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ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 11029

Title: A retrospective analysis of prognostic factors of transarterial chemoembolization sequentially combined with microwave ablation in the treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer code: 01588404

Science editor: Su-Xin Gou

Date sent for review: 2014-05-02 11:38

Date reviewed: 2014-05-08 15:18

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting manuscript describing the various factors that impact survival in HCC patients undergoing TACE and MWA. Being a retrospective analysis, it has its inherent drawbacks. However, the results support the outcomes of others where RFA/ MWA has been combined with TACE. As expected the outcomes correlate with liver functions, tumor size and PVT(BCLC). Major Points The authors have already provided Child's stage in table 1. It is unclear what they mean by presence or absence of cirrhosis in 58%? If these these many patients did not have any cirrhosis and PHT then what were the reasons for their tumors being unresectable. Minor points Table one. Tumor size section needs to be corrected.



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ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 11029

Title: A retrospective analysis of prognostic factors of transarterial chemoembolization sequentially combined with microwave ablation in the treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer code: 02462197

Science editor: Su-Xin Gou

Date sent for review: 2014-05-02 11:38

Date reviewed: 2014-05-14 13:38

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The main limit of the paper is the use of inferential analyses in a small cohort study: the final detection of six independent risk factors for overall survival represents a possible error in the use of regression models: I suggest the Authors to better select their variables, potentially adopting backward selection models, with the intent to minimize the number of possible significant variables. Considering the number of patients and the number of events (deaths), I think no more that 2-3 variables must be detected. In the text, the chapter "univariate analysis" is reported 2 times: I suppose the second time the correct title is "multivariate analysis". Seven figures look to be too much: Authors can incorporate different images in only one plot, or better select the best figures to show. The discussion is long and needs to be better written. English style must be corrected.