patients after ultrasound-guided percutaneous microwave ablation (US-PMWA) |
| Ni *et al*[123] | Retrospective | 546 | ALBI grade resulted in reliable efficacy for prediction of individualized OS in patients with intermediate-stage HCC after transarterial chemoembolization combined with microwave ablation (TACE-MWA) |
| Geng *et al*[124] | Meta-analysis | 11365 patients20 studies | In patients with HCC after liver resection, higher ALBI grade was associated with poorer OS and RFS. Correlation between ALBI grade and poor long-term survival was not altered in different geographical areas, sample sizes, follow-up duration, and quality scores  |
| Huang *et al*[125] | Prospective randomized controlled trial | 830 | ALBI grade was used to stratify patients to compare the clinical application values of contrast-enhanced ultrasound, computed tomography/magnetic resonance-CEUS, and three-dimensional ultrasound-CEUS. Fusion imaging (FI) techniques in the assistance of thermal ablation for HCC. The FI techniques were more suitable in patients with ALBI grade 2 and 3 |
| Soydal *et al*[126] | Retrospective | 86 | Patients with low ALBI and NLR survive longer after TACE for unresectable HCC |
| Palmer *et al*[127] | Prospective randomized controlled trial | 85 | Tumour burden and liver function represented in the ALBI grade are useful tools in HCC patient selection for selective internal radiation therapy |
| Hatanaka *et al*[128] | Retrospective | 93 | ALBI grade was a good predictive factor affecting the incidence of fatigue and decreased appetite in HCC patients treated with Lenvatinib |
| Xu *et al*[129] | Meta-analysis | 19805 patients8 studies | The ALBI grade has the potency of becoming an independent prognostic factor in patients with HCC |
| Ho *et al*[130] | Retrospective | 2186  | Newly proposed ALBI-HOME model; is based on ALBI grade, serum AFP, total tumour volume, ascites, performance status, and vascular invasion or metastasis. It was associated with the best prognostic ability among different HCC staging systems to predict survival in patients beyond Milan criteria; its ability remained consistently stable in different treatment subgroups and viral aetiologies |
| Wu *et al*[131] | Retrospective  | 134 | In HBV related HCC, ALBI grades were significantly associated with OS and RFS. Multivariate analyses further revealed ALBI grades were independent predictors for survival |
| Mai *et al*[132] | Retrospective | 1055 | In HBV-related HCC patients who underwent hepatectomy, ALBI- aspartate aminotransferase-platelet ratio index (APRI) score is a novel and effective predictive model of PHLF for HBV-related HCC patients, and its accuracy in predicting the risk of PHLF is better than that of CTP, ALBI and APRI scores |
| Kornberg *et al*[133] | Retrospective | 123 | Posttransplant HCC recurrence rates were 10.5%, 15.9%, and 68.2% in ALBI grade 1, 2, and 3, respectively. ALBI grades 1 or 2 were identified as an independent predictor of RFS. ALBI grade 3 proved to be the strongest indicator of microvascular invasion (MVI). ALBI grade provided the best discriminative capacity in selecting liver recipients with low oncological risk profile |
| Lin *et al*[134] | Retrospective | 383 | Independent predictors for HCC recurrence were ALBI grades 2 and 3. Independent risk factors for poor survival were ALBI grades 2 and 3. Patients whose deteriorated ALBI grades 5 years after resection had adverse RFS outcomes compared to those with constant and improved ALBI grades. In subgroup analysis, patients with post-operative 5th-year ALBI grades 2 and 3 had significantly poorer RFS and OS than those with grade 1 among patients with low post-operative 5th-year AFP (< 15 ng/ML) |
| Ye *et al*[135] | Retrospective | 300 | Postoperative ALBI grade could predict the prognosis of patients with HCC after hepatectomy |
| Zhang *et al*[136] | Retrospective | 544 | Combination of ALBI grade and the fibrosis-4 index (FIB-4) predicted HCC patient outcomes after liver resection. A high ALBI-FIB-4 score was associated with a high incidence of postoperative recurrence and mortality |
| Ho *et al*[137] | Retrospective  | 123 | A comparison among ALBI grades at the start of Lenvatinib for treatment for unresectable HCC identified decline in hepatic function in the early stage ( ≤ 4 weeks, especially within 2 weeks) |
| Hiraoka *et al*[138] | Retrospective | 3690 | A proposed ALBI-based nomogram of BCLC system was found to be a feasible strategy to estimate the survival of individual HCC patient except for very early stage patients |
| Takada *et al*[139] | Retrospective | 190 | Baseline ALBI was a predictor to direct candidates for second-line treatment after sorafenib in unresectable HCC |
| Ni *et al*[140] | Retrospective | 349 | Platelet ALBI (PALBI) grade demonstrated significant greater area under the curve values than ALBI grade or CTP class in predicting 1-, 3- and 5-year OS in patients with large HCCs after transarterial chemoembolization combined with microwave ablation (TACE-MWA) |
| Nguyen *et al*[141] | Retrospective | 110 | Baseline ALBI grade is an independent predictor of survival in patients treated with sorafenib |
| Ho *et al*[142] | Retrospective | 1655 | ALBI grade is feasible in predicting survival in HCC patients within the Milan criteria, and helps identify high-risk patients who need timely liver transplantation |
| Lee *et al*[143] | Retrospective | 570 | ALBI is associated with survival in BCLC stage B HCC patients undergoing TACE. ALBI can be applied to select patients who can get most benefit from TACE |
| Hiraoka *et al*[144] | Retrospective | 84 | Good hepatic function represented by the ALBI grades at introduction of the initial tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) is a requirement for improved prognosis of unresectable HCC undergoing TKI sequential therapy, including Lenvatinib (LEN) |
| Elshaarawy[145] | Retrospective  | 1910 | Validation study for the proposed modified albumin-bilirubin-TNM (mALBI-T) grade as a prognostic model for patients with HCC. ALBI-T grade was a superior prognostic tool that selects patients with HCC who have better liver reservoir and tumour stage |
| Ueshima *et al*[146] | Retrospective | 82 | Patients with CTP score of 5 and ALBI grade 1 predicted a higher response rate and lower treatment discontinuation due to adverse events by Lenvatinib treatment |
| Sonohara *et al*[147] | Retrospective | 305 | Platelet-albumin-bilirubin (PALBI) grade can be used for assessing perioperative risks for hepatectomy for HCC |
| Antkowiak *et al*[148] | Retrospective | 1000 | Median OS for ALBI 1, 2, and 3 grades was 46.7, 19.1, and 8.8 months, respectively. Median OS for CTP A, B, and C was 21.7, 11.3, and 6.0 mo, respectively. ALBI outperforms CTP in survival prognosis in yttrium-90 radioembolization (Y90) treated patients. On sub-analyses, serum albumin (not bilirubin) appears to be the main driver of survival prediction  |
| Honmyo *et al*[149] | Retrospective | 1270 | ALBI and Albumin-Indocyanine Green Evaluation (ALICE) grading systems could estimate the liver function of patients with HCC. Regarding hepatectomy patients, the ALICE grade was a more suitable model than the ALBI grade |
| Khalid *et al*[150] | Retrospective | 71 | Mean ALBI score in the study was -1.59 ± 0.69, with the majority (49. 2 %) falling in grade 2. The mean duration of survival at the last follow up was of 12.1 ± 12.14 mo (1-49). Univariate analysis showed serum albumin (*P* = 0.003), serum bilirubin (*P* = 0.018), CTP score (*P* = 0.019), ALBI grade (*P* = 0.001) and presence of varices (*P* = 0.04) to be the main predictors of 6 months survival after TACE. On Cox analysis, only ALBI score (*P* = 0.038) showed statistically significant association |
| Luo *et al*[151] | Retrospective | 132 | Combined albumin- bilirubin (ALBI) grade and aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet count ratio index (APRI) score and presence of microvascular invasion correlated with postoperative mortality. The area under the curve for ALBI-APRI score was significantly higher than either ALBI or APRI alone for predicting both postoperative recurrence and mortality. ALBI-APRI score may be a predictor for the prognosis of patients with HCC within Milan criteria following liver resection |
| Lu *et al*[152] | Retrospective | 2038 | Study aimed to identify liver function reserve in CTP class A HCC patients. The platelet-albumin-bilirubin (PALBI) was discriminatory for risk stratification of PHLF grade B/C and OS in CTP class A HCC patients following resection |
| Lee *et al*[153] | Retrospective | 6669 | The median OS durations of PALBI grade1 (38.4%), grade2 (33.2%), and grade3 (28.4%) patients were 81, 30, and 5 mo, respectively (*P* < 0.001). The PALBI grade had a larger area under the receiver operator characteristic curve (AUC) than did the CTP class, MELD score, and ALBI grade. Moreover, the PALBI and ALBI grades enabled sub-classification of CTP A patients (*P* < 0.001). In a multivariate analysis, the PALBI and ALBI grades were significant risk factors for OS (*P* < 0.05). According to treatment modality, the PALBI grade was predictive of OS in patients receiving TACE or supportive care. The ALBI grade was predictive of OS in patients undergoing surgical resection or radiofrequency ablation |
| Su *et al*[154] | Retrospective | 594 | In HCC after stereotactic body radiation therapy CTP class was significantly related to OS, with a median OS of 29.9 mo in CTP-A, 11.5 in CTP-B. ALBI grade was also significantly related to OS, with a median OS of 53.0 mo in ALBI-1, 19.5 mo in ALBI-2, and 6.5 mo in ALBI-3. The ALBI score was a more objective, discriminatory and evidence-based approach in CTP-A groups |
| Mai *et al*[155] | Retrospective | 1044 | The preoperative aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet-ratio index (APRI) score for predicting PHLF was significantly more accurate than CTP, MELD, or ALBI scores |
| Chen *et al*[156] | Retrospective | 271 | In patients with very early stage HCC after radiofrequency ablation (BCLC stage 0 HCC). ALBI grade 2 or 3 were the independent risk factors predicting worse OS. Multivariate analysis showed that ALBI grade 2 or 3 was the only one independent risk factor associated with poor recurrence-free survival (RFS) after RFA. Most of the subgroup analyses also demonstrated that patients with ALBI grade 2 or 3 had poorer OS and RFS than those with ALBI grade 1 |
| Zhong *et al*[157] | Retrospective | 838 | ALBI grade performs at least no worse than CTP score regarding survival prediction for HCC receiving TACE |
| Sonohara *et al*[158] | Retrospective | 273 | Combined albumin-bilirubin-TNM (ALBI-T) score in CTP class A HCC could predict perioperative risk in hepatectomy such as longer operation time and excessive intraoperative blood loss |
| Xu *et al*[159] | Systematic review | 22911 patients; 32 studies  | High pre-treatment ALBI is associated with poor OS and poor DFS. Analysis was stratified into subgroups, such as treatment methods, sample size, geographic area, and ALBI grade, the significant correlation in ALBI and poor long-term survival was not altered. High ALBI should be treated as an ideal predictor during HCC therapy |
| Lee *et al*[160] | Retrospective | 465 | Following HCC surgical therapy, ALBI grade ≥ 2 was demonstrated to be an independent risk factor for early recurrence |
| Tada *et al*[161] | Retrospective | 567 | Time-dependent receiver operating characteristic analysis showed that ALBI grade was better than CTP score in predicting overall survival in patients with advanced HCC who received sorafenib therapy |
| Russolillo *et al*[162] | Retrospective  | 400 | In HCC patients treated with resection, the albumin-indocyanine green evaluation (ALICE) model, correlated better with ALBI than with CTP score. It can be used as measure for liver function |
| Mohammadi *et al* [163] | Retrospective | 124 | ALBI is a more sensitive marker of liver function than CTP in the setting of mild dysfunction. Using ALBI identified a subset of patients that have significantly better outcomes from Y-90 radioembolization than previously identified with CTP in HCC patients |
| Fang *et al*[164] | Retrospective | 2285 | Patients with single large HCC (SLHCC) had an overall survival rate intermediate to those of the BCLC-A and BCLC-B groups. It is suggested that the SLHCC group could be classified as occupying a different stage from the BCLC stages A and B. ALBI was able to stratify SLHCC into a different prognostic group |
| Ho *et al*[165] | Retrospective | 1038 | ALBI was a feasible marker for HCC tumour recurrence after resection |
| Casadei Gardini, *et al* [166] | Retrospective | 416 | ALBI score identified patients with higher risk of HCC after treatment with DAAs |
| Zhang *et al*[167] | Retrospective | 338 | The ALBI grade showed good predictive ability for PHLF in HCC patients across different BCLC stages. However, the ALBI grade was only a significant predictor of OS in BCLC stage 0/A patients and failed to predict OS in BCLC stage B/C patients |
| Mohammed *et al*[168] | Retrospective | 123 | ALBI score before TACE provided objective prognostication for development of acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) |
| Carling *et al*[169] | Retrospective | 49 | Platelet-albumin-bilirubin index (PALBI) grade 1 and 2 differentiated survival in CTP-A patients treated with TACE |
| Jaruvongvanich *et al*[170] | Retrospective | 900 | Platelet-albumin-bilirubin index (PALBI) was found to be the most accurate prognostic models among to predict mortality and recurrence in HCC patients when compared to. CTP score, Fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) score, model for end-stage liver disease (MELD) score, ALBI and AST to platelet ratio index (APRI) |
| Amisaki *et al*[171] | Retrospective | 136 | In HCC patients who underwent curative resection Pre- and post-operative ALBI grade predicted patients' overall survival, and recurrence-free survival. Post-operative ALBI grade was associated with patients' surgical factors of repeated hepatic resection, intra-operative bleeding and surgery duration. Post-operative ALBI grade, rather than pre-operative ALBI grade, was an independent predictive factor of long-term outcome of CTP class A patients with HCC |
| Cai *et al*[172] | Retrospective  | 389 | The Cancer of the Liver Italian Program (CLIP) score is commonly used for prognosis prediction of HCC. Combined ALBI-CLIP scoring system retained the prognostic value of the CLIP in HBV-related HCC treated with TACE therapy |
| Li *et al*[173] | Retrospectives | 475 | A high combined ALBI- platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (ALBI-PLR) score is associated with a high incidence of postoperative recurrence and mortality in HBV-related HCC patients after liver resection |
| Ho *et al*[174] | Retrospective | 174 | Among CTP class A HCC patients receiving radiotherapy, the PALBI and ALBI grade were better prognostic tools than the CTP score |
| Murray *et al*[175] | Retrospective | 102 | The baseline ALBI grade was more discriminating than the CTP score in predicting OS and toxicity in patients with CTP class A liver disease patients with HCC treated with stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT)  |
| Okuda *et al*[176] | Retrospective | 38 | ALBI grade was a prognostic factor for survival from brain metastases in HCC patients |
| Luo *et al*[177] | Retrospective | 785 | The prognostic significance of the PALBI grade for postoperative recurrence and mortality was maintained when stratified by the TNM stage. The preoperative PALBI grade is a surrogate marker for the postoperative prognosis in patients with HBV-related HCC after liver resection |
| Ho *et al*[178] | Retrospective | 645 | ALBI revealed the highest homogeneity and lowest value among twelve invasive models, indicating a better prognostic performance |
| Lei *et al*[179] | Retrospective | 395 | ALBI scores exhibited parallel tendencies to the CTP and MELD scores in HBV-ACLF, HBV-LC, and HBV-HCC patients; thus, ALBI grading may be a simple but applicable method for the evaluation of the functional status of patients with HBV-related end-stage liver diseases |
| Na *et al*[180] | Retrospective | 2099 | ALBI grade provided better prognostic performance in survival analysis and better distribution of the grades than C-P grade in HCC, suggesting that ALBI grade could be a good alternative grading system for liver function in patients with HCC |
| Chong *et al*[181] | Retrospective | 63 | Liver resection offered superior disease-free survival to microwave ablation (MWA) in patients with HCC. The ALBI grade could identify patients with worse liver function who might gain survival advantage from MWA |
| Gkika *et al*[182] | Retrospective | 40 | In HCC patients with BCLC classification stage B or C who were treated with SBRT in 3-12 fractions. A higher ALBI grade and CTP at baseline correlated with a higher incidence of acute and late radiation toxicities |
| Chen *et al*[183] | Retrospective | 887 | In patients with HCC with compensated liver function, a combination of albumin-bilirubin grade and platelet count (ALBI-PLT) score of 2 predicted a very low risk of variceal haemorrhage; therefore, endoscopic screening for esophageal varices is not recommended for these patients |
| Hiraoka *et al*[184] | Retrospective | 46681 | Study compared between Japan Integrated Staging (JIS), consisting of CTP classification and TNM staging (TNM), modified JIS (m-JIS), consisting of liver damage grading and TNM, and ALBI-TNM (ALBI-T), consisting of ALBI grading and TNM. The predictive value for prognosis of ALBI-T was found to be equal to that of JIS and m-JIS |
| Yoh *et al*[185] | Retrospective | 207 | A preoperative prognostic model using objective variables involving two parameters 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography (18F-FDG-PET) and the albumin-bilirubin (ALBI) grade was useful for estimating the prognosis of selected patients with solitary HCC |
| Dong *et al*[186] | Retrospective | 654 | ALBI grade significantly influenced the overall survival and cumulative recurrence rates. Furthermore, the ALBI score was significantly related to the degree of liver cirrhosis and serum γ-glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT) concentration in solitary HCC cases within the Milan criteria and CTP A cirrhosis. Additionally, the combination of the ALBI score and serum GGT concentration contributed to the prognosis prediction in this cohort |
| Li *et al*[187] | Retrospective | 258 | Postoperative worsening of ALBI grade was associated with increased recurrence and poorer overall survival for patients with HBV-related HCC within the Milan criteria |
| Hsu *et al*[188] | Retrospective | 1935 | Risk Assessment for early Mortality (RAM) scoring system is a developed tool for assessing early mortality after hepatectomy for HCC. RAM score was obtained by the summation of the scores of 6 independent variables, namely diabetes mellitus (1), albumin ≤ 3.5 g/DL (2), α-fetoprotein > 200 ng/ML (2), major resection (1), blood loss > 800ML (1), and major surgical complications (3). RAM classes were developed by visual inspection of the Kaplan-Meier survival curves, and RAM class I, II, and III corresponded to RAM scores of 0–6, 7–9, and 10, respectively. This study demonstrated that RAM score is an effective and user-friendly bedside scoring system to predict early mortality and early recurrence after hepatectomy for HCC. In addition, the predictive capability of RAM score is superior to ALBI and MELD scores |
| Hiraoka *et al*[189] | Retrospective | 647 | Study 1 comprised of 212 Barcelona clinic liver cancer stage-B (BCLC-B) HCC patients classified as CTP-A who had received repeated TACE treatments (r-TACE) (naïve : recurrence = 66 : 146). Study 2 comprised of 435 patients with unresectable HCC classified as CTP-A in whom sorafenib was introduced (native: recurrence = 37:398). The rate of patients with downgraded hepatic function with repeated TACE procedures, especially with regard to ALBI-grade, was not low. ALBI-grade was shown to be a better hepatic function assessment tool than CTP in patients receiving sorafenib treatment. Strict judgment of TACE-refractory status in patients with unresectable HCC is needed to improve prognosis before downgrading the hepatic function |
| Pinato *et al*[190] | Retrospective | 387 | Multi-centre retrospective study, the albumin-bilirubin grade highlights the interplay between liver reserve and immune dysfunction as prognostic determinants in HIV-associated HCC |
| Oh *et al*[191] | Retrospective | 368 | Among patients with very early-stage HCC treated with RFA, ALBI grade was a good stratifying biomarker. ALBI grade was better tool for assessing liver function than CTP score for very early-stage HCC treated with RFA |
| Lo *et al*[192] | Retrospective | 152 | ALBI was a predictor for both survival and liver toxicity. Complementary use of CTP and ALBI score could predict the risk of post stereotactic ablative radiation therapy (SABR) liver toxicity. Further prospective studies are necessary before use of the ALBI score can become part of daily practice |
| Chong *et al*[193] | Retrospective | 488 | Liver resection offered superior survival to RFA in patients with BCLC stage 0/A HCC. The ALBI grade could identify those patients with worse liver function who did not gain any survival advantage from curative liver resection |
| Lee *et al*[194] | Retrospective | 404 | ALBI can stratify the patients with advanced HCC for the second-line trials or salvage therapy |
| Hansman *et al*[195] | Retrospective | 180 | ALBI grades are accurate survival metrics in high-risk patients undergoing conventional TACE for HCC |
| Zou *et al*[196] | Retrospective | 229 | The ALBI score showed superior predictive value of post-operative outcomes over CTP score |
| Ho *et al*[197] | Retrospective | 881 | ALBI grade served as an objective and feasible surrogate to predict the prognosis of HCC patients undergoing TACE |
| Hiraoka *et al*[198] | Retrospective | 3495 | ALBI grade is a useful and easy classification system for assessment of hepatic function for therapeutic decision making |
| Kao *et al*[199] | Retrospective | 622 | ALBI grade offered personalized long-term survival data for patients with early-stage HCC who undergo RFA |
| Gui *et al*[200] | Retrospective | 117 | ALBI grade demonstrated clear survival discrimination that is superior to CTP class among HCC patients treated with radio-embolization,particularly within the subgroup of CTP class A patients |
| Kuo *et al*[201] | Retrospective | 260 | ALBI grade at baseline and also ALBI grade change during treatment predicted the prognosis of advanced HCC patients who received sorafenib |
| Waked *et al*[202] | Retrospective | 3030 | The ALBI grade categorised patients receiving TACE into three clear prognostic groups, thereby emphasising the importance of underlying liver function in the outcome of TACE |
| Pinato *et al*[203] | Retrospective | 447 | The ALBI grade at sorafenib discontinuation identified a subset of patients with prolonged stability of hepatic reserve and superior survival. This may allow improved patient selection for second-line therapies in advanced HCC |
| King *et al*[204] | Retrospective | 448 | Patients with ALBI grade > 1, CTP class B or poor performance status seem to derive limited benefit from sorafenib treatment |
| Li *et al*[205] | Retrospective | 491 | The ALBI grade added superior prognostic value compared to CTP class in patients with HCC who underwent liver resection |
| Ma *et al*[206] | Retrospective | 318 | ALBI grade predicted OS in patients with early-HCC. Reclassification of CTP class according to ALBI grade might improve the management of HCC |
| Liu *et al*[207] | Retrospective | 3182 |  ALBI grades assess liver dysfunction in HCC. The PALBI grade is consistently better in all patients, in patients with minimally decreased liver function, and in patients receiving different aggressive therapies |
| Pinato *et al*[208] | Retrospective | 2426 | In this large, multi-centre retrospective study, the ALBI grade satisfied the criteria for accuracy and reproducibility following statistical validation in Eastern and Western HCC patients, including those treated with TACE. Consideration should be given to the ALBI grade as a stratifying biomarker of liver reserve in routine clinical practice |
| Hiraoka *et al*[209] | Retrospective | 754 | ALBI grade is simple and useful for prediction of prognosis and therapy decision-making in the heterogeneous population of BCLC stage B patients |
| Chan *et al*[210] | Retrospective | 1973 | The ALBI grade performs as well as the CTP grade when integrating into the CLIP system |
| Edeline *et al*[211] | Retrospective | 1019 | ALBI should be a stratifying factor in trials of systemic therapy |
| Hickey *et al*[212] | Retrospective | 428 | ALBI grade outperforms CTP class at discriminating survival in patients receiving TACE or (90) Y radioembolization. ALBI grade is also valuable in patients with moderate liver dysfunction and BCLC stage B disease |
| Wang *et al*[213] | Retrospective | 1242 | The ALBI grade predicted PHLF and OS in patients with HCC undergoing liver resection with curative intent more accurately than the CTP class |
| Chan *et al*[214] | Retrospective | 3696 | The ALBI grade performed as well as CTP class when integrated into the BCLC staging system in terms of predicting clinical outcome of HCC regardless of regions, aetiology, and treatment options |
| Hiraoka *et al*[215] | Retrospective | 2584 | ALBI grade was found to be superior for distinguishing patients with better hepatic function. ALBI-TNM scoring may be a better total prognostic scoring system for predicting survival of Japanese patients with HCC |
| Ogasawara *et al*[216] | Retrospective | 89 | Sorafenib may be indicated for all patients with advanced HCC and ALBI grade 1 and for some with ALBI grade 2. The subdivision of patients with ALBI grade 2 increases the utility of ALBI in identifying patients indicated for sorafenib therapy |

ALBI: Albumin bilirubin grade; HCC: Hepatocellular carcinoma ; CTP: Child turcotte pugh score; HCV: Hepatitis C virus; US-PMWA: Ultrasound-guided percutaneous microwave ablation; TACE-MWA: Transarterial chemoembolization combined with microwave ablation; OS: Overall survival; RFS: Recurrence free survival; CEUS: Contrast-enhanced ultrasound; NLR: Neutrophil lymphocyte ratio; SIRT: Selective internal radiation therapy; PHLF: Post-hepatectomy liver failure; BCLC: Barcelona clinic liver cancer staging system; MELD: Model for end-stage liver disease; RFA: Radiofrequency ablation; DAAs: Direct-acting antivirals; PALBI: Platelet-albumin-bilirubin index; FIB-4: Fibrosis-4 ; APRI: AST to platelet ratio index; CLIP: Cancer of the liver Italian program; DFS: Disease free survival; HBV: Hepatitis B virus; AUC: Area under the curve.

**Table 3 Characteristics of** **hepatocellular carcinoma in University Hospital, Coventry, United Kingdom between December 2013 and December 2018**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CTP Score** | **Patients (*n*)** | **Percentage** |
| A | 78 | 64.5% |
| B | 29 | 24% |
| C | 14 | 11.5% |
| BCLC stage | Patients (*n*)  | Percentage |
| Stage 0 | 2 | 1.7% |
| Stage A | 16 | 13.2% |
| Stage B | 44 | 36.4% |
| Stage C | 22 | 18.2% |
| Stage D | 37 | 30.6% |
| Number of HCC nodules  | Patients (*n*)  | Percentage |
| 1 nodule1 | 60 | 49.6% |
| 2 nodules | 11 | 9.1% |
| 3 nodules | 5 | 4.1% |
| > 3 nodules | 45 | 37.2% |
| Number of HCC nodules | Mean survival | Median survival |
| 1 nodule | 23.8 mo | 11 mo |
| 2 nodules | 26 mo | 24 mo |
| 3 nodules | 26 mo | 36 mo |
| > 3 nodules | 9.7 mo | 5 mo |

1Largest nodule mean size was 7.08 cm (SD 4.17 cm, minimum 1 cm to maximum 26 cm). The table shows child turcotte pugh score, barcelona clinic liver cancer stage, morphological characteristics of the hepatocellular carcinoma, mean and median overall survival. CTP: Child turcotte pugh score; BCLC: Barcelona clinic liver cancer; HCC: Hepatocellular carcinoma.